

the Milliwatt



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

April, 2006

Pikesville Senior Center and Library Expansion Plans



The Pikesville Library, our home for BRATS meetings, will be undergoing renovation. If we are unable to meet there for one or two meetings, we will let you know of the substitute site on the air, on the home page, and in The MILLIWATT ...

An illustration of the Pikesville Library and Senior Center as it will appear after its 7,000 square foot expansion.

Attention All Amateurs...

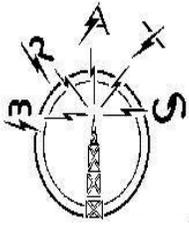
FCC Directs Manassas BPL System to Act Following Ham's Interference Complaint

Responding to a radio amateur's interference complaint, the FCC has directed the City of Manassas, Virginia, and its BPL system operator COMTek to conduct measurements to ensure its system complies with FCC Part 15 rules. The Commission also instructed the city to "resolve any continuing harmful interference." FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Chief Joseph P. Casey on March 7 called on the city and COMTek to follow up on a complaint filed January 19 by ARRL member Dwight Agnew, AI4II. Agnew, who frequently travels through Manassas and operates mobile, alleges harmful BPL interference along Virginia Business Route 234.

FCC Clarifies Renewal Procedures for Vanity Call Sign Holders

With the renewal window about to open for the first Amateur Radio licenses assigned vanity call signs in 1996, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) has released a public notice to clarify filing procedures. The WTB says vanity call sign holders whose licenses expire on or after June 4, 2006, must use the Universal Licensing System (ULS) to renew their licenses. Any Amateur Radio renewal application may only be filed within 90 days of the license expiration date.

**BRATS HAMFEST COMING, Sunday, July 23, 2006, Howard County Fairgrounds!
SAVE THE DATE!**



the Milliwatt

The award-winning monthly publication of The BRATS.
Items herein may be reprinted with credit.

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX, Editor

Some Thoughts

WE NEED YOU TO HELP WITH THE HAMFEST!

Call up now and get listed as a Hamfest Helper: We need ticket sellers, tailgate monitors, etc. We also need volunteers to give out flyers and dealer forms at BARC, Frederick and MDFM Hamfests. Call 410-461-0086. Leave your name, call and phone number. We will call you back. This is our only chance to raise funds to run the club and the repeaters for a whole year. We need your help to be successful. Thanks! 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

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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 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, K2GZL*

Through 12/07:

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

*Appointed by the President

REGULAR BRATS MEETINGS

Second Tuesday of each month,
7:15 pm, at the Pikesville Library
1301 Reisterstown Rd, Pikesville

Next BRATS Meeting

Note new TIME! 7:15 PM

Tuesday, April 11, Pikesville Library

NEXT BRATS HAMFEST

Sunday, July 23, 2006

Howard County Fairgrounds

New FCC bureau may take over some WTB functions

When the FCC meets in open session Friday, March 17, it will consider an Order--as yet not made public to create a new Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau. Observers anticipate that this new bureau will take over at least some of the functions of the current Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB), which administers the Amateur Service. The last changes affecting the functions of the WTB occurred in 2003. While the reorganization has been several months in the planning, it's not yet clear whether the Amateur Service will remain under WTB or become part of the new Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau. Moving it out of the WTB would take the Amateur Service from under that bureau's market-based approach to regulation. Either way, it's hoped that shifting some of the current WTB's responsibilities to the new bureau will speed the process of moving proceedings through the Commission.

Maryland CC&R Bills Proceeding Slowly Through General Assembly

Tom Coates, N3IJ, of the Baltimore Amateur Radio Club (BARC) Legislative Affairs Team reports that legislation to address the impact of homeowners' association covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) is working its way slowly through the Maryland General Assembly. Similar measures have been introduced in both the Maryland House of Delegates (HB 296) and the Senate (SB 75), but Section leadership acknowledges that neither bill appears likely to succeed this time around.

Mississippi Becomes 22nd State to Adopt PRB-1 Statute

After several earlier tries, Mississippi this week became the 22nd state to enact a revision of the its statutes to incorporate the language of the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1. Mississippi Gov Haley Barbour signed the bill March 13, reports ARRL Mississippi Section Manager Malcolm Keown, W5XX. Echoing the language of PRB-1, the measure calls on localities establishing ordinances regulating antenna placement, screening or height to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio communication. The Mississippi law also takes note of Amateur Radio's communication support in emergencies and disasters.

Radio Shack to Close 400-700 Stores

RadioShack Corp. of Fort Worth, Texas, said Friday that it will close 400-700 company-owned stores, but a company spokesman added that the retailer had not decided which specific stores it would shutter. The spokesman told Arkansasbusiness.com that it would be six to eight weeks before the company decided which stores it would close. He noted that only company-owned stores, and not dealer-franchised stores, would be on the chopping block. Across the country, RadioShack operates about 5,000 stores itself. It has between 1,500 and 1,800 dealer-franchise locations, the spokesman said. RadioShack announced the closings in its fourth-quarter and fiscal-year earnings release, which reported declines on both fronts. For the fourth quarter, net income fell to \$49.5 million, or 36 cents per diluted share, from \$130.9 million, or 81 cents per diluted share. For the year, net income dropped 21 percent to \$337.2 million. As for the health of the company, RadioShack announced a plan to achieve three major goals over the next 18 months: increase the average unit volume of its core store base, rationalize its cost structure and grow profitable square feet in its store portfolio. The company said it will replace old, slower-moving merchandise with new, faster-moving merchandise within higher growth categories. It will close a number of underperforming stores and work to better align overhead costs with its business model to generate more profit per square foot. The company also said it will continue to expand its kiosk business and relocate RadioShack stores to better real estate.

737 Facts

Overall, the entire 737 family is the best-selling commercial jet in history, winning orders for more than 6,000 737s. On Feb. 13, 2006, Boeing delivered the 5,000th 737 to Southwest Airlines. Guinness World Records acknowledged the 737 as the most produced large commercial jet airplane in aviation history. More than 541 operators fly 737s into more than 1,200 cities in 190 countries. On the average about 1,250 737s are in the air at all times; one takes off or lands every 4.6 seconds. The 737 fleet has carried more than 12 billion passengers. Since its commercial revenue service history began in 1968, the 737 fleet has flown more than 75 billion miles -- equivalent to approximately 403 round trips from the Earth to the sun. The 737 fleet has produced more than 296 million hours of revenue service for its operators -- equivalent to about 33,789 years of continuous service. The 737 fleet has made more than 232 million flights. Of the more than 16,173 Boeing/Douglas commercial jets ordered, approximately 34 percent have been 737 family members. Airlines ordered 737 models of the Next-Generation 737 before the first airplane was delivered on Dec. 17, 1997. Within five years of entering service, the worldwide fleet of Next-Generation 737s surpassed 10 million flight hours, a feat equal to one airplane flying more than 1,141 years nonstop. The Next-Generation 737 is the first and only commercial jetliner to reach this milestone so quickly. Boeing made history again when it delivered the 1,500th Next-Generation 737 in six years, sooner than any other commercial airplane model. The previous record holder was the family of Classic 737-300s, -400s and -500s, which reached the milestone in 10 years. The competing A320 family reached that mark in 13 years. Typically, about 50 gallons of paint are used to paint an average 737. Once the paint is dry, it will weigh approximately 250 pounds per airplane, depending on the paint scheme. There are approximately 36.6 miles of wire on the Next-Generation 737-600/-700/-800/-900 models, four miles less than the 737-300/-400/-500 models. On average, there are approximately 367,000 parts on a Next-Generation 737 airplane.

A 184-proof whisky, and that's no blarney

Following a 17th century recipe, one of the eight artisanal whisky producers on the tiny Scottish isle of Islay will produce a dozen barrels of 184-proof whisky, the company announced. That's 92% alcohol, which is about as strong as whisky can get without being sold in a pharmacy. "The first taste affects all the members of the body," a 1695 description of the elixir reads. "Two spoonfuls of this last liquor is a sufficient dose -- if any man should exceed this, it would presently stop his breath, and endanger his life." The Bruichladdich distillery said it would install webcams so that customers thirsty with anticipation could watch the potentially lethal concoction come into being. "If the distillery doesn't explode during the process," Bruichladdich added.



Crash Pilot Was On Cellphone

The pilot of a Cessna 182 that was flying between 120 and 140 mph, at night, and low, over an interstate highway, was talking on his cellphone when the plane's wing was sheared off by electrical wires, according to the NTSB's preliminary report. Benjamin R. Hicklin, of Spottswood, Va., was talking with his partner in the airplane, a truck driver who was driving his tractor trailer on I-81 near Weyers Cave, Va., when the plane, which was maneuvering nearby, hit the wires and crashed into another truck hauling cars on the same highway. Hicklin, 30, was an ATP with more than 4,000 hours. He died in the crash, which occurred about 11:15 p.m. on Feb. 23. According to the Staunton News-Leader, police say Hicklin was apparently trying to position the plane so his partner in the truck below could see him. There was no indication that medical or mechanical causes played a role in the crash.

Potty break leads to terminal evacuation

A bathroom-seeking woman who left a secure area at Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport prompted authorities to close the terminal and re-screen all its passengers after she returned to the terminal through its exit lane. Authorities recognized the woman in the airport as the re-screening began about 15 minutes later and detained her for questioning, according to The Associated Press.

Next Solar Cycle to be Later but More Intense, New Research Suggests

The next solar cycle, Cycle 24, will be a year or so late in arriving but will be far more intense than the current cycle now winding down--perhaps as much as 50 percent stronger. That's according to a new computer model unveiled March 6 by scientists at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colorado. The researchers developed the first "solar climate" forecast using a combination of groundbreaking observations of the sun's interior from space and computer simulation. Key to predicting the solar activity cycle is an understanding of plasma flows in the sun's interior.

Sony introduces tiny high-definition camcorder

HDR-HC3HDV 1080i Handycam is equipped with a 2.7-inch swivel LCD monitor screen.

Sony introduced a high-definition camcorder that is small enough to rest comfortably in the palm of your hand. Sony billed its 18 ounce, 5.5 inch-long HDR-HC3 as the world's lightest and smallest. The device, 26% more compact than the previous model, is set to go on sale next month in Japan for \$1,300 and in April in the United States for \$1,700. High-definition TVs, which are increasingly popular around the world, can display clearer and more vivid images than old-style TVs. Home videos taken with the new camcorder will be high-definition quality -- as long as you own one of those new TVs. Sony engineers were able to make the camcorder smaller by decreasing the size of the lens and combining three computer chips into one. Sony officials in Tokyo said the product is more likely to sell in Japan, where people are willing to pay for fancy gadgets.

Help with the Hamfest!

Sunday, July 23, 2006

Call now to sign up: 410-461-0086

Tim Chen, BV2A, SK

Taiwan's first radio amateur, Tim Chen, BV2A, founder and first president of the Chinese Taipei Amateur Radio League (CTARL) died February 22. He was 92.

On The Far Side of the World

Summer in Antarctica means temperatures in the mid-20s to the mid-30s with fog, snow drifts and winds reaching 65 mph or more. Hardly an ideal vacation destination, but for Dr. Gary Stouder it's where he wanted to spend his winter. "I want to do this because this is the biggest adventure of my life," he said in an e-mail interview. "I have always wanted to be in the Antarctic, and this was a great opportunity." Stouder is part of a group of 20 ham radio operators who have battled the frozen tundra in order to set up their radios and contact people all over the world from Peter 1 Island, Antarctica. "There have only been about 50 humans to set foot on Peter 1 Island," he said, noting that the area is less traveled than outer space. On Friday, the team broke camp and prepared to journey back home. During their time on the remote island, team members took 17,000 photographs and established radio contact with hundreds of ham operators around the world. They also set up a weather station and explored the rugged terrain. The isolated location has an extinct volcano, icebergs and little wildlife. It is the most desolate place on the earth, but for a ham radio aficionado, it represents a unique opportunity to communicate with the rare site.

Because of its remoteness, the island counts as another country and for hams around the world, having confirmation of contact with Antarctica is akin to having Willy Wonka's golden ticket. "It's kind of like a stamp collector getting a rare stamp," Stouder said, noting that the group has made about 70,000 contacts so far. According to Stouder's wife, Joy, this isn't the first time Stouder has tried to reach Antarctica. Last year, he traveled as far as the southern tip of Argentina before weather and travel complications canceled the trip. He didn't think he would get the chance to go, but then after seeing "The March of the Penguins," she said he got fired up about the trip again. "I was a little bit scared at first, but I think it is important to let him seek his adventure," she said. Stouder has dual roles on the mission. Not only is he one of the hams transmitting from the island, he also serves as the group's medical officer. His medical equipment includes a defibrillator and IV fluid. He said that the group is eight days away from the nearest medical care.

"This is a great challenge for me to be ready to do this even though I hope everyone stays well," he said. "I also really like being able to make contacts with people throughout the world." Stouder became interested in radios when he was 10 years old, listening to the short wave and dreaming of faraway places. He said he got his first ham license when he was 17. Over the years, he has talked to almost every country in the world, not to mention places out of this world. "We've talked to the astronauts on the International Space Station with school groups," Joy Stouder said. Stouder said that he doesn't have another adventure on tap after this. He works part-time with the Hancock Health Network, but both he and his wife enjoy traveling to exotic locales such as Australia, China and Japan. He is scheduled to return March 6. "We both have an adventurous spirit," Joy said. "But I hope this trip (to Antarctica) will fill that void for a while."

President N3GXX Names Two to Board

President Ed Rosen, N3GXX appointed Shane Longo, K2GZL to serve on the BRATS Board of Directors through December, 2006. Jeremy Bair, K2ORZ was appointed to the Board until December, 2007. The two appointments were to fill two vacant positions, one through this December and the other through December, 2007.

Who's on the Air?

Who's on the air (WOTA), and internet database of all active stations with logging software configured (optionally of course) to upload the following info each time a user changes frequency: Call, County, State, Country, Grid, Frequency, Altitude, longitude. See <http://www.wotadb.org> for details and to find out which amateur radio software Products already interface with the Who's on the Air Database. (Thanks, W3ZQI)

If your dues are due, RENEW!

Use the form on Page 12.

Bad news if you don't want cellphones on airplanes

Some wireless companies say they could have onboard cellphone capabilities up and running by 2007, according to Scott McCartney, The Middle Seat columnist for The Wall Street Journal. Still, it's not clear sailing -- yet -- for cellular companies hoping to win a slice of the airline market. A new study by researchers at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) found radio-frequency emissions from devices like cellphones and Blackberrys could interfere with the Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) systems that are increasingly used on modern aircraft. (As a sidenote, McCartney also writes that the study also "revealed that some fliers are already making phone calls in defiance of an industrywide ban.") Why now? Technological advances may now allow cell calls to be made from planes without interfering with GPS networks (though the CMU study raises some new questions) and, in light of those advances, Federal Communications Commission opposition to cellphones in flight has eased. "Now," McCartney writes, "the Federal Aviation Administration must make its own decision." A group studying the issue for the FAA is expected to issue a final report in December. But the real question may be, "Do fliers really want cellphones in flight?" The FCC received about 8,000 comments when it proposed dropping its ban on in-flight cellphone usage. Out of those comments, McCartney says only two or three were in favor. He says the rest, except for about 50 or technical reports, came from travelers vociferously opposed to opening up the cabin to gabby seatmates.

New frequency allocations for Monaco

GB2RS has been informed of new frequency allocations for the amateur radio service in the principality of Monaco. Effective from January 2006, they are 1.810 to 1.850MHz (primary exclusive), 1.850 to 2.000MHz (secondary shared), 50.000 to 51.200MHz, 51.200 to 52.000MHz (secondary shared) and 70.000 to 70.500MHz (secondary shared).

Dayton Hamvention® Announces 2006 Award Winners

Dayton Hamvention has announced the winners of its 2006 Amateur of the Year, Special Achievement and Technical Excellence awards. Being honored for their contributions to the Amateur Radio Service are Gordon West, WB6NOA--Amateur of the Year; Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH--Special Achievement Award, and Dick Illman, AH6EZ--Technical Excellence Award.

ARISS Makes It Official: "Tremendously Successful" SuitSat-1 is SK

SuitSat-1 is now a confirmed "Silent Key." So says its sponsor, the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. In operation for more than two weeks, SuitSat-1 easily outlasted initial predictions that it would transmit for about one week. ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says the mission captured imaginations around the world, despite a much-lower-than-expected signal strength. [ARRL Web Extra]

QRP Echolink discussion podcasts

Bill, M0HBR, from London and Mike, KL7R, from Juneau, Alaska have started making podcasts of their Echolink discussions about their QRP homebrew radio projects. Their latest discussion -- entitled SolderSmoke 15 -- covered such issues as speech processing in QRP rigs, homebrew time domain reflectometers and a DC-DC converter for an Elecraft rig. It can be heard by visiting web address: www.ourmedia.org/node/161919 Alternatively, visit Bill and Mike's website -- www.ourmedia.org/user/36170 - for instructions on how to automatically download the latest discussion to your iPod or other MP3 player.

QRP News from Canada

<http://www.qrp-canada.com> includes a reflector, news archives, gear, contests ...

Japanese institute launches Cute-1.7 Amateur Radio satellite

The Tokyo Institute of Technology's Laboratory for Space Systems has launched a new digipeating satellite. Dubbed Cute-1.7 + APD, the satellite--a successor to the Cute-1 nano-satellite--was launched on February 21, and ARRL members Bruce Snyder, KG4YEV, and Bill Ress, N6GHZ, reported the first signals over the US. The satellite's Mode L/U "Cute digipeater" will be activated following testing, but the telemetry may be heard on the 437.505 MHz downlink (9k6 GMSK packet), and there's a CW beacon on 437.385 MHz. The uplink frequency will be 1268.5 MHz. The satellite's call sign is JQ1YCC. The APD mission is a charged-particle detector demonstration. An onboard camera will take and download pictures of Earth on its Amateur Radio telemetry downlink as JPEG images. Additional information on Amateur Radio use of the Cute-1 + APD satellite is available on the Laboratory for Space Systems Web site, which also explains how to hear Cute-1.7. Address questions via e-mail.--some information from Bruce Paige, KK5DO

3Y0X DXpedition logs more than 87,000 contacts

This month's 3Y0X DXpedition to Peter I Island managed to put 87,034 contacts into its logbook during two weeks of operation before it shut down February 19 at 1813 UTC. The lucky last contact was with K8LTG. The 3Y0X DXpedition surpassed the 82,000 QSOs achieved by A52A (Bhutan), but it fell a bit short of the 96,000 contacts logged by K1B (Baker Island). The 22-member 3Y0X team, headed by led by Ralph Fedor, K0IR, and Bob Allphin, K4UEE, now is safely aboard its ship, the DAP Mares and plans a stop in the South Shetlands on the way home. Because of its remote location in the Bellinghousen Sea near Antarctica and the severe weather conditions, Peter I has been activated but rarely and remains one of the most-wanted DXCC entities. For additional information, visit the [Peter I DXpedition](#)

Yet another DX record claimed on 134 GHz

Inveterate microwave enthusiast Brian Justin, WA1ZMS, says he's once again topped his own claimed world DX record on the 134-GHz band. On February 26, Justin, operating as WA1ZMS/4 in EM96ur, and Pete Lascell, W4WWQ, in FM07fm--both in Virginia--exchanged reports on FSK-CW (copied by ear) over a distance of 114.4 km (approximately 70.9 miles). That beats his previous world DX record of 79.6 km (approximately 49.35 miles) set in December. "What was likely to be the last cold weather front of this winter season passed through the mid-Atlantic region of the US," Justin said, "and so we thought we would take advantage of it and try for better DX than our former record of 79 km." He believes the pair could have spanned a considerably longer distance because of the extremely low humidity--25 percent or less on both ends of the contact--and consequent low atmospheric losses. "We had several dB of signal margin on both ends of the QSO but didn't have any more distant sites to take easy advantage of it at the time," Justin observed. "It has been a rather warm winter here in the eastern US, and if 'global warming' doesn't limit our future plans, we hope to be back next fall with even more 134 GHz DX!"

Europe's HAM RADIO 2006 set for June 23-25

The popular HAM RADIO 2006 hamfest takes place Friday through Sunday, June 23-25 in Friedrichshafen, Germany, on the shore of Lake Constance (die Bodensee). The 31st International Amateur Radio Exhibition HAM RADIO 2006 will be combined with the 57th Bodensee Convention organized by the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC), the event's major patron. The theme of HAM RADIO 2006 is "Young people and Amateur Radio," and the event will feature many related activities.

Next BRATS Meeting

Note New TIME! 7:15 PM Tuesday, April 11, Pikesville Library

April, 2006

the Milliwatt

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WA7BNM Contest Calendar

March 25-26
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB

March 26
UBA Spring Contest, 2 mtrs.

March 27
Spring QRP Homebrew Sprint

April 1-2
Kids Roundup
SP DX Contest
EA RTTY Contest
QCWA Spring QSO Party
Missouri QSO Party

April 2
RSGB RoPoCo

April 3
RSGB 80m Club Champ. CW

Apr. 4-6
YLRL DX Contest, CW

April 6
SARL 80m QSO Party

Apr. 8-9
JIDX CW Contest
ARCI Spring QWSO Party
Georgia QSO Party
Yuri Gagarin Intl DX Contest
Montana QSO Party

April 8
EU Spring Sprint, CW

April 9
UBA Spring Contest, SSB
SARL Simulated Emerg. 40m

Apr. 11-13
YLRL DX Contest, SSB

April 12
RSGB 80m Club Champ. SSB

Apr. 15
ES Open HF Championship
EU Spring Sprint, SSB

Apr. 15-16
Michigan QSO Party
EA QRP CW Contest
Ontario QSO Party
YU DX Contest

April 20
432 MHz Spring Sprint
RSGB 80m Club Champ, Data

Apr. 22-23
DX Colombia Int'l Contest
SP DX Contest, RTTY
Florida QSO Party

Apr 29-30
Helvetia Contest

ARRL DX Bulletin**TAIWAN, BV.**

Mike, K0PY will be QRV as BW2/K0PY while on work assignment here. Activity is on the low end of 40 and 20 meters using CW. His length of stay is unknown.

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS.

Lee, DT8A is QRV from the Korean King Sejong Station on King George Island. QSL via HL2FDW.

VIET NAM, 3W.

Torsten, SM3NFB is QRV as XV9TH from Hanoi and is active on 40 to 6 meters, including 17 and 12 meters. QSL via SK7AX.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6.

A61AX has been active on 20 meters around 0400z and from 0800 to 0900z. QSL via SP9MRO.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, S9.

Charles, S9SS has been QRV on 160 meters around 2200z and 0130z. QSL via N4JR.

PALAU, T8.

Dick is QRV as T80X and has been active on 17 meters between 2100 and 2300z. QSL via DJ2EH.

ANTARCTICA.

Dmitry, UR8UC is QRV as EM1UC until February 2007 from the Ak Vernadsky station. He is using CW, SSB and some digital modes.

MALAWI, 7Q.

Les, 7Q7LA and Harry, 7Q7HB are QRV using mainly digital modes and SSTV. QSL both calls via G0IAS.

CROATIA, 9A.

Members of the Jan Hus radio club are QRV as 9A35Y until the end of 2006 to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the club. Activity is on 160 to 2 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via 9A5CY.

ICELAND, TF.

In celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Icelandic Radio Amateurs, all TF amateurs are allowed to use the special prefix TF60 throughout 2006.

Operations approved for DXCC

See Next Page ...

Digital TV info

Our local channels are using the following channels/frequencies at this time:

WJZ 38 615.25

MPT 42 639.25 (for channel 67 -- see www.mpt.org for all their listings)

WBFF 46 663.25

WMAR 52 699.25

WBAL 59 741.25

(Scott, KB3JQQ)

Hamfests

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

Sunday, April 23, York, PA. York Spring Hamfest, York County 4H Grounds, Stoverstown Rd. Jim, W3MYK 717-812-37 (147.955/R)

Sunday, May 7 - Hagerstown, MD The Great Hagerstown Hamfest, at the Washington Co. Agr. Center, Route 65. <http://www.w3cwc.org> 301-432-2358. 147.09/R

May 19-21 - Dayton, Ohio Dayton Hamvention, Hara Arena, 937-276-6930 (146.94/R)

Sunday, May 28 - West Friendship, MD MD FM Assoc. Hamfest, Howard County Fairgrounds. <http://www.marylandfm.org> 301-641-5313 (146.76/R)

Fri-Sun, June 2-4: Rochester New York Rochester Hamfest , Atlantic Division Convention; Monroe Co. Fairgrounds <http://www.rochesterhamfest.org> 585-424-7184

Sunday, June 18 - Frederick, MD. Fathers Day Hamfest, Frederick County Fairgrounds, E.Patrick St just off I-70. (147.06/R) Carolyn, N3VOK 301-831-5060

Sunday, July 23 - West Friendship, MD The Famous BRATS Maryland Hamfest And Computer Fest. Howard County Fairgrounds. 410-461-0086 (24 hours); 147.03/R <http://www.bratsatv.org>

Do you like *The Milliwatt*?

If so, send us some money:

BRATS, P.O. Box 5915, Baltimore, MD 21282

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

Sundays: April 2, July 2, October 1

AERO VE EXAMS

\$14 Fee, (ARRL VEC)

May 20, Sept 30, Nov 18: White Marsh Library, 8133 Sandpiper Circle, White Marsh.

Register at 1 PM, exams begin at 1:30 PM

Frank, AC3P, Pat, AC3F, 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)

OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC

The following operations are approved for DXCC credit: Desecheo Island, K3LP/KP5 and N3KS/KP5, from December 16 and 17, 2005.

The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved these operations for DXCC credit: TS3A, Tunisia, March 24-28, 2005; T6X, Afghanistan, current operation effective March 8, 2005; TT8PK, Chad, December 27, 2005 through February 11, 2006; XW1A, XW1LLR5, XW1X and XW1M, Laos, current operation effective October 29, 2005; D2DX, Angola, current operation effective December 15, 2004 (a previous announcement accredited the D2DX operation effective December 15, 2005). For more information, visit the DXCC Web page.

April, 2006

the Milliwatt

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milliwatt swap shop

ads are free and get results!

Send ad to: BRATS, P.O. Box 5915
Baltimore, MD 21282-5915, or email
to w3gxxk@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.

ATTENTION: The famous W3GXXK low band station and
accessories are sold. Thanks to the anonymous purchaser.
MILLIWATT want ads do get results. Send your ad to:
w3gxxk@verizon.net

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

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 \$225. Contact Russ: n3yi@yahoo.com

SPECIAL SALE: Rohn 48 ft free standing tower, TET 4-
el. tribander, tail twister rotor, You take down. make offer.
Alinco 110 2-mtr. xcvr, can be used bse or mobile, \$100. AC
20 linear for 2 meters, \$20. Heath HM 102 power meter w/
attached antenna selector, \$40. All in good working order.
Call Jerry, KB3AP, 443-618-0618.

WANTED: Your ad for this space. Send copy to
w3gxxk@verizon.net

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

Antique Radio Repair, Restoration

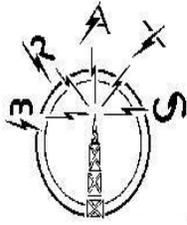
Eric, WA3TAD, Audio-Visual Service / Retro Radio,
3401 Chestnut Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21211.
410-467-3620; wa3tad@comcast.net

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
converted to CD. High quality A-D conversions of your
recordings to digital form. I can also make short run
duplications of your CD's for your band or office projects.
Call Scott, KB3JQQ at 410-615-2434 or via email at:
KB3JQQ@yahoo.com 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
w3gxxk@verizon.net



the Milliwatt



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

April 2006

Next BRATS Meeting
Tuesday, April 11
7:15 PM, Pikesville Library

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

UTAH ATV

Lots of projects and links:

http://www.ussc.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

BRATS Public Service

Sunday, April 2, 9:30 AM -- MS Walk

Burdick Hall at Towson University

Friday, April 21, 5:30 PM -- MS Walk

At "Power Plant Live" downtown.

June 10-11 -- MS 150 Bike Tour

Salisbury, MD. For more info, or to participate

contact Ian, N3CVA, 410-303-1412,

N3CVA@hotmail.com or Ed, N3GXH at

410-965-8498

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		