

the Milliwatt



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

BRATS MEETINGS TO MOVE FOR 9 MONTHS!

Due to major renovations of the Pikesville Library and Senior Center, we are required to move our meetings, starting in October, as follows:

Dates: October, 2006 through June, 2007

When: 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:15 PM

Where: Randallstown Library, 8604 Liberty Road at Old Court Road.

NOTE: August 8th and September 12th meetings remain at Pikesville.

First meeting at new site is Tuesday, October 17th

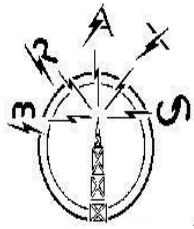


FCC seeking two telecommunications specialists for monitoring center

The FCC has two openings for telecommunications specialists at its High Frequency Direction Finding Center in Columbia, Maryland. The deadline to apply is August 2, 2006. Interested applicants may review the duties, qualifications and requirements for these positions via the [FCCJobs](#) Web-based recruitment system, which electronically qualifies, rates, and ranks applicants. Key requirements include US citizenship and a security clearance as well as drug testing and a background investigation. Shift work is involved. These are full-time, permanent positions in the FCC's Spectrum Enforcement Division. Duties include using radio signal analysis equipment deployed throughout the US to collect, correlate, and analyze the characteristics of radio signals involved in interference problems, distress or safety-related signals or other radio signals involved in other high-priority activities such as law enforcement or national defense. Applicants must have knowledge of communication technology, modulation techniques and transmission practices, including knowledge of radio receiver operation and transmission systems. Specialized experience includes the ability to analyze routine complaints and inquiries, knowledge of investigative techniques and knowledge of HF propagation. The FCC is an equal opportunity employer.

Hamfest Huge Success

July 23 saw a nice, sunny day with temperatures in the low 80's, a beautiful day for the Famous BRATS International Hamfest and Computer Fest at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship, MD. A large number of buyers augmented our loyal cadre of vendors and everyone had a great time! We look forward to doing it again next year (date to be announced) ...



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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

Hopefully the hamfest was a success. Our weather committee is well-known for its hard work in preparing nice weather for the event. The Pikesville Library is expanding. During the renovation, we have to move to the Randallstown Library for nine months. Hopefully we will have the same nice space when we move back. Stop by to see us, the dates and times of the meetings are on the front page of this issue. Meanwhile, see the list of nets on this page and check in with us ...

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

Secretary: Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX

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Vice Chairman, Technical: Mike Dees, N3EZD

Vice Chairman, Operations: Ian Millet, N3CVA

BRATS Repeaters

BRATS Linked Repeater System:

WB3DZO: 147.03+, 224.96-, 448.325-

BRATS Stand-alone repeaters:

443.350+

BRATS Packet Network Nodes

W3GXT-5 145.05

W3GXT-10 224.52

BRATS ATV Repeater System:

W3WCQ: inputs: 426.25, 1253.25

outputs: 439.25, 911.25

BRATS Weekly Nets

Mon 9 pm Traffic and Info Net, W3GXX

Tues 11:45 Informal ATV Net, W3WVV

Tues 9 pm BRATS Horsetraders Net, Grant, KA3CEA

Wed 9 pm BRATS ATV Net

Thurs 9 pm BRATS ATV Net

Sat 1 pm Weekly News Bulletin, W3WGXX

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

As needed Weather/Emergency Net, Skywarn

BRATS Board of Directors

Through 12/06:

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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 Meetings

Tuesday, August 8, September 12
7:15 PM, Pikesville Library
1301 Reisterstown Rd

NEXT BRATS HAMFEST

Sunday, July 23, 2006

Howard County Fairgrounds

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Toshiba delays sale of 1st HD DVD recorder

Toshiba said Thursday it will postpone the sale of the first recorder for HD DVD high-definition video discs because of a production delay. The recorder, the RD-A1, had been slated to go on sale Friday, but the release will be pushed back to July 27, the Tokyo-based electronics maker said in a release. The new machine combines an HD DVD burner with a one-terabyte hard disk and can record and store up to 130 hours of high-definition broadcasts. The product is a key element of Toshiba's battle against rival Sony Corp. to establish the standard for next-generation DVD technology. Sony and its allies are pushing an alternative technology called Blu-ray. Toshiba launched HD DVD players in Japan in March, and in the United States in April. Sony plans to begin selling personal computers equipped with Blu-ray drives later this month. Toshiba said last month the RD-A1 recorder will carry a suggested price tag of \$3,470. The electronics maker hopes to sell 10,000 recorders by the end of 2006, company spokeswoman Junko Fruta said. It was unclear when the product will be launched overseas. Sony has been selling Blu-ray recorders since 2003 in Japan, but prices have been high and consumer adoption limited. Both HD DVD and Blu-ray can deliver dazzling high-definition video and can store much more data than today's DVDs, but the formats are incompatible.

The \$10,000 question

What would you do if you found \$10,000? If you were a member of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club in the US, you would do the honest thing and return the money to its rightful owner. The club's members recently discovered a thick envelope containing \$10,000 beneath the lid of a 1920s Crawford three-dialer radio. They had been asked to auction off the radio by the sister of the radio's deceased owner. On finding the money, the club members immediately contacted the sister by telephone and the next day the club's secretary returned the money to her in person. But how did the money end up in the radio? According to the sister, the radio's owner liked keeping money around his house. She remembered an occasion when he became distressed because he had lost a large sum of money. It appears that he must have hidden the money away in the radio and then, suffering from poor memory, forgotten that he had put it there.

Major changes to UK amateur rules announced

The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) reports radio amateurs there soon will no longer have to keep a log unless telecoms regulator Ofcom specifically requests it. Other significant rules changes Ofcom has announced include a substantial relaxation of regulations regarding unattended operation and remote control. Amateurs will be able to use 10 mW on any amateur band for remote operation within a 100-meter range, but Internet gateway operation will be prohibited. "Interestingly," RSGB commented, "Ofcom appears to have formally recognized Amateur Radio as a leisure activity as well as a self-training hobby." In 2005, Ofcom unveiled a laundry list of changes to the Amateur Radio rules, including the introduction of a lifetime license that could be renewed free of charge via the Internet. The lifetime license and the new changes to the licence Ofcom has just announced go into effect in October 2006. RSGB encouraged UK amateurs to read Ofcom's documentation on the format of the new licence and respond with their comments.

NEW SUNSPOTS, MAMMATUS CLOUDS:

NEW SUNSPOTS: After several days of utter spotlessness, the face of the Sun is changing. Two new sunspots have emerged: one is large and the other is growing with wild abandon. It's a good show for solar observers. So far neither 'spot poses a threat for strong solar flares, but this could change if the rapid growth continues. **MAMMATUS CLOUDS:** Is it raining where you live? After the storm, go outside and look up. You might spot a strange and beautiful formation of "mammatus clouds," which often herald the end of severe weather. They are jaw-dropping. Visit <http://spaceweather.com> for pictures. [Thanks, KA3CEA]

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Providing in-flight Wi-Fi still a struggle

The once-furious race to offer in-flight Wi-Fi has slowed, and U.S. domestic travelers are still at least a year from surfing the Web at 35,000 feet. Boeing said this week that it may sell or shut down its Connexion division, the only company now offering in-flight Wi-Fi. Ten foreign carriers buy the service, but no U.S. airlines do. Verizon Airfone, which had been working with United Airlines to offer a competing service starting this year, has canceled its project. Now, two new market entrants AirCell and JetBlue are stepping in to take their place. Colorado-based AirCell says it will introduce next year a Wi-Fi system for domestic airlines at low prices similar to Starbucks'. The coffee chain, through T-Mobile, charges \$10 a day or \$30 a month for its Wi-Fi system. JetBlue, the New York-based discount airline, is vague on its plans but says it may introduce an in-flight wireless service next year.

Q: Which company shows the most promise?

A: With the death of the Airfone-United partnership, all eyes are turning to AirCell. The company won the government auction in early June for most of the spectrum being abandoned by Airfone, which has been using it for soon-to-be-ditched seat-back telephones. Jack Blumenstein, CEO of AirCell, says the company is optimistic that it can roll out its service in 2007. Because it has experience in offering satellite-based phones in corporate jets, AirCell has the technological know-how to pull off serving airlines, he says. The company has already been fielding calls from interested airlines, he says.

Q: How will AirCell's service differ from that of Connexion?

A: AirCell is pursuing a cheaper method that could drive more cost-conscious airlines to buy into the service, says Henry Harteveltd of Forrester Research. It uses air-to-ground technology, linking ground cellular towers and an antenna on the aircraft. In Connexion's satellite system, signals are beamed between satellites and airplanes. Its technology works over land or water, making it ideal for international flights. With no need to rely on satellites, AirCell's air-to-ground technology would be cheaper to install but limits the service to flights over land. AirCell's Blumenstein says his company is focused now only on providing service on domestic flights.

Q: What is JetBlue planning?

A: JetBlue, which won a smaller part of the spectrum in the auction, may introduce a telecommunications service next year. Spokeswoman Jenny Dervin says it could be a broadband Internet service or just text messaging. "We'd prefer to offer it for free," she says. JetBlue, through its LiveTV division, could also sell its Internet or messaging service to other airlines, she says.

Q: What's going to happen to Boeing's Connexion service?

A: Boeing, which has invested a lot of money since 2000, is talking with several companies in an effort to sell the division. Boeing says it may shut down the division if it can't find a buyer. John Warehand, a spokesman for Inmarsat, the leader in offering satellite Internet service to ships, says the company has had talks with Boeing about Connexion. Richard Aboulafia, an analyst at the Teal Group, says Boeing will likely sell it at a fraction of what it has invested so far and is likely to find a bargain-hunting buyer.

Q: What about the 10 foreign airlines that offer Connexion?

A: Shutting down the service would anger them. Jennifer Urbaniak, a spokeswoman for Lufthansa, says the German carrier doesn't expect to lose the service. Says Urbaniak: "We're in close discussions with Connexion over it, and we're going find a way to keep the service."

Q: Why didn't Connexion's plans work out?

A: The financial collapse of the domestic airline business after the Sept. 11 terrorism was the first big setback. But even now, the service is too expensive for most airlines and for the average traveler.

Q: How expensive is it?

A: Airlines have to spend \$500,000 or more to equip a plane for the service. For financially ailing U.S. carriers, that kind of expense is out of the question. At \$27 for 24-hour use, the service draws mostly business-class customers. About 20 individuals use it on a typical Lufthansa flight, Urbaniak says.

Washington National gets cellphone lot

Washington National is the latest U.S. airport to add a cellphone parking lot. The lot allows motorists to park and wait for arriving passengers to call and say they're ready to be picked up after their flights have landed. The lot can accommodate a maximum of 34 cars, according to W-USA 9 TV of Washington.

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Amateur Radio CubeSat Launch Postponed

The launch and deployment 13 Amateur Radio "CubeSats," originally set for June 28, has been postponed until July 26 (UTC), reportedly due to a technical issue during launch vehicle preparation. The backup date is July 27, one CubeSat group told ARRL. A Dnepr-1LV rocket is scheduled to carry the CubeSats into space from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. A fourteenth satellite in the package will not carry an Amateur Radio payload. The CubeSat project is a collaboration between California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo and Stanford University's Space Systems Development Laboratory. All of the CubeSats were designed and built by students at various universities in the US and elsewhere in the world. Twelve of the satellites have downlinks in the Amateur Radio satellite allocation between 435 and 438 MHz, and one will operate on 145.980 MHz. None of the spacecraft will carry a transponder. Transmitter power outputs range from 10 mW to 2 W.

Astronaut still needs QSLs for DXCC from space

International Space Station Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, reports logging 130 DXCC entities from NA1SS while on orbit, but the DX QSLs have been slow in coming. To date McArthur has only about one-third of the entities confirmed for a special DXCC from space. DX stations that worked Bill McArthur at NA1SS during Expedition 12 are urged to send QSL cards to ARRL, ARISS QSL -- Exp 12, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111-1494 USA. DX stations may also QSL via the routes on the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Web site, but they will take longer to be counted. If you've already sent a card "via the buro," ARISS asks that you send another to the ARRL ARISS QSL address.

Southwest to battle AirTran on BWI-Detroit route

Southwest Airlines announced today that it will begin non-stop service between Baltimore and Detroit. Starting Sept. 14, the carrier will operate four daily round-trip flights between the cities. But Southwest will have low-cost competition on the route. AirTran Airways began its own service between Detroit and Baltimore on May 25. For the past few years, industry observers have increasingly predicted that low-cost carriers would soon run out of room to expand without bumping into each other. Those observers will likely point to this route as sign that forecast is starting to come true.

Fliers fear in-flight cellphone use could spark air rage

An International Airline Passengers Association (IAPA) survey of frequent business travelers released last week found the respondents fear "that the impending introduction of cellphones onboard commercial jets will be disruptive, anti-social and even dangerous, possibly even sparking air rage between passengers," writes TravelAgent.com. One of the top concerns of those surveyed was that they would not be able to escape from the sound of ringing cellphones and chatty seatmates. "In fact," writes TravelAgent.com, "45% of respondents ranked listening to someone's telephone calls as the second most irritating thing they could imagine on an aircraft, worse than listening to a child crying or a passenger snoring." (Having someone kick the back of the seat was rated the most annoying, in case you were wondering.) Many respondents in the IAPA survey said they were "violently opposed" to allowing cellphone use on commercial flights, while only half said they thought onboard calling would be useful. Saying her group's research shows widespread opposition to in-flight cellphone use, IAPA spokeswoman Nancy McKinley urged that any airline that does choose to allow cellphone usage should also create "quiet zones" or "phone-free" times.

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ARRL "DXCC Dialog" blog debuts

The ARRL DXCC Desk has inaugurated the "DXCC Dialog Weblog" -- containing news and notes about the ARRL DXCC program. "This page will have up-to-date information about the DXCC program," says ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG. "It does not provide for users to post responses, but authors and e-mail addresses are listed." The blog will be updated as needed to inform and update the DXing community regarding news of interest.

FCC to Seek Comments on Katrina Panel Recommendations

The FCC will invite public comments in response to recommendations presented this month by the Independent Panel Reviewing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Communications Networks. A Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-83A1.pdf in EB Docket 06-119, released this week, contains wide-ranging proposals and considerations that could involve FCC rule or administrative changes, a few of which deal with the Amateur Service. "The devastation of Hurricane Katrina highlighted the importance of telecommunications and media to our daily lives, and our dependency on our national communications infrastructure," remarked FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin. "With this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, we are asking for comments and suggestions from the public on how to best address and implement the Independent Panel's recommendations." The Independent Panel's report points out that Amateur Radio stations were among those segments of the communications infrastructure adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina. "Equipment was damaged or lost due to the storm, and trained amateurs were difficult to find in the immediate aftermath," In its NPRM, the FCC asked if should explore amending its rules to permit automatic grants of certain types of waivers or special temporary authority (STA) in declared disaster areas. "As a condition of the waiver or STA, the FCC could require verbal or written notification to the Commission staff contemporaneously with activation or promptly after the fact," the NPRM suggested. Following last year's devastating hurricanes, the FCC issued a handful of STAs to permit licensees lacking HF privileges to operate on HF for emergency purposes. The NPRM offered these specific areas for consideration.

- Waiver of Amateur Radio and license-exempt rules, permitting transmissions necessary to meet essential communications needs.
- Waiver of application filing deadlines, something the FCC did last fall for amateurs who lived in hurricane- stricken states.
- Streamlined STA process, so parties in the affected area may simply notify the FCC in writing or orally of a need to operate in order to restore service.

Comments will be due 30 days from the date the NPRM is published in the Federal Register and may be filed via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>.

2006 Scout Jamboree On The Air -- It's Not Just for Kids!

Jamboree on the Air, or JOTA, takes place each year on the third weekend of October; in 2006, it is scheduled for October 21-22. Each year, more than 400,000 Boy and Girl Scouts and Guides from all over the world participate in this 48 hour event. As the author found, it also provides an opportunity for adults to rediscover their enthusiasm for Amateur Radio.



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. "This 'kitchen sink' of allocations is acceptable from ARRL's perspective, provided that the noise floor is regulated, in terms of aggregate noise levels from unlicensed devices," the ARRL said in its comments, filed May 30. "The high power levels permitted in this band in particular bear careful watching, lest the allocated radio services, including federal systems, suffer decreased utility of the band." Given that only two M-LMS licensees operate these systems that exist only in six major US cities and in parts of Florida, the League asked whether present FCC rules are the obstacle to M-LMS or whether it's been overtaken by time and GPS technology. The League urged the FCC to examine the 902-928 MHz band in its entirety. "Specifically, the needs of the Amateur Service in this proceeding are increased protection of weak-signal operations in the 902-903 MHz segment," the ARRL noted, specifying the 902.0-902.2 MHz and 903.0-903.2 "weak-signal" segments.

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.

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.

FCC Affirms Fine for Marketing Non-Certificated CBs as Ham Transceivers

The FCC has affirmed a \$7000 fine it proposed to levy on TravelCenters of America in Troutdale, Oregon, for marketing uncertificated Citizens Band (CB) transceivers as 10-meter Amateur Radio transceivers. In a Forfeiture Order (NoF) released June 29, the FCC turned away TravelCenters' argument that the transceivers in question were not CB transceivers, which require FCC certification, but Amateur Radio transceivers, which do not. The Commission says its Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) determined that the radios in question -- manufactured by Galaxy -- could be easily modified to operate on CB channels.

Montenegro is newest ARRL DXCC entity

A new ARRL DXCC entity has come into being! As expected, the United Nations admitted the Republic of Montenegro as its 192nd member June 28, and that action automatically makes the tiny Balkan nation the 336th current DXCC entity. "According to the ARRL DXCC List criteria, entities on the UN list of member-states qualify as political entities," said ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG. "Therefore, effective June 28, 2006 (UTC), ARRL has added The Republic of Montenegro to the DXCC List. Claims for DXCC credit will be accepted immediately." Current Montenegrin radio amateurs reportedly may continue using their YU/YT/YZ/4O/4N-prefix call signs until the International Telecommunication Union designates a new call sign block for the new country. Montenegro declared its independence on June 3 following a national referendum May 21.

UN Makes It Official: Montenegro Now Number 336 on the Current DXCC List

A new ARRL DXCC entity has come into being! The United Nations has admitted the Republic of Montenegro as its 192nd member, and that action automatically makes the tiny Balkan nation the 336th current DXCC entity, effective June 28 at 0001 UTC.

RSGB seeking 60-meter extension in Great Britain

Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) Spectrum Director Colin Thomas, G3PSM, reports progress in efforts to extend Amateur Radio access to additional channels in the vicinity of 5 MHz (60 meters) and on the RSGB's proposal for amateur access to frequencies in the 500 kHz region. Thomas says the society recently submitted proposals to the Ministry of Defence and to telecommunication regulator Ofcom to allow amateurs on 60 meters beyond the experimental period that ends July 31. The Society reportedly wants two channels that are common with those already in use by the US, Finland, Iceland and Norway: 5368 kHz (5366.5 kHz tuning frequency) and 5373 kHz (5371.5 kHz tuning frequency). RSGB says the proposals are in accordance with the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) strategy of achieving an amateur allocation at 5 MHz. Regarding 500 kHz, Thomas said discussions were progressing on a 2004 RSGB proposal to Ofcom, and he's optimistic that the Society would be granted its first choice -- an allocation between 501 and 504 kHz. He said there's also a possibility that the frequency of 500 kHz would be designated a maritime memorial frequency, but he cautions that this would depend on how long certain countries continue to use 500 kHz as a maritime emergency frequency.

Amateur Radio regulatory changes in Spain, the Netherlands reported

New Amateur Radio regulations became effective in Spain on June 10. The new licensing regime essentially eliminates the former Novice, General and Restricted license classes and extends the same privileges to all radio amateurs. Jose Díaz, EA4BPJ, the general secretary of the Union de Radioaficionados Españoles (URE), Spain's IARU member-society, says the change means EB and EC-prefix call signs will be showing up on all bands now, in addition to the familiar EA prefix. All amateurs in Spain also now may use the 50-51 MHz band, although Díaz notes there are some geographical restrictions on 6-meter operation. These privileges extend to visitors from CEPT countries and other foreign amateurs with a temporary license to operate in Spain. In the Netherlands, Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T, the IARU liaison officer of IARU member-society the Vereniging voor Experimenteel Radio Onderzoek in Nederland (VERON), reports that as of June 10, radio amateurs in the Netherlands may use the band 7.100-7.200 MHz on a secondary basis with a maximum power output of 250 W.

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

July 29-30

RSGB IOTA Contest

Aug 5-6

10-10 Summer Contest, SSB
N. American QSO Party, CW
ARRL UHF Contest

August 5

European HF Championship

August 6

RSGB RoCoPo 2
SARL HF Phone Contest

Aug 12-13

WAE DX Contest, CW
Maryland-DC QSO Party

Aug 19-20

SARTG WW RTTY Contest
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest
N. American QSO Party, SSB
New Jersey QSO Party

Aug 26-27

ALARA Contest
Keyman's Club of Japan Contest
YO DX HF Contest
SCC RTTY Championship
Ohio QSO Party

August 27

SARL HF CW Contest

Aug 27-28

Kentucky QSO Party

RACES Looking for Members

Baltimore City RACES looking for members. If interested,

New Technician Class Question Pool is Effective July 1

A significantly revised and updated Technician class (Element 2) question pool goes into effect for all Technician class examinations offered as of Saturday, July 1. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, says ARRL VEC is ready for the changeover.

UPCOMING BRATS MEETINGS**August 8, September 12:** Pikesville Library, 1301

Reisterstown Rd, 7:15 PM

October 17 and the THIRD Tuesday of each month**through June 2007:** Randallstown Library, 8604 Liberty Rd at Old Court Rd, Randallstown, 7:15 PM**Bad Weather?**

BRATS Weather and Emergency Net on 147.03/R

ARRL DX Bulletin**MONTENEGRO, YT.**

YT6ML, Doc, was on 14197 kHz at 0600Z and then on 18138 kHz at 1030Z. YU6DZ, Rajko, showed up on 14018 kHz around 1600Z and then on 7012 kHz after 0230Z. YU6AO continues to show up on the HF bands.

ANGOLA, D2.

Janne, D2DX, plans to return to Angola by the end of June. Look for him using CW, SSB and PSK31 on 80 through 10 meters. QSL via OH2BAD.

TANZANIA, 5H.

Ralph, SM0LRK, has returned to Dar-es-Salaam. He will be QRV again as 5H3RK but the length of his stay is not known yet.

AFGHANISTAN, T6.

T66T has been worked on 14020 and 10120 kHz. QSL via OH6MKL.

IRAQ, YI.

Carlos, N4THW, is in Iraq for the next four months on a military air base. He states that he has already applied for a YI license and is expected to be on the air soon. Carlos plans to be on 80 through 10 meters, including the newer bands.

KENYA, 5Z.

Alex is QRV as 5Z4DZ and has been active on 20 meters using RTTY around 1300 to 1500z. QSL via PA1AW.

ZAMBIA, 9J.

Vlad, UA4WHX is QRV as 9J2VB. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL direct to home call.

ANGOLA, D2.

Janne is QRV as D2DX and has been active on 20 meters using SSB around 2000z. QSL via OH2BAD.

MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7.

Bill, V73WJ is QRV from Majuro Island, IOTA OC-029, for at least a year. Activity is on 20, 17 and 15 meters, depending on conditions. QSL direct via G4OHX.

VANUATU, YJ.

Tommy, YJ0IR has been active on 40 meters around 0800z. QSL via W3HKNK.

MONTENEGRO, YU.

YU6AM is generally QRV on 17 meters CW around 1300z. Rajko, YU6DZ has been active on 20 meters around 0300z to 0500z.

TRISTAN DA CUNHA AND GOUGH ISLAND, ZD9

Andy, ZD9BV has been active on 20 meters around 1730z. QSL direct.

Do You Like *The Milliwatt* ?

If so, send us some money ...

the Milliwatt

Hamfests

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)

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

GO TO A HAMFEST TODAY

Support your local ham radio clubs ...

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: 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 Desk approves operation for DXCC Credit

The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved this operation for DXCC credit:

YU6AO, Montenegro, operation beginning July 4, 2006. For more

information, visit the DXCC Web page. "DXCC Frequently Asked Questions"
can answer most questions about the DXCC program. ARRL DX bulletins are
available on the W1AW DX Bulletins page.

milliwatt swap shop

ads are free and get results!

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

SELL OR TRADE: Two 9' cable ready televisions used as ATV Monitors.

Tripod mounted color camera with zoom lens for ATV station, includes

tripod. Call Neil, W3ZQI, 410-765-8439, days, or e-mail: w3zqi@bratsatv.org

KA3PSZ Estate Sale:

Uniden HR 2510 10 meter transceiver \$75

Ameritron AL-811 linear amplifier \$ 400

Johnson Viking Matchbox tuner \$ 50

Drake WH7 Wattmeter \$ 35

Kenwood TS-140S 160-10 meter xcvr \$ 250

Kenwood SP 430 speaker \$ 20

SWAN 350B 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meter 350 watt transceiver \$ 200

SWAN SWR 1A Power Meter \$ 15

Hallicrafters SX-77A Receiver \$100

Butternut Vertical * \$100

Ringo 10 meter vertical* \$50

*must be removed from mounting

75 meter Hamstik \$10

MFJ816 Wattmeter \$20

Tripp 10A Power Supply \$25

All price negotiable. Frank Stone AC3P 410-687-7209 email: ac3p@arrl.net

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

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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.

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FOR SALE: Yaesu FT50R dual band (2 mtr / 440) H/T. Scans from 76 to 900 MHz (less cellular), Extra battery, CA 15 charger, ear/throat mike, Shoulder harness. Regularly \$330, sell for \$225, **SPECIAL! Only \$150!!!** Contact Russ, N3YI at n3yi@yahoo.com

WANTED: Through-hole 440 mobile antenna. Scott, KB3JQQ, 410-615-2434

FOR SALE: Special! ICOM BC-110A battery charger , 12vDC 200mA, for ICOM T8A or similar. Used only twice, misplaced, bought a new one. Found it after new one arrived. Cost \$46, make me an offer. Mayer, W3GXX, 410-786-6839 or w3gzk@verizon.net

FOR SALE: Heathkit Security Sentinel GD-3810, \$20. Kenwood MC520DM hand mike, back lit, 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

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

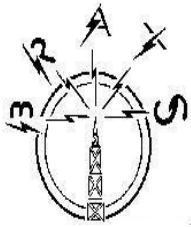
8411 Harford Road, Parkville, 410-665-3622. Home of fine trains, model kits, x-acto, cars, planes, ships, many radios. Yaesu FT101ZD, Kenwood TS 820S, 930S, Heathkit SB-102, National NC-183, more ... Dick, N3JWN, 410-488-2806

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/>

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



the Milliwatt



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

August 2006

Next BRATS Meeting

Tuesday, August 8
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

(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 or
drollhauser@comcast.net

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 | | |