

# the Milliwatt



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

June, 2009

## MARYLAND HAMFEST

AND

## COMPUTER FEST

SPONSORED BY  
THE BALTIMORE RADIO AMATEUR TELEVISION SOCIETY

**SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2009**

HOWARD COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, OFF I-70 at RT. 32

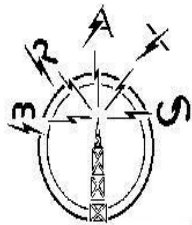
Grounds open for Tailgating at 6:00am

ACCESSIBLE TO THE HANDICAPPED  
KIDS UNDER 12 FREE

**Volunteer NOW to help! Call 410-461-1212**

### **FCC Releases Unredacted BPL Case Studies after ARRL FOIA Request**

Earlier this month, the FCC released the redacted portions of the studies on which they relied with regard to its Broadband over Powerline (BPL) rulemaking in 2004 after ARRL filed a Freedom of Information Act request on March 31 for the studies. In October 2007, the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit heard ARRL's case against the Commission, stating, among other things, that the FCC not only withheld the internal studies until it was too late to comment, but had yet to release portions of studies that may not support its own conclusions regarding BPL. The FCC claimed that the studies were "internal communications" that it did not rely upon in reaching its decision to adopt the BPL rules. In its April 2008 ruling, the Court ordered the FCC to release the studies.



# the Milliwatt

The award-winning monthly publication of The BRATS.

Items herein may be reprinted with credit.

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX, Editor

## BRATS Maryland Hamfest

Sunday, July 19, 2009

Howard County Fairgrounds

**Volunteer NOW to help**

Call 410-461-1212

Leave a message!

### BRATS Repeaters

BRATS Linked Repeater System:

WB3DZO: 147.03+, 224.96-, 448.325-

BRATS Stand-alone repeaters:

443.350+, 224.8-

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

Wed 9 pm CATS ATV Net

Thurs 9 pm BRATS ATV Net

Sat 1 pm Weekly News Bulletin, W3GXX

Sat 1:20 The BRATS Answer Men:

Sun 8 pm MATS ATV Net

As needed Weather/Emergency Net, Skywarn

### BRATS Board of Directors

Through 12/09:

KA3IDB, KB3FIF, K0RYX

Through 12/10:

W3ZQI, KB3LJM, K2GZL

### Regular BRATS Meetings

3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:15 PM

Pikesville Library, 1301 Reisterstown Rd

### Next BRATS Meeting

Tuesday, June 16, 7:15 PM

Pikesville Library

1301 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville

*Please Plan to Join Us!*

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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: [brats@bratsatv.org](mailto:brats@bratsatv.org)

InfoLine: 410- 461-1212

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, 7:15 PM, Pikesville Library, 1301 Reisterstown Rd., Pikesville, MD.

President: Ed Rosen, N3GXH

Vice Pres: Edward Koritzer, N3DGY

Secretary: Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX

Treasurer: Les McClure, W3GXT

Webmaster: Laura F, KB3LJM

Chairman of the Board: Heru Walmsley, W3WVV

Vice Chairman, Technical: Mike Dees, N3EZD

Vice Chairman, Operations: Ian Millet, N3CVA

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### **President Obama Nominates New FCC Commissioner**

On Wednesday, April 29, President Barack Obama announced his intention to nominate Mignon L. Clyburn of South Carolina as an FCC Commissioner. If her nomination is approved by Congress, Clyburn will fill the seat of Democrat Jonathan Adelstein. Adelstein is leaving the FCC to head up the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS).

### **FCC Affirms Vanity Call Sign Rules**

The FCC dismissed a petition filed by Richard Essen, N6CX (ex-AB3IQ), of Silver Spring, Maryland, regarding the issuance of a vanity call sign to Allan Corderman. In its decision, the FCC said that Corderman's application for his new call sign was valid and the call sign was "properly granted" by the FCC.

On December 22, 2006, Winfield Brantley of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, surrendered his call sign -- W3ZD --when the FCC approved his application for a new call sign. On December 10, 2008, Allan Corderman, WB1EFN, of New Orleans, Louisiana, applied for W3ZD, stating he was a close relative of a former holder of the call sign. Section 97.19(c)(3) of the FCC rules regarding vanity call signs state that while a surrendered call sign is not available to the vanity call sign system for two years, certain relatives of the deceased former holder or clubs (in certain circumstances) may apply for the call sign in the two year "grace period." Corderman stated in his application that he was the son of Roy C. Corderman, now deceased, and a former holder of W3ZD.

In January 2009, Richard Essen, N6CX (ex-AB3IQ), of Silver Spring, Maryland, petitioned the FCC, asking that the Commission reconsider Corderman's application for W3ZD, saying that the application should not have been granted because the exception in the vanity call sign system's rules apply only to close survivors of the *most recent person* to hold the call sign, and not to close relatives of *any* deceased prior holder.

The FCC disagreed with Essen's petition, saying that "[w]hen the Commission adopted Section 97.19(c)(3), it stated that it was granting priority to 'close relatives of deceased holders,' and did not say that the priority applied only to close relatives of certain deceased holders. The rule has always been interpreted to afford priority to close relatives of any deceased former holder."

### **FCC Looks to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees for Second Consecutive Year**

The FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM)* on May 14 seeking to raise fees for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$12.30 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to \$13.40 for 10 years, an increase of \$1.10. The FCC is authorized by the *Communications Act of 1934 (as amended)* to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. Instructions on how to comment on this NPRM are available on the FCC Web site.

### **Houston Representative Introduces Amateur Radio Bill in Congress**

On Wednesday, April 29, Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) introduced HR 2160, the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 in the US House of Representatives. This bill, if passed, would promote and encourage the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service, by undertaking a study of the uses of Amateur Radio for emergency and disaster relief communications, by identifying unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications, and by making recommendations for relief of such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand the uses of Amateur Radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response. The bill has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

**Thanks, AR Newline:****RESTRUCTURING: IARU THANKS BROADCASTERS FOR SWIFT MOVE OFF 40**

Speaking about the International Amateur Radio Union, it has thanked shortwave broadcasters for achieving a high degree of migration away from the now-worldwide Amateur-exclusive band of 7100 to 7200 kHz. This, by the mandated March 29th date. IARU Secretary Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, has been quick to acknowledge the compliance by most broadcasters to QSY out of that band, as required by a decision of the World Radio Conference in 2003. In a statement, Sumner thanked the international broadcast community for its compliance with the changeover schedule. He also noted that he is certain that the few remaining broadcast transmitters operating on 7200 kHz and below will be addressed in the coming weeks. Sumner's letter of appreciation was sent to the High Frequency Coordination Conference. That group represents 60 organizations from more than 30 countries accounting for up to 80% of the global output of short wave broadcasting. The departure of broadcasting from this spectrum has resulted in an enormous improvement in the usefulness of 40 meters for amateur radio communication. (VK3PC)

**Radio Law: Honolulu's radio hams win mobile radio exemption**

A major victory for radio hams in Honolulu, Hawaii. Bill 4, the pro-ham radio mobile cellular phone legislation for the City and County of Honolulu passed Third Reading on April 22nd, and has passed out of the Council.

The measure includes a full exemption for radio amateurs from the effects of this bill. This bill is significant because it addresses the issue of traffic safety, but does not diminish the role of amateur radio in the course of the legislation. It is also believed to be the first legislation in Hawaii that fully supports amateur radio.

The mayor will sign this bill into law shortly, with an effective date of July 1st.

But the fight is not over yet. The Hawaii County Council is currently working with a draft equivalent to Bill 4, but so far lacks the exemption for amateur radio.

According to Ron Hashiro, AH6RH, the next few weeks will be important for the Big Island for testimony and education of their Council members.

Updates will be posted on this web page: <http://www.qsl.net/ah6rh/am-radio/cellular-phone-ordinance.html> (AH6RH, KH6QX)

**Radio Law: Supreme Court Says No More Fleeting Dirty Words Can be Broadcast**

Using dirty words in any broadcast is illegal. So says the Supreme Court in its Tuesday, April 28th narrow ruling in favor of a government policy. One that threatens broadcasters with fines over the use of even a single curse word on any broadcast. By a 5 to 4 vote, the court threw out an earlier decision by the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that had found in favor of a Fox Television-led challenge to the FCC policy. That court returned the case to the agency for what it had termed as a reasoned analysis of its tougher line on indecency. Instead, the FCC took the matter to the Supreme Court. By way of background, the FCC changed its long standing policy after it concluded that an unofficial one free expletive rule did not make sense. This, in the context of keeping the air waves free of indecency when children are likely to be watching television. This, based on a Supreme Court decision some ruled 31 years ago that determined that the FCC could ban curse words from the airwaves between 6am and 10pm local time in any given broadcast market. The events leading to this latest change involved a number of live broadcasts of awards shows in which celebrities let slip a few variations of certain dirty words. So-called fleeting expletives were not treated as indecent before then. The Fox Television Stations and other networks challenged the policy after the FCC singled out use of the words by entertainers Bono, Cher, and Nicole Ritchie during awards programs that aired in 2002 and 2003. What, if anything, this ruling might mean to personal radio users at this time is unclear. In the short term, likely nothing. However, the FCC has been known to use legal findings in one service as basis to enforce rules in another. It has successfully denied license renewals in several services based on violations in others and has used cross service violations to successfully lift all licenses in some cases. That's even happened in ham radio. Now, with so many scanner radios out there in households with young children, there is the possibility, albeit a remote one, that enough complaints reaching the FCC about a foul mouthed ham could bring some enforcement action based on this ruling regarding broadcast indecency into play. (adapted from Media Network and various published reports)

**WA7BNM Contest Calendar**

- June 6  
Wake-Up QRP Sprint
- Jun 6-7  
SEANET Contest
- June 13  
Portugal Day Contest  
Asia-Pacific Sprint SSB
- Jun 13-14  
GACW WWSA CW DX  
REF DDFM 6 Meter Contest
- Jun 13-15  
ARRL June VHF QSO Party
- June 16  
SARL Youth Day Sprint
- Jun 20-21  
All Asian DX Contest, CW
- Jun 27-28  
His Maj. King of Spain, SSB  
Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest  
Marconi Memorial HF Contest  
ARRL FIELD DAY
- July 1  
RAC Canada Day Contest
- July 4-5  
DL-DX RTTY Contest  
MI QRP July 4 CW Sprint
- July 11  
FISTS Summer Sprint

(Thanks, Bruce, WA7BNM)

**ARRL DX Bulletin**

WEST MALAYSIA, 9M2.

Richard, PA0RRS has moved here permanently and is QRV as 9M2MRS from Penang Island, IOTA AS-015. Activity is generally using CW with SSB on request. QSL via operator's instructions.

ETHIOPIA, ET.

Peter is QRV as ET3BN is QRV from Addis Ababa and is here for a few years. Activity is generally on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL direct.

OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT.

The following operations are approved for DXCC credit: Western Sahara, S04R, 2009 operation; North Cook Island, E51QQQ, 2009 operation.

**Japanese amateurs get LF allocation**

Japanese amateurs have been given access to a 3.1kHz wide segment between 135.7 and 137.8kHz. Only CW or narrow bandwidth data transmission less than 100Hz may be used in the new band.

**Slovak Stations Have Access to 70 MHz**

Since 1 May, Slovak stations have access to the 70 MHz amateur band in the segment 70.250 to 70.350 MHz with a maximum of 10 watts ERP. Each Slovak station must apply for special permission to operate on 70 MHz.

**Next BRATS Meeting**

Tuesday, June 16, 7:15 PM  
Pikesville Library

**WIA Club Grant Scheme award to ARV for Melbourne digital ATV repeater.**

An ambitious project to digitise the VK3RTV amateur television repeater that was established in 1977 to service Melbourne and Geelong, will soon see it on air using the DVB-T standard. This is the 'terrestrial' version of the digital broadcasting standard and can be received on commonly used household Set Top Boxes and digital television sets. Peter Cossins VK3BFG reports that experiments are being undertaken with the basic system on the bench, but linear amplifiers have been built to provide a reasonable level of output power for the coming live testing. Funded by Amateur Radio Victoria which has spent \$3,300 on the project so far, it received a welcome and timely funding boost this week from the WIA Club's Grants Scheme. WIA President, Michael Owen VK3KI presented a \$1,000 cheque to Peter VK3BFG during the Amateur Radio Victoria Annual General Meeting held on 19 May. Michael told the meeting that the WIA's independent grants committee had recommended the grant in recognition of the project's innovation and promising benefits to the amateur radio community. At the heart of the project are German made boards with the system to be configured to have three inputs and two channel output, making it the first of its kind in Australia. More news about the live VK3RTV tests to be carried out from Mt Dandenong are expected soon. Later a full blown technical article will be submitted to the WIA journal Amateur Radio magazine. [Thanks, WIA]

## Hamfests

**Sunday, June 14** Manassas Hamfest  
Prince William County Fairgrounds, Route 324 146.97/R,  
442.200+, [kg4giy@arrl.net](mailto:kg4giy@arrl.net)

**Sunday, June 21**  
Fathers Day Frederick Hamfest is **CANCELLED!!!!**

### **BRATS HAMFEST** **Sunday, July 19, 2009** **Howard County Fairgrounds**

#### **Watch the RSGB News Online on ATV:**

Website: <http://www.batc.tv/>  
Roy, G8CKN reads the rsgb news every Sunday at 0830  
GMT on amateur television. It can be watched live by  
anyone in the world on the batc streamer under the members  
stream callsign: g8ckn.

<http://www.batc.tv/>  
A recording is also available at:  
<http://www.superiorsignals.co.uk/gb3hv.com/gb2rs.html>

It will also be available soon on the batc web site tv  
streamer under film archive:

<http://www.batc.tv/>  
73 Ian G3ZHI

#### **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  
147.345+

**Thursday, 9 PM**  
BRATS Net Rotating Net Control, Audio on  
147.03/R

**Saturday- 8 PM**  
MATS Net - KB3LNN (BRATS ATV and linked  
FM Repeaters)

#### **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)

## VE EXAMS

**BARC VE EXAMS for 2009**  
12360 Owings Mills Blvd. Owings Mills  
Register: 1:30 PM, Exams begin 2 PM.  
No one admitted after exams begin

- Saturday, June 6, 2009
- Sunday, July 5, 2009
- Saturday, August 1, 2009
- Saturday, September 5, 2009
- Sunday, October 4, 2009
- Saturday, November 7, 2009
- Saturday, December 5, 2009

[n3wke@arrl.net](mailto:n3wke@arrl.net) (Thanks, N3YI)

#### **2009 AERO VE EXAMS**

Registration at 1 PM, Exams at 1:30.  
Fee \$14 ( ARRL VEC); All exams at White Marsh Library, 8133  
Sandpiper Circle;

*TBD*

Pat Stone, 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)

#### **June 27-28 FIELD DAY**

BRATS with AERO ARC at Camp Genyara, near PA  
state line; call Frank, AC3P, 410-687-7209 or  
[ac3p@juno.com](mailto:ac3p@juno.com)

#### **BRATS PUBLIC SERVICE**

Sat/Sun June 13-14: Chesapeake Challenge Walk, Bike  
Tour - Kent Island, Chestertown [bikems.org](http://bikems.org) Contact  
[publicservice@bratsatv.org](mailto:publicservice@bratsatv.org) or [aat3vt@verizon.net](mailto:aat3vt@verizon.net)

#### **ATV: Streaming Media**

**<http://www.batc.tv>**

## milliwatt swap shop

*ads are free and get results!*

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

**FOR SALE:** Heathkit SB 1000 linear amplifier, \$750 + shipping; 1200 watt transmitter, 3-1000 tube requires 100 watt for 1K output, companion power supply 120V, only 744 hours use, both built by electrical power engineer and in 100% working order, \$2000 plus shipping; HyGain HDR 300A rotator, 25 sq ft wind load and control box \$ 950 + shipping. Kenwood TS-930S xcvr., \$300 + shipping. Contact Joel, W3YZI, at 410-913-9863.

**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

**FREE!** You remove! TV grade 30-35 foot tower in New Market, MD (off I-70). Dennis 410-842-3336.  
[dennis.kinsel@ngc.com](mailto:dennis.kinsel@ngc.com)

**FOR SALE:** ICOM T2H 2 mtr HT with charger, belt clip, rubber ducky, manual, asking \$80. K3BCD, 410-866-5441 or [ywm@comcast.net](mailto:ywm@comcast.net)

**FOR SALE:** A bunch of meters. \$10; Dipole with insulators, and nylong line, \$10; Homebrew SWR bridge 2mtrs/440, \$10; Panoramic adaptor BC 1031C, \$40; Millen antenna matching pre-amp with 27-32 MHz plug-in, \$5; Call Ted, W3OWN, 410-668-5580, leave message, I will call back.

**SPECIAL DEAL:** ICOM BC-110 battery charger, 12vDC, 200 mA, for ICOM T8A or similar misplaced it, ordered a new one, then found it. Almost new, cost \$46, make me a reasonable offer. Mayer, W3GXX [w3gzk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gzk@verizon.net)

### JADE COMPUTERS

1009 Ingleside Ave., Baltimore, MD 21228  
443-677-4187; [joe@jadecomputers.us](mailto:joe@jadecomputers.us) webpage design, hosting, order PC on-line <http://www.jadecomputers.us>

### VTS - Videotaping Service

Video, DVD duplications, video tape transferred to DVD; standards, conversions, call VTS toll free: 1-877-891-1002. BRATS member Bob Shapiro, K2MYS. <http://www.videotapingservice.com>

### Antique Radio Repair, Restoration!

Eric, WA3TAD, audio-visual service, retro radio, 3401 Chestnut Ave. Balto. 21211. 410-467-3620; [wa3tad@comcast.net](mailto:wa3tad@comcast.net)

### Overlea Hobbies; Radio Consignments

8411 Harford Rd. Parkville; 410-665-3622 fine trains, model kits, x-acto, cars, planes, ships, many radios: Yaesu FT-101ZD, Kenwood TS 820S, 930S, Heath SB-102, National NC 183, more. Dick, N3JWN, 410-488-2806

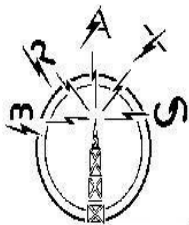
**WANTED:** AC Gilbert erector sets: old, new large, small, need not be complete, **CASH PAID.** Lewis, 410-296-4874

**WANTED:** Narrow filter for Kenwood TS 570SG, 250 hz such as Kenwood P/N YK 88CN-1 Neil, W3ZQI; 410-765-8439, days, or [neilatv@yahoo.com](mailto:neilatv@yahoo.com)

**WANTED:** AT-930 for a TS930S. Please send condition and price. Jerry. [jerrymcf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jerrymcf@sbcglobal.net)

<p><b>ATTENTION:</b> if you do NOT want your ad to run again, please send me an email to that effect. Thanks! <a href="mailto:w3gzk@verizon.net">w3gzk@verizon.net</a></p>
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The Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society  
P.O.Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

June 2009

## BRATS HAMFEST: Sunday, July 19th, Howard County Fairgrounds

### Other Radio Club Meetings

#### AMRAD

2nd Thursday, 7:30 PM,  
Dolley Madison Library; 1244 Oak Ridge  
Ave. McLean, VA (147.21/R)

#### 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

#### BARC

1st and 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 PM  
12360 Owings Mills Blvd (near warehouse)  
Owings Mills, MD (146.67R)

#### AARC

1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7:30 PM  
Davidsonville Family Rec. Center, Queen Anne  
Bridge Rd, Wayson Rd (147.105R)

#### 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