

# the Milliwatt



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

## MARYLAND HAMFEST

AND

## COMPUTER FEST

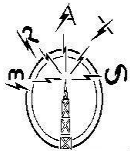
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THE BALTIMORE RADIO AMATEUR  
TELEVISION SOCIETY

**SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2006**

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

Grounds open for Tailgating at 6:00am

ACCESSIBLE TO THE HANDICAPPED  
KIDS UNDER 12 FREE

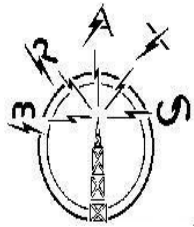


For information contact:

BRATS / PO Box 5915 / Baltimore, MD 21282 -- 410-461-0086 voice or fax  
<http://www.bratsatv.org> -- email [brats@bratsatv.org](mailto:brats@bratsatv.org)

### **NCVEC Question Pool Committee wants to hear from you!**

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) is requesting input from the Amateur Radio community as it looks toward developing a new General class (Element 3) examination question pool. It's anticipated that the revised Element 3 question pool will be released on or about December 1, 2006. It will become effective for all examinations given on or after July 1, 2007. "All interested parties are invited to participate in this process," says QPC Chair Jim Wiley, KL7CC. "The QPC is interested in your suggestions for this new pool, including new questions or existing material that should be deleted or edited." Submit questions directly to the QPC via the NCVEC Web site. Groups of questions may be submitted via e-mail as MS-Word documents or plain-text file e-mail attachments. To get a feel for the formatting requirements, see the individual question submission page or look at one of the existing question pools. "The QPC does not guarantee that all questions submitted will be used," Wiley says, "and the committee reserves the right to edit material as necessary, including the right to combine material from more than one source when creating new questions." All current Amateur Radio examination question pools are available on the ARRL Web site.



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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

It is Hamfest time. As you know, the hamfest and your membership dues are the only way we make money to maintain the repeaters and run the club. We need to pay for various club expenses. We need your help. Please give us an hour or two during the hamfest and help us make this event the success it must be to run the club and its repeaters for another year.

Thanks and 73,  
Mayer, W3GXX

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### The Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society, Inc. P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and a non-profit corporation in the State of Maryland. We belong to and support the Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

**home page:** <http://www.bratsatv.org>

**e-mail:** [mail@bratsatv.org](mailto:mail@bratsatv.org)

**InfoLine:** 410- 461-0086

**Meetings:** 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 PM, Pikesville Library, 1301 Reisterstown Rd., Pikesville, MD.

**President:** Ed Rosen, N3GXH

**Vice Pres:** Edward Koritzer, N3DGY

**Secretary:** Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX

**Treasurer:** Les McClure, W3GXT

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**Vice Chairman, Technical:** Mike Dees, N3EZD

**Vice Chairman, Operations:** Ian Millet, N3CVA

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## BRATS Repeaters

### BRATS Linked Repeater System:

WB3DZO: 147.03+, 224.96-, 448.325-

### BRATS Stand-alone repeaters:

443.350+

### BRATS Packet Network Nodes

W3GXT-5 145.05

W3GXT-10 224.52

### BRATS ATV Repeater System:

W3WCQ: inputs: 426.25, 1253.25

outputs: 439.25, 911.25

## BRATS Weekly Nets

Mon 9 pm Traffic and Info Net, W3GXX

Tues 11:45 Informal ATV Net, W3WVV

Tues 9 pm BRATS Horsetraders Net, Grant, KA3CEA

Wed 9 pm BRATS ATV Net

Thurs 9 pm BRATS ATV Net

Sat 1 pm Weekly News Bulletin, W3WGXX

Sat 1:20 The BRATS Answer Men:  
W3WVV, N3GXH, KB3JQQ

As needed Weather/Emergency Net, Skywarn

## BRATS Board of Directors

### Through 12/06:

N3WJH, N3YI, KB3KYM, KB3LJM, KC3FI, K2GZL\*

### Through 12/07:

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\*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, July 11, Pikesville Library

## NEXT BRATS HAMFEST

**Sunday, July 23, 2006**

**Howard County Fairgrounds**

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### **Dayton Hamvention 2006 attendance nearly even with last year's**

Dayton Hamvention® 2006 General Chairman Jim Nies, WX8F, reports that the estimated attendance for the May 19-21 event was very nearly the same as last year's. "Our best estimates for attendance at 2006 Hamvention put the number at 20,324, a slight drop from 2005, but still within the ballpark for the three latest all-volunteer Hamvention years," Nies told ARRL. In 2005, an ARRL Convention year, 20,411 visitors attended Hamvention. The number of attendees in 2004 was calculated at 19,869. Nies said the Dayton Amateur Radio Association's Hamvention Committee will conduct a critique meeting June 13 to identify areas of Hamvention that need improvement and to discuss possible solutions, although Nies says that process already has begun informally. "Some committee chairmen have begun planning their timelines and their recruiting for next year," he adds.

### **Courtesy urged on 6 meter "DX window"**

Radio amateurs taking advantage of recent openings on 6 meters are advised that the ARRL 6-meter band plan designates the segment 50.100 to 50.125 MHz as the "DX window." The idea behind this unofficial designation, which reflects a consensus of longtime band users, is to keep that area of the band clear for US-to-DX contacts on "The Magic Band." Veteran 6-meter operators report hearing many US stations working each other when the band is open. Such complaints arise each year when the band first opens, says ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager Dave Patton, NN1N. "Frequently the newcomers learn where to operate quickly enough, and often the veterans can be heard gently coaxing them up the band for a nice chat, at the same time making them aware of the band plan," he added. US stations are asked to keep stateside operation above 50.125 MHz (the "SSB calling frequency") as a courtesy to those attempting to work DX during band openings.

### **Cordless jump-rope helpful for clumsy, others**

If you think keeping fit is merely mind over matter, Lester Clancy has an invention for you -- a cordless jump-rope. That's right, a jump-rope minus the rope. All that's left is two handles, so you jump over the pretend rope. Or if you are truly lazy, you can pretend to jump over the pretend rope. And for that idea kicking around Clancy's head since 1988, the U.S. Patent Office this month awarded the 52-year-old Mansfield, Ohio, man a patent. Its number: 7037243. What makes this invention work is the moving weights inside the handles. They simulate the feel of a rope moving, Clancy said. Well, it's only one handle so far because Clancy is waiting for financial backers before building its partner. But why jump rope without a rope? It's perfect for the clumsy, Clancy said. "If you are still jumping, you're still using your legs as well as your arms, and getting the cardiovascular workout. You just don't have to worry about tripping on the rope." ]It is also good for mental institutions and prisons where rope is a suicide risk, said Clancy, who works as a laundry coordinator in a state prison. And low ceiling fans aren't a hazard any more, he said. Daniel Wright, who features the cordless jump-rope on his website [www.patentlysilly.com](http://www.patentlysilly.com), can barely talk about Clancy's invention without laughing. "What really grabbed me," Wright said, was the name the item has in its patent, Wright said. The idea isn't all that crazy, said Mike Ernst, a professor of kinesiology at California State University in Dominguez Hills. "I think it's silly but at the same time if somehow, some way it promotes physical activity, gets kids active, then I'm all for it," Ernst said. The more he thought about it, the more Ernst said he could see the benefit, adding that the act of jumping, of the rope itself, is what provides exercise. "Do you need to jump with a rope? You don't," Ernst said. "But I wouldn't buy the product, I can tell you that. I'm not an idiot." High-tech handles aren't needed. You could even use toilet paper holders, Ernst said. On second thought, he wondered if he could patent that idea.

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### League Asks FCC to Protect 902-928 MHz Operations

The ARRL has asked the FCC to avoid making any changes within the 902-928 MHz allocation that might increase the noise floor or otherwise adversely affect Amateur Radio operations there, including further deployment of unlicensed Part 15 devices. The League filed comments recently in a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 06-49, which seeks input on encouraging the little-used Multilateration Location Monitoring Service (M-LMS)--a terrestrial service for location of objects and tracking--while continuing to accommodate licensed and unlicensed uses of the 902-928 MHz band. Amateur Radio is secondary in the band to federal radiolocation systems, industrial, scientific and medical devices, federal fixed and mobile systems and the M-LMS.

### Can empty toilets help save jet fuel?

With jet-fuel costs increasingly denting airlines' bottom lines, some carriers are resorting to extreme measures to remedy the problem. Mexicana President Emilio Romano says that his carrier is trying to reduce aircraft weights with measures such as installing lighter carpets, using less water in the toilets and storing fewer ice cubes on its planes, according to Reuters. Lighter planes, of course, burn less fuel.

### Airports open services to keep fliers plugged in

Airports increasingly are adding office-like service to appeal to business travelers, USA TODAY reports. The paper cites San Francisco International as an example, writing that travelers in the airport's Terminal 3 "can rent laptops, private workstations and meeting rooms at a business center operated by PowerPort. PowerPort's charging station in San Francisco has 12 bays for cellphones, personal digital assistants and computers." Other airports with PowerPort facilities include Jacksonville, Minneapolis/St. Paul and St. Louis. In Minneapolis, TravelEx America has set up shop across from the PowerPort facility there, renting conference rooms and offering photocopy, fax, courier and other services. "Business travelers need these services," says Jenni Bowring-McDonough, a spokeswoman for Minneapolis-St. Paul airport. "People don't want to be unplugged in the airport. Time is too valuable." Travelers seem to agree. "It's tough enough being disconnected for 10 hours on a flight, but it's much harder if you can't download and respond" during an airport layover, says Chuck Kelley, a sales director for an Illinois broadcast equipment company. One addition likely to be popular with travelers comes at Chicago O'Hare. That's where the city's aviation department teamed with United Airlines last month to open a station allowing fliers to simultaneously recharge two electronic devices for free. Airport spokeswoman Wendy Abrams says 21 such stations at O'Hare and four at Midway are planned. Still, other frequent travelers say their top priority is simply wireless Internet access in airport terminals. Many airports already provide such access -- some for free, but most at a charge. Some big airports, however, have yet to add Internet access, including Los Angeles, Washington Dulles and Washington National airports. Those airports expect to have Web access sometime this year, according to USA TODAY.



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### **Amateur recognised in Rock and Roll Hall of Fame**

A new exhibition at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland , US will honour the extraordinary work of legendary sound engineer and radio ham Bob Heil, K9EID. Bob was responsible for designing the pioneering sound equipment used by many of the biggest rock acts of the 1970s, including the Eagles, the Grateful Dead and The Who. Bob's rise to fame in musical circles began one night in 1970 when the Grateful Dead arrived for a concert in St Louis without any sound equipment. Bob came to the rescue, supplying the influential band with a PA system from his Ye Olde Music Shoppe in Marissa. The band was so impressed by the quality of the system that they took it on tour with them. Later Bob was asked to design a custom quadrasonic mixing board for The Who's 1974 Quadrophenia tour. But perhaps his most famous invention was The Talk Box, a device that allowed guitarists to manipulate sound using their mouths. The Talk Box was used by Joe Walsh of the Eagles -- also a radio amateur -- during the legendary Mississippi River Festival in the 1970s. The Talk Box forms the centrepiece of the exhibition at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Other notable exhibits include a microphone used by The Who singer Roger Daltry. The microphone is still wrapped in the red gaffer tape Bob put on it to prevent it being lost in the crowd. Daltry was famous for swinging microphones from their leads and sometimes a mic would come loose and fly into the audience. Today, Bob continues to work in the music business through his company Heil Sound, which also supplies amateur radio equipment. [GB2RS]

### **21st International Space Colloquium**

Amateur radio satellite group AMSAT-UK is holding its 21st International Space Colloquium at the University of Surrey , Guildford , England from 28 to 30 July. The highlight of the event is a guided tour of the satellite assembly facilities and satellite mission control centre at Surrey Space Centre. There will be a programme of lectures on amateur radio satellites, including a special beginner's session aimed at showing newcomers how to use amateur satellites. A number of University of Surrey postgraduate students will also present details of their space projects. Finally, the GB4FUN amateur radio demonstration vehicle will be in attendance to help visitors work some satellites. The 21st International Space Colloquium is open to radio amateurs and short wave listeners. Further details about the event, including a detailed programme, can be found on the AMSAT-UK website. Contact Jim Heck, G3WGM, at e-mail address g3wgm@<no spam>amsat.org if you would like to attend the event. [GB2RS]

### **Larger or Smaller?**

Several weeks ago we reported the possibility that the next sunspot cycle, cycle 24, would be larger than normal. Now a NASA team has predicted that the solar maximum after that, cycle 25, will be the smallest in the last 200 years or more. The team reports the following: According to theory and observation, the speed of the belt foretells the intensity of sunspot activity for the next 20 years into the future. A slow belt means lower solar activity; a fast belt means stronger activity. The Great Conveyor Belt is a massive circulating current of hot plasma within the Sun. It has two branches, one in the northern hemisphere and one in the southern hemisphere, each taking about 40 years to perform one complete circuit. Normally, the conveyor belt moves about 1m per second. That's how it has been since the late 19th century. In recent years, however, the belts have decelerated to 0.75m per second in the north and 0.35m per second in the south. The slowdown we see now means that solar cycle 25, peaking around the year 2022, could be one of the smallest in centuries. (GB2RS)

### **Air Canada expands mobile check-in**

Air Canada's Mobile Check-in has been expanded to include all flights within Canada. Air Canada customers traveling without luggage may now use their mobile device -- cell phone, blackberry or Treo -- to check-in at [aircanada.com](http://aircanada.com). Customers log on to [mobile.aircanada.com](http://mobile.aircanada.com) using their mobile device one to 24 hours prior to departure and complete their check-in on their mobile by entering their name, departure city and one of the following: credit card number, Aeroplan number or reservation number. Once completed, customers make their way to a self-service kiosk at the airport to print their boarding pass.

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### **New DXCC awards fee schedule becomes effective July 1**

The ARRL DXCC Desk has announced DXCC program fees will rise slightly when a new awards fee schedule goes into effect July 1. The fee for a basic DXCC application (including certificate and pin for initial applications only, 120 QSO maximum) and for first endorsement applications within a year will increase to \$12 for ARRL members and to \$22 for foreign nonmembers. Second and subsequent endorsements (120 QSO maximum) within a year will be \$22 for ARRL members and \$32 for foreign nonmembers. The \$10 fee for a basic DXCC application (120-credit maximum) was established in 1990, and the current overall fee schedule has been in effect since 1998. "It costs us to provide this service," explains ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG. "We don't make any money from DXCC." The cost of other DXCC-related items such as plaques and pins also will go up July 1. Mills advised that DXCC fees will increase further in the years ahead--possibly at two-year intervals--at least to catch up with the Consumer Price Index, which has risen 49% since 1990. He estimates the active population of DXCC members at between 15,000 and 18,000.

### **New IRC Available July 1**

The Universal Postal Union (UPU) has announced that a new International Reply Coupon (IRC) design has been selected. Radio amateurs often enclose IRCs when QSLing DX stations directly to cover the cost of return postage. The new design, known as "Beijing Model No. 2," was submitted by Volodymyr Taran, a graphic artist from Ukraine. Chosen by a jury of 40 UPU member countries, the coupon design was inspired by Michelangelo's painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel -- two fingers about to touch framed in a postage stamp, representing the notions of communication and exchange. The new IRC is expected to be available as of July 1, and will be valid until December 31, 2009. The current IRC is valid through December 31, 2006.

### **Vermont Governor Signs Amateur Radio Antenna Bill**

Vermont Gov Jim Douglas has signed Amateur Radio antenna legislation that puts the language of the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1 into the Green Mountain State's statutes. Vermont is the 23rd state to adopt an Amateur Radio antenna law.

### **Two Radio Amateurs Die During Mobile Hidden Transmitter Hunt**

Two ARRL members from California are dead after the vehicle in which they were riding during a mobile hidden transmitter hunt went over a cliff in rugged terrain near Lake Isabella in Kern County. They were identified as Michael G. Obermeier, K6SNE, of Anaheim, and David A. Gordon-Ross, of Yucaipa. Obermeier, an ARRL Official Observer in Orange County, was 46. Gordon-Ross was 35. "Mike and Dave were some of the best T-hunters in the biz," said Scott Press, N6SAP, calling both "true assets to this hobby." In his role as an OO, Obermeier reportedly had participated in the infamous Jack Gerritsen radio jamming case in the Los Angeles area. According to media accounts, a Kern County Sheriff's Department search-and-rescue team located the victims early Monday, May 29. Obermeier was driving the 1991 4-wheel-drive Jeep Cherokee that apparently went out of control on Cook Peak Road while the pair was proceeding to the next hidden transmitter site. After caroming off a rock wall, the vehicle crossed the road and plunged down a 900-foot cliff. They were reported missing after failing to check in with T-hunt organizers. Greg Pitta, KF6DBJ, reports Obermeier and Gordon-Ross were on a half-day multiple-transmitter T-hunt on Saturday, May 27. "Both K6SNE and N6IDF were expert transmitter hunters, each with hundreds of hunts completed, ranking with top scores in most," he said. ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, knew both men. He notes that Obermeier had suffered a sports-related spinal cord injury that left him a paraplegic. "He did all the adaptive work on his vehicles, of which he had quite a few that he used over time for RDF," Moell said.

**Attention All Amateurs...****Public BPL Database Restrictions Removed**

United Telecom Council (UTC) has removed all restrictions on access to the BPL Interference Resolution Web site. In cooperation with the United Power Line Council (UPLC), UTC administers the database, which FCC Part 15 rules mandate be "publicly available." Ever since the database debuted last October, the ARRL has taken strong exception to access constraints UTC had imposed, including limiting searches solely on the basis of US Postal Service ZIP code and rationing the number of allowable licensee searches. In February, the League filed a formal complaint with the FCC, demanding that the Commission order UTC to "cease its arbitrary limits" on access to the database. ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the League was happy to hear that UTC now has eliminated search limits and posted all BPL system information.

**Attention All Amateurs...****FCC Cites Florida Utility for Interference to Radio Amateur**

The FCC has issued a Citation to Lakeland Electric, a municipally owned utility in Lakeland, Florida, for violating Part 15 rules by interfering with a local radio amateur. §15.5(c) of the FCC rules requires that the operator of an "incidental radiator" must cease operating the device after an FCC representative notifies the operator that the device is causing harmful interference. The "incidental radiator" in this case is overhead power lines. Under an agreement, the ARRL and the FCC cooperate in resolving cases of line noise interference to Amateur Radio licensees.

**Attention All Amateurs...****Full US House Okays Telecoms Bill with BPL Study Language Intact**

On a 321 to 101 vote, the US House of Representatives on June 8 passed the Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancement (COPE) Act of 2006. The House-passed bill, HR 5252, left intact language that required the FCC to study the interference potential of BPL systems. US Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), one of two radio amateurs in Congress, sponsored the BPL study requirement, "Study of Interference Potential of Broadband over Power Line Systems," contained in Title V, Section 502 of the complex bill. HR 5252 now goes to the US Senate, where a separate--and very different--telecoms bill, the Communications, Consumer's Choice, and Broadband Deployment Act of 2006 (S 2686) is still in committee.

**Attention All Amateurs...****FCC Directs Manassas BPL System to Resolve Amateurs'**

**Interference Complaints** In two strongly worded letters, the FCC's Enforcement Bureau has directed the Manassas, Virginia, BPL system to take appropriate steps to eliminate harmful interference to Amateur Radio operators. Several hams in the Manassas area have complained, some repeatedly, about severe interference from the BPL system, operated by COMTek on the city-owned power grid. The FCC minced no words in detailing what it wants the city and BPL operator COMTek to do to ensure its system complies with Part 15 rules governing BPL systems and even hinted that it may shut down all or part of the system. One of the FCC letters followed up on a complaint from Dwight Agnew, AI4II, of BPL interference to his mobile operations.

### **VT COMMUNICATIONS LAUNCHES PIONEERING DRM 26MHZ SERVICE**

VT Communications continues to push the boundaries of digital radio broadcasting by launching its dual-channel Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) transmission service from Crystal Palace in South East London into Greater London. Partnering with Deutsche Welle and UBC Classic Gold VT Communications can now provide two discrete broadcast services over a single 20KHz transmission band centred at 25.7 MHz. This is the first time the double channel mode of DRM has been used for extensive field trials and further enhances VT Communications digital offering. The 26 MHz band is designated as an international broadcast band, but is under used and could also be used to provide local "FM" type coverage. Demand for both FM (88-108 MHz) and DAB (band III) spectrum in the UK is very high, and DRM could offer broadcasters access to additional spectrum in addition revitalising existing MF and LF frequencies with enhanced audio quality. The ability of the 26 MHz band to provide local and digital radio coverage adds to VT Communications existing regional and international DRM capability. In 1999 VT Communications started regular "ITU compliant" DRM tests from the Rampisham transmitter site in Dorset UK, to Europe. In 2003 a new high power MF transmitter was added to the portfolio, which now transmits the BBC World Service in digital quality to the Benelux countries. VT Communications are also investing in a new broadcast centre designed to distribute audio in a totally digital format from studio to listener, including distribution of DRM. This will eliminate audio degradation caused by repeated conversion between analogue and digital, a surprisingly common problem with digital transmissions.

### **Radio St Helena back on the air**

Radio St Helena is planning to reintroduce short wave transmissions following a long break of almost a decade. The famous station used to transmit on short wave one day per year during the 1990s using a borrowed shortwave transmitter, but it was deprived of use of the transmitter in late 1999 and its shortwave transmissions came to an end. Now the station's management has launched a fund-raising campaign with the aim of acquiring a new shortwave transmitter and putting the station back on short wave. The radio station is also hoping to raise enough funds to set up an amateur radio club station on the island and promote amateur radio in local schools. This is all good news for short wave listeners and radio amateurs. St Helena, the island from which the station operates, is a much wanted entity for both short wave listeners and radio amateurs. The South Atlantic island is among the most isolated in the world. The nearest major land mass is Africa, 1,000 miles away.

### **Handihams volunteer Rex Kiser, W0GLU, SK**

Rex Kiser, W0GLU, of Edina, Minnesota, died April 1. He was 82. A World War II veteran paralyzed as the result of a combat-related injury in 1944, Kiser became a Courage Handihams volunteer in 1972. Unwilling to let his injury keep him from enjoying life and helping others, he contributed nearly 14,000 hours of his time over more than 30 years in the Handihams workshop repairing and adapting radios and related equipment for people with disabilities. An ARRL member, Kiser also served as net control station on the Wednesday PICONET and was active in the Disabled American Veterans and the Minneapolis Radio Club. Survivors include his wife Miriam and two daughters. A memorial service was held April 6.

### **Montenegro poised to become newest DXCC entity**

The Republic of Montenegro, which declared its independence June 3, has applied for United Nations membership, according to The Daily DX. The move paves the way for the tiny Balkan nation to join the DXCC list. "Once Montenegro is accepted into the UN or obtains a call sign prefix block, DXers will have a new DXCC entity," says ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG. The division of Serbia and Montenegro eliminates what remained of Yugoslavia. Serbia's parliament this week declared Serbia a sovereign nation as heir to the former Serbia-Montenegro union. Assuming that Serbia continues to hold its current seat in the UN, it will stay on the DXCC list as a pre-existing and continuing DXCC entity, Mills explained. A decision on whether to admit Montenegro into the UN must go before the UN Security Council and then the general body of member nations. A UN spokesperson could not say how long the process might take, The Daily DX said.



## WA7BNM Contest Calendar

- June 22  
RSGB Club Champ. 80m SSB
- June 23  
His Maj. King of Spain, SSB
- June 24-25  
Ukrainian DX Digi Contest  
ARRL FIELD DAY  
ARCI Milliwatt Field Day
- July 1  
RAC Canada Day Contest
- July 1-2  
Venez. Independence Day  
DL-DX RTTY Contest  
Original QRP Contest
- July 2  
DARC 10-mtr. Digital Contest
- July 3  
RSGB Club Champ. 80m CW
- July 4-5  
MI QRP CW Sprint
- July 8  
VK Trans-Tasm. 160 mtr. Phone  
FISTS Summer Sprint
- July 8-9  
IARU HF World Championship  
Six-Club Contest
- July 12  
RSGB Club Champ. 870m SSB
- July 15-16  
CQ WW VHF Contest  
NA QSO Party, RTTY
- July 16  
RSGB Low Power Field Day
- July 20  
RSGB Club Champ., Data
- July 22  
VK Trans-Tasm. 160 m, CW
- July 29-30  
RSGB IOTA Contest

### **G3IYX, Silent Key**

GB2RS has been informed of the sad news that G J Leask, G3IYX, has become a Silent Key. G3IYX established himself in the amateur radio pantheon when he undertook the first-ever transistor QSO with Danny, G3JRD, in June 1954.

### **OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT.**

The following operations are approved for DXCC credit: Timor-Leste, 4W6AAB, current operation effective May 22, 2006; United Arab Emirates, A6/OD5TX, operation from October 5 through November 5, 2005; Guinea-Bissau, J5DOT, operation from April 25 through May 5, 2006; Fernando de Noronha, ZV0F, operation from March 30 through April 4, 2006; Western Sahara, S01R, operation from April 11 through April 21, 2006; Somalia, 600M, operation from April 7 through April 24, 2006; Chad, TT8WL, November 19, 1996 through March 8, 1997; Iraq, HN0Z, operation March 27 and 28, 2004, and operation May 29 and 30, 2004; Iraq, YI9HU, operation from May 18 through June 5, 2005; and Iraq, YI9NS, operation from January 5 through March 28, 2006.

## **ARRL DX Bulletin**

### **ALGERIA, 7X.**

John, G1NZO is QRV as 7X0JL from Phydra and will be here for about four months. He is active primarily on 6 meters using SSB, PSK31 and JT6M during his evenings and weekends.

### **QATAR, A7.**

Ali, A71BZ is usually QRV on 17 meters using SSB between 1630 and 1730z.

### **PAPUA NEW GUINEA, P2.**

Scot, P29SS has been active on 80 meters around 1200z. QSL via N5FTR.

### **JAPAN, JA.**

Special event station 8J5TOSA is QRV until August 31 to celebrate the Tosa Expo. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL via bureau.

### **SEYCHELLES, S7.**

S79RS has been active on 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters at various times during the day. QSL via IZ8CLM.

### **MOUNT ATHOS, SV/A.**

Monk Apollo, SV2ASP/A has been active on 20 meters between 0000 and 0100z and then from 1130 to 1245z. He has also been active on 12 meters around 1800z.

### **HAITI, HH.**

Glauber, HH/PS7EB is QRV until the end of November. He is usually active on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.

### **SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS.**

DT8A is QRV from the South Korean King Sejong Base on King George Island and has been active on 17 meters around 1800z. QSL via HL2FDW.

### **ICELAND, TF.**

Fabio, IW5DCE is QRV as TF/IW5DCE. He is active on the HF bands, including 6 meters, using SSB and digital modes. QSL to home call.

### **CHAD, TT.**

Phil is QRV as TT8PK and has been active on 17 meters around 1300z and 20 meters around 1800z. QSL via F4EGS.

### **OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT.**

The following operation is approved for DXCC credit: Afghanistan, T61AA, current operation effective May 23, 2006.

### **Do You Like *The Milliwatt* ?**

If so, send us some money: BRATS, P.O. Box 5915, Baltimore, MD 21282

## the Milliwatt

### Hamfests

**Sunday, July 23 - W. Friendship, MD**  
**BRATS at Howard County Fairgrounds**  
 410-461-0086 (24 hours); 147.03/R  
<http://www.bratsatv.org>

**Sunday, August 6 - Berryville, VA**  
 Shenandoah Valley ARC Winchester Hamfest ,  
 Clarke Co. Ruritan Fairgrounds Bus. Rte. 7,  
 Berryville, VA ( 146.82/R Tom, AF2D,  
 540-869-7067, [af2d@arrl.net](mailto:af2d@arrl.net))

**Sunday, August 6 - Mountaintop, PA**  
 Jonestown Mountain Repeater Ass'n. Wright  
 Township Fire Dept. 477 South Main Rd. (146.805/R,  
 PL 82.5) 570-825-8856

**Sunday, August 13 - Westminster, MD**  
 Carroll County Tailgate Fest , Carroll Co.  
 Agricultural Center, Westminster, MD. (145.410/R)  
 301-829-8791

**Sunday, August 20 - W. Manheim, PA**  
 HAHA Tailgate Fest, Pleasant Hill Volunteer Fire Co.  
 Carnival Grounds PA Rte 94, 4 miles north of  
 Manchester, MD. Michael, N3KTX, 410-848-0159.  
 (146.895/R)

**Sat./Sun. Sept. 9-10 - Gaithersburg, MD**  
 FARFEST , Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds  
 Gaithersburg, MD. (146.955/R) ; 301-3345-7381 ;  
<http://www.farfest.org>

**Sunday, October 1 - W. Friendship, MD**  
 CARAFest; Howard Co. Fairgrounds. (147.135/R, PL  
 156.7) . Dave, W8AJR, 410-552-2652

**Sunday, October 15 - Sellersville, PA**  
 RF Hill ARC (145.31/R PL 131.8) Fire Dept.  
 Grounds, 100 N. Main St. 215-257-6368(d);  
 215-538-7458 (eve.)

**Sunday, Oct. 29 - Westminster, MD**  
 Mason Dixon Hamfest. Carroll County Agricultural  
 Center, Westminster. (145.41/R) Bill, W3STG,  
 301-829-8791

### 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:** August 5, September 2, November 4, December 2

**Sundays:** July 2, October 1

### AERO VE EXAMS

\$14 Fee, (ARRL VEC)

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)

### DXCC Announces Rule Change

The ARRL DXCC Desk has announced new language to  
 replace the wording of a previously removed DXCC rule  
 pertaining to political entities. The change will add a Paragraph  
 (c) under Section II, DX List Criteria, 1. Political Entities of the  
 DXCC Rules. (FULL STORY ARRL on web site)

### ATTENTION: Award Chasers

Bill, N3WD will be at the BRATS Hamfest on Sunday, July 23  
 from 9 AM till 12 Noon, checking QSL cards for DXCC, WAS  
 and VUCC. Details: <http://www.bratsatv.org/hamfest.html>

## the Milliwatt

### 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: Special!!!** Rohn 48-foot free standing tower, TET 4-element tribander, tail twister rotor, You take down. No reasonable offer refused. Also, Alinco 110 2 mtr. Xcvr, can be used base or mobile, \$100. ACI AC20, linear for 2 meters, \$20. Heath HM 102 power meter with attached antenna selector, \$40. All in good working order. Call Jerry, KB3AP, 443-618-0618.

**FOR SALE:** Yaesu FT50R dual band ( 2mtr./440) H/T. Scans from 76 to 999 MHz (less cellular). Extra Battery, CA15 charger, ear/throat mike, Shoulder harness. Regularly \$330. Sell for \$225. Contact Russ, N3YI at [n3yi@yahoo.com](mailto:n3yi@yahoo.com)

**FOR SALE:** Kenwood Dual band mobile TM431A, 144/440 MHz, manual, RC10 multi-function remote controller w/ remote mike, 30memory channels, mag-mounted remote speaker. 5/50 W on 2 mtrs. 5/35W on 440. In current use, exc. condx. Don, W3QYL, 410-356-9004, [w3qyl@arrl.net](mailto:w3qyl@arrl.net)

**FOR SALE:** Special! ICOM BC-110A battery charger , 12vDC 200mA, for ICOM T8A or similar. Used only twice, misplaced, bought a new one. Found it after new one arrived. Cost \$46, make me an offer. Mayer, W3GXX, 410-786-6839 or [w3gzk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gzk@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:** if you do NOT want your ad to run again, please send me an email to that effect.  
Thanks! [w3gzk@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:joed@jadecomputers.us)

#### Antique Radio Repair, Restoration

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

#### Radio Consignment Shop at Overlea Hobbies

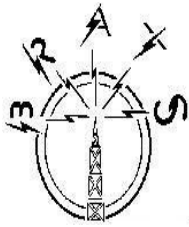
8411 Harford Road, Parkville, 410-665-3622. Home of fine trains, model kits, x-acto, cars, planes, ships, many radios. Yaesu FT101ZD, Kenwood TS 820S, 930S, Heathkit SB-102, National NC-183, more ... Dick, N3JWN, 410-488-2806

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

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

**WANTED:** Your ad for this space. Send copy to [w3gzk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gzk@verizon.net)



# the Milliwatt



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

## July 2006

### Next BRATS Meeting

Tuesday, July 11  
7:15 PM, Pikesville Library

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

### Other Radio Club Meetings

#### 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)

#### 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

#### LOCAL ATV NETS

Tuesday, 11:45 AM  
Informal Net, W3WVV  
(Audio on 147.03/R)

Wednesday, 9 PM  
CATS Net, rotating Net Control  
(Audio on 145.13/R)

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

#### 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)

#### BRATS Public Service

**September 16-17:** 4th Annual Chesapeake  
Challenge Walk, starts in Annapolis Saturday,  
concludes in Downtown Baltimore Sunday. Dave,  
KB3CJT, [kb3cjt@arrl.net](mailto:kb3cjt@arrl.net) or  
[drollhauser@comcast.net](mailto:drollhauser@comcast.net)

#### CARA

4th Tuesday,  
Gateway Center, Rm 401, 6751 Gateway Dr.  
Columbia South off Rt 175 (147.135/R)

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