

the Milliwatt



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

September, 2005

Attention All Amateurs ...

FCC Proposes to Drop Morse Code Requirement for All License Classes

(Jul 20, 2005) — The FCC has proposed dropping the 5 WPM Morse code element as a requirement to obtain an Amateur Radio license of any class. The Commission recommended the change to its Part 97 Amateur Service rules in a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 05-235. Any rule changes proposed in the NPRM would not become final until the FCC gathers additional public comments, formally adopts any changes to its rules and concludes the proceeding by issuing a Report and Order (R&O) spelling out the changes and specifying an effective date. That's not likely to happen for several months. The FCC declined in its NPRM to go forward with any other suggested changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges beyond elimination of the Morse requirement. [ARRL Web Extra]

NCVEC Plans No Formal Reaction to FCC Rule Making Proposals

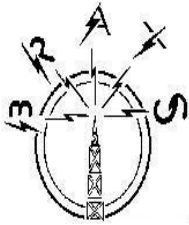
Meeting July 22, the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) offered no public reaction to the FCC's recent Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) and does not appear inclined to file formal comments either. The NPRM&O endorsed eliminating the Morse code requirement for all amateur license classes—something the NCVEC had asked for in its 2003 Petition for Rule Making— but it turned away an NCVEC proposal to give current Technicians HF privileges. Although the 12 VECs represented at the organization's annual gathering in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, expressed general disappointment, the NCVEC indicated no plans to file formal comments with the Commission as an organization in response to the NPRM&O and instead urged individual VECs to comment on their own.

Hundreds File Comments on FCC Morse Proposal

Hundreds already have filed comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) on the Commission's recent proposal to eliminate the Morse code requirement for all license classes. A formal 60-day comment period starts once the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235 appears in the Federal Register, but all comments filed now are valid nonetheless. Issued in response to 18 petitions for rule making—including one from the ARRL—the FCC's NPRM&O, released July 19, dealt only with the Morse requirement and turned away all other proposed rule changes. A random sampling of the more than 360 comments filed at this point suggests the tide is running firmly in favor of the FCC's stance. Some even praised the Commission.

October BRATS Meeting

Tuesday, October 11, 7:30 PM Pikesville Library
Special Program and Speaker: Jeremy Bair, K2ORX
on IRLP: *What is it? How it works. How is it different from EchoLink?*
Interactive demonstration, bring your HT.



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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 was so nice to get through yet another hamfest. It was great! We were very fortunate that we did so well. The weather was excellent. We had volunteers who worked very diligently and really helped out. We could have used some additional volunteers. We look forward to doing it again next year. We not only needed additional volunteers for the hamfest, we need more volunteers for a lot of things: participation in public service activities, help in finding repeater sites, and above all, volunteers to renew BRATS membership and pay dues. Volunteer now. Start with paying your dues!

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

Treasurer: Les McClure, W3GXT

Webmaster: Laura Faussone, KB3LJM

Chairman of the Board: Heru Walmsley, W3WV

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 9 pm BRATS Horsetraders Net, Grant, KA3CEA

Wed 9 pm BRATS ATV Net

Thurs 9 pm BRATS ATV Net

Fri 11:45 Informal ATV Net, W3WVV (Note change from Monday to Friday)

Sat 1 pm Weekly News Bulletin, W3WGXX

Sat 1:20 The BRATS Answer Men:
W3WVV and N3GXH

As needed Weather/Emergency Net, Skywarn

BRATS Board of Directors

Through 12/05:

KA3IDB, W3ZQI, K3RGG, KD7OQT, KB3FIF

Through 12/06:

N3WJH, N3YI, KB3KYM, KB3LJM, KC3FI

REGULAR BRATS MEETINGS

Second Tuesday of each month,
7:30 pm, at the Pikesville Library
1301 Reisterstown Rd, Pikesville

Next BRATS Meeting

Tuesday, September 13, 7:30 PM, Pikesville Library

DUES :

Regular Membership: \$15

Retired/Disabled/Student: \$10

Entire Family of hams: \$20

HAMFEST HUGE SUCCESS!

The BRATS Maryland Hamfest and Computer Fest on Sunday July 24 at the Howard County Fairgrounds was a huge success on a bright and sunny day. The breeze wafted through the two buildings as The BRATS weather committee did their usual fantastic job. Buyers drifted in quite steadily all day and left with much "stuff". We look forward to doing it again next year.

A PAN-EUROPEAN PORTABLE NOVICE LICENSE

A pan-European Novice class license under the Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations or CEPT umbrella has taken another step forward. This, with the release of a proposed syllabus and other information. With a look at where things stand, here's Since Britain introduced its Foundation License in 2002, that demonstrated how such an entry point license can be of benefit to amateur radio. However there are regulatory or legislative difficulties in some countries that prevent their introduction of a Novice license. The CEPT is now considering at two measures. Firstly, seeking agreement on a Novice license syllabus that can be used as a template for those countries who can, and want to introduce such a license. And it's also proposing that current Novice licenses issued by CEPT and non-CEPT nations, that are deemed equivalent in standard, be recognized for visitor or guest licenses by CEPT participating countries. This could enable holders of a Novice license to take their hobby with them on a holiday by simply using their home callsign slash the country in which they're holidaying and even if that nation doesn't have its own Novice license. Community consultation on these matters closes in September, but there's no indication of when a decision is likely. If a full agreement is ever reached it would mean that even entry level hams could travel and bring their hobby with them. (WIA News Service)

PRESIDENT MAY NOMINATE TWO NEW FCC COMMISSIONERS SOON

A White House aide has emerged as a top contender for one of two Republican seats on the Federal Communications Commission. This according to published news reports Tuesday, July 26th. Reports that quote unidentified administration sources who say that Michael Meece is a front-runner for an FCC seat. An Internet search reveals that Meece is currently the Deputy Director of the White House Public Liaison Office. Prior to that he worked as Deputy Chief of Staff U.S. Commerce Secretary to Don Evans during President Bush's first term in office. Meece would replace the now departed Michael Powell. And with Republican Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy having announced her intention to depart the agency in the near future a list of names has emerged as her possible successor. These include Deborah Tate, a director on the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, and Suzanne Terrell, who unsuccessfully tried to unseat Louisiana Democratic Senator Mary Landrieu in 2002. Why all the secrecy? According to one news story the sources declined to be identified because of the sensitive nature of the selection process and because there has been no comment from the White House on any of those named. (Published news reports)

RAC Studies 136 kHz

RAC together with radio amateurs in BC, Manitoba, Quebec and Newfoundland have been undertaking studies to support our case for an amateur band at 136 kHz, and in cooperation with Hydro Quebec and Manitoba Hydro, preparing to investigate the interaction between amateur operation at 136 kHz and control signals on the power distribution lines of some Canadian electrical utilities. As a result of these studies, Industry Canada and the Canadian delegation have supported the 136 kHz amateur band proposal at the meetings in Geneva. Since most of Europe, and several South American countries also support the Canadian proposal, the possibility of approval of a new LF amateur band at WRC 07 is looking more promising. The next round of meetings begin this September. (Ken Pulfer, VE3U via RAC)

FAA: Our cell phone rule is not changing

Airline passengers are getting a temporary reprieve from those who wish to introduce in-flight cell phone service on U.S. airlines. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has said it's considering lifting its current ban on using cell phones in the air, but the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) doesn't appear interested, reports The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (free registration). "Let me be clear: Regardless of the FCC proceeding, the FAA's rules will remain," the FAA's Nicholas Sabatini said at a House aviation subcommittee hearing into the use of cell phones and other wireless devices on commercial airline flights. But, Sabatini wouldn't rule out a change in the future. "If an air carrier has met our safety requirements, the carrier may permit such use" on a case-by-case basis, he said. Meanwhile, if such devices are ultimately permitted in flight, federal law enforcement officials want to tap into the communications to monitor for suspicious e-mail, according to USA TODAY. Justice Department officials testified they're concerned terrorists could use air-to-ground cell or broadband service to launch attacks, or that wireless service could be used to detonate a bomb aboard an airliner.

Blow gun, bullwhip and power saws turn up

Here's a good find from the seemingly unending subject of "crazy things people try to get tried to carry on a blowgun with darts and a bullwhip. Both items were brought to security on the same day, reports The Cleveland Plain Dealer, which adds that "for every blowgun confiscated at airport security checkpoints, thousands of butane lighters are surrendered; for every bullwhip, there are buckets of penknives." In addition to the 18,850 lighters confiscated at Cleveland so far this year, airport security there also has taken possession of 2,780 tools "such as screwdrivers, hatchets and, yes, power saws," according to a list compiled by The Plain Dealer. Most offending travelers aren't bent on malicious behavior, says the TSA's Rick DeChant, who supervises screening operations at the Ohio airports of Cleveland, Akron-Canton, Toledo and Youngstown. Despite post-9/11 publicity about airport security rules, he says most passengers aren't familiar with the rules, or they simply forget they're carrying forbidden items.

Fliers beware of the 'outhouse seat'

The worst seat on an airplane may not actually be a middle seat, nor the seats in the back of the plane. In fact, this seat is reputedly so bad it's become something of an urban legend — though this legend seems to be true. The seat in question is seat 29E on a particular Continental Airlines flight, a seat about which one passenger wrote an angry letter — complete with illustrations — to the airline. The gripe? The flier claims the seat was located directly across from the jet's lavatory, something that subjected him to all kinds of unpleasantries. "Is it the stench of the sanitation fluid that is blown all over my body every 60 seconds when the door opens? Is it the whoosh of the constant flushing? Or is it the [passengers' rear ends] that seem to fit into my personal space like a pornographic jigsaw puzzle," the disgruntled passenger writes about his Dec. 21 flight from San Diego to Houston. The flier battled the bathroom crowd by erecting what he called a "stink shield," a blanket hung from the overhead luggage bin to separate him from the lavatory. By now, you may have heard of this man's letter of complaint, which has been widely circulating on the Internet and was subject to urban-legend "truth-squadding" by Snopes.com. Some frequent fliers have also been speculating about the letter in online forums, with some suggesting that either the seat in question does not exist — or that perhaps the disgruntled flier wrote the wrong seat number. But, today, the letter is the subject of Keith L. Alexander's "Business Class" column in The Washington Post. A Continental spokesman told Alexander that the airline contacted the aggrieved flier to apologize. "If there were a quick and easy solution to his concern, we would do it in a whiz," the spokesman tells Alexander. "Notwithstanding the embellished humor in the letter, we don't pooh-pooh any of our customers' concerns, and have apologized." Other passengers have taken notice. Ana Luisa Aldana, a San Francisco management consultant, tells Alexander that she checks seatguru.com before a flight to make sure she doesn't get stuck in the "outhouse seat."

Check in by fax ... sort of:

Northwest customers now have the option of having their boarding passes faxed to them when they check in on the airline's website. Previously, customers checking in online had to have access to a 'printer to print their boarding passes. The new option will allow customers to receive their boarding passes via fax at a designated location — such as a hotel or meeting place. For more information, visit: www.nwa.com/checkin.

Motorola, Yahoo team for portability, including iRadio

Cell phone maker Motorola and Internet search engine operator Yahoo on Tuesday said they are teaming up to offer Yahoo's online content and services on mobile devices made by Motorola, including the company's upcoming iRadio product. Users will be able to access Yahoo's offerings on Motorola's Linux-based mobile devices and other high-speed Internet products, including iRadio, a new device that can play Internet radio channels and the user's personal digital music collection. Motorola plans to launch iRadio later this year. Yahoo said the deal with Motorola will extend its reach beyond desktop computers into the wireless market. Motorola-made devices carrying Yahoo content will be available to consumers starting next year, the company said.

New mouse for Macs has multiple buttons

Apple Computer Inc. introduced on Tuesday its first computer mouse with multiple buttons, including four sensors and a tiny scroll ball. Although a departure from the company's traditional mouse, the "Mighty Mouse" looks very similar to the single-button model Apple has long produced. The most obvious difference is the relatively tiny scroll ball at the mouse's head, which can move cursors diagonally as well as up and down across display screens and can be pressed to "click" functions. Like Microsoft, Apple has for years built added functionality into its operating systems to accommodate multi-button mice. But you had to buy mice made by other manufacturers, such as Microsoft or Logitech, to take advantage. Designers of the new Apple device wanted a scroll ball that was less obtrusive than other scroll balls and "stayed out of the way" of users who chose not to use it, said David Moody, vice president of Macintosh hardware product marketing. In lieu of actual buttons beyond the scroll ball, the optical-scanning mouse has four sensors that can be programmed for multiple actions, just like the left and right buttons on many PC mice. Mighty Mouse, which connects via a USB port, is PC-compatible but won't be able to move your cursor diagonally in Microsoft's Windows, Apple said. It will retail for \$49.

Delft University of Technology Announces Delfi-C3

A group of students from the Department of Aerospace Engineering and Electrical Engineering of Delft University of Technology is developing a new Dutch satellite. Scheduled for launch in 2006, it will be the first university satellite to be flown for the Netherlands. The Delfi-C3 communications subsystem will operate in the VHF and UHF amateur radio frequency bands enabling radio amateurs worldwide to receive satellite data using a modest equipment setup. The EEMCS Faculty is developing an advanced transceiver, combining miniaturization with a high DC to RF efficiency and the capability to adapt to different channel conditions. Since transmitting payload data is of utmost importance for the whole mission, the communications subsystem is set up as a dual redundant system, with an AMSAT platform as backup. Besides transmitting telemetry data, both systems are capable of providing a linear transponder service to the amateur radio community as a returned favor for use of amateur frequencies and their assistance with the telemetry data collection. For all interested radio amateurs and other people related to the project the team has made the first Delfi-C3 newsletter available at <http://www.delfic3.nl/newsletter> [ANS thanks Wouter Jan Ubbels, PE4WJ, of the Delfi-C3 team for the above information]

Italy Joins No-Code Ranks as FCC Revives Morse Debate in the US

Italy is reported to be the latest country added to the list of those that no longer require Amateur Radio applicants to have passed a Morse code examination to gain HF access. The Daily DX reported this week that current IW-prefix "no-code" VHF/UHF licensees in Italy now will be allowed operate on HF and may also apply for new call signs if they wish. Canada eliminated Morse code as the "sole additional requirement" for HF access in late July. To date, more than two dozen countries around the world—including such major players as the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia and New Zealand—no longer require Amateur Radio applicants to pass a Morse code examination to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz. If the FCC's past observations on the subject are any clue, the US could be joining the no-code-required club in the future.

Industry Canada Introduces Alternatives to Morse Requirement for HF

Per Canada Gazette Notice DGRB-003-05 dated 30 July 2005, Industry Canada has adopted elements of the RAC "Proposal on Morse Code and Related Matters" and has removed the mandatory requirement for the Morse Qualification for access to the HF bands below 30 MHz. Effective immediately, HF operation on the bands below 30 MHz has been authorized by Industry Canada for:

- a) amateurs who were certified with only the BASIC Qualification prior to 2 April 2002;
- b) amateurs who have been certified with both BASIC and ADVANCED Qualifications;
- c) amateurs with only the BASIC Qualification who were certified after 1 April 2002, and who achieved a pass mark of 80% or greater; Those amateurs with only the BASIC Qualification who were certified after 1 April 2002, but who achieved less than an 80% pass mark, will either have to qualify in Morse, write the Advanced or re-write the Basic examination to obtain HF privileges. This latter requirement is related to a decision to increase the BASIC examination pass mark to ensure that candidates have been tested in all areas of the syllabus. Amateurs who need to confirm their examination marks should contact their Accredited Examiner. Accredited Examiners are required to retain marks for at least three years. Also effective immediately, the pass mark for the BASIC Qualification has been raised from 60% to 70%.

FCC Fines 'Law & Order'

Producers of the hit crime series 'Law and Order' have been fined \$10,000 by the Federal Communications Commission. This is a result of the show's film crew using unlicensed walkie-talkies that interfered with transmissions of the New York Police Department. Universal Television is expected to appeal.

NEW ARRL GOES TO WASHINGTON VIDEO AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

The ARRL is making available a 10-minute video, The ARRL Goes to Washington, that documents the League's activities on behalf of Amateur Radio on Capitol Hill and at the FCC. Produced by Dave Bell, W6AQ, Alan Kaul, W6RCL, and Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, The ARRL Goes to Washington now is available for downloading from the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/pio/VTS-Video.mpg>.

Because it typically occurs behind the scenes, ARRL's advocacy in "official Washington" in support of Amateur Radio receives little fanfare compared to its importance and significance. This video offers an opportunity to call attention to this critical ARRL function in an entertaining and informative way. ARRL members often say that legislative and regulatory advocacy is very important to them. Now clubs, public information officers and others will be able to witness the League's leadership in action in the nation's capital for themselves.

Featuring ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, and narrated by former CBS News anchor Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, the presentation's debut at Dayton Hamvention was resoundingly positive. Now you can download this video and save it on your computer or on a CD. It makes a great centerpiece for an Amateur Radio club program or meeting too.

This video is not intended, nor available, for telecasting or broadcasting in any manner. It may be shown to groups or at hamfests, forums and clubs. The file is 95 MB, so a high-speed connection is necessary. The video runs 10:42. A higher-resolution DVD is expected to become available in a few weeks.

Clarence Snyder, Steel photographer, dies at 85

His work is on display at Easton's National Canal Museum. He was known for work with ham radios and in Kiwanis Club. By Joe McDonald Of The Morning Call Clarence Snyder, a photographer who gained national recognition for pictures of Bethlehem Steel and the skyscrapers and ships it built, died Wednesday. He was 85. An Easton resident for much of his life, Snyder was the photographer for 44 years at Bethlehem Steel. A collection of his photographs is on display at the National Canal Museum at Two Rivers Landing in Easton. "He was a world-class photographer," said Lance Metz, the museum's historian. "What he shows was more than a local company." The museum has more than 1,000 photographs, and they capture what many people may have forgotten — that Bethlehem Steel once was a worldwide colossus, Metz said. Snyder took pictures of ships carrying iron ore, skyscrapers under construction and molten steel being poured. "He was extraordinarily creative and also very brave," Metz said. "He took a lot of shots from helicopters and hanging off a crane. Things like that most people won't do." Snyder's passion wasn't limited to photography. An avid ham radio enthusiast, he was involved with Northampton County's emergency management/civil defense since the early 1950s, said Nick Tylenda, the county emergency management director. "He was always on the radio," Tylenda said. "He was kind of there all the time." The American Red Cross honored him over the years for his contributions to communications during emergencies, most notably the 1955 Hurricane Diane flood. A past president of the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, he helped people get their ham radio licenses and edited the club's newsletter for decades. "He would give you the shirt off his back," said Dick Dech of Bath, treasurer of the radio club. "He was there in any situation, for family problems, for radio problems. He was just a terrific individual to know." More often than not, it was Snyder's voice people heard on the radio when "a stranger from another state or town came in on [the club's] repeater," said Curt Fauerbach, Northampton County's deputy coordinator for emergency management. "Clarence was always there to help him out and say hello to him." He also was well-known through his years with the Kiwanis Club of Easton. "He was a straight shooter, an honest man and a hard worker in his life," said William Walters, the club's secretary. The funeral will be held 1 p.m. today at the synagogue at 1545 Bushkill St., Wilson. He is survived by his wife, Sylvia of Bethlehem Township; his son, Mel Snyder of Lexington, Mass.; daughters Marjorie Ruder of Lancaster and Susan Stevenson of Sudbury, Mass.; and grandchildren. He and his wife recently celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary.

Ed. Note: Clarence, W3PYF was very often on the BRATS repeater in the late 70's and throughout the 80's . He always gave us a shout when he was within range. He was often aeromobile and working when we spoke to him,. He was always pleasant, you could even hear the smile in his voice. We will miss him. – W3GXX

Radio Research: Internet Surfing Leads to Less TV Viewing

The World-Wide-Web is affecting the television viewing habits of the world. According to a new survey Hungarian non-Internet surfers watch 17.5 hours of TV per week, while those who use the Internet watch only 11.8 hours per week. That's a difference of 5.7 hours. In the United States, Internet users watch 11.6 hours of TV per week, while non-Internet users watch 16.8 hours. The lengthy, first-of-its kind study, called the World Internet Project, conducted by UCLA Center for Communication Policy surveyed residents of 14 countries. In every case, Internet users watched less television than those who never surf the web. (UCLA Center for Communication Policy via AR Newsline)

HAM RADIO BUSINESS: WWW.CQYELLOWPAGES.COM

A Texas ham has set up a new web site that he says is to help other hams market products and services. Barry A. Goldblatt, WA5KXX, says that his CQ Yellow Pages will enable hams to place information about their business products and services by category in a fully-searchable national database. Goldblatt says that the site provides over 2,600 categories from A to Z just like a standard commercial directory. WA5KXX says that his goal is to build a site to build a national cyberspace marketplace where advertisers and visitors have something in common. You can find out by visiting www.cqyellowpages.com on the world-wide-web. (WA5KXX via AR Newsline)

ATV: 70 cm Linear Amp

Downeast Microwave has finally done it and came up with a 70cm linear amp. They sent me a prototype to test out on ATV and it works great with no modifications. My review will appear in the Summer issue of Amateur Television Quarterly which should reach subscribers in early August. Basically I used one of our TC70-20Sa ATV transceivers and varied the drive and pedestal set up. The new Downeast Microwave 70225PA with 10 Watts pep (sync tip) got 218 W pep out with just a little sync stretching. No sync stretching was necessary up to 150 Watts out it is so linear. In fact the new Videolynx VM-70X 4 Watt rated transmitter (see that review in the next ATVQ also) got 156 Watts out with 5.1 pep drive and just slight sync squashing. So any ATV transmitter up to 5 watts pep can drive this amp with no adjustment or set up necessary. The older our older PC Electronics 10 watt or newer 20 Watt transmitters or transceivers just need to do the set up procedure by first turning down the output pot to below 10W. Availability is estimated about October. I'm starting a list for those that want to get one of the ATV configured units (fans, T/R relays, vswr and over temp protection) as soon as they are out. I will stock them initially, but DEMI's usual time quote is 6-8 weeks. Price will be around \$500. I will notify those on the list when I get stock on a first come first served basis and you can opt in or out at that time. Power requirement is 28V at up to 12A and Downeast is working on a companion power supply.

Tom O'Hara W6ORG P. C. Electronics 626-447-4565 m-f 8am-5:30pm m-th www.hamtv.com

ATV: Review of 70 cm Linear Amp

From: TOMSMB@aol.com

In case you don't get ATVQ (but how could that be?) and therefore did not see my review of the Downeast Microwave 70225PA 225 Watt 70cm linear amp and the new Videolynx VM-70X 4W ATV transmitter in the Summer 2005 issue on pages 36 and 37, you can now download the reviews by going to the "New for 2005" page on my web site:

<http://www.hamtv.com/newstuff.html> and clicking on the respective photos. Tom O'Hara W6ORG P. C. Electronics www.hamtv.com

ATV Crystals

From: TOMSMB@aol.com

I have a variety of crystals left over from before we switched over to synthesizers which are available for \$5 each. You can see the list and product they were used on by going to our web site, click on Specials and Surplus, scroll down to Parts, then click on Crystals. Or go directly: <http://www.hamtv.com/xtals.html> We also have a New for 2005 web page which has some info and pix of the new Downeast 225 Watt 70cm amp and the Videolynx 4 Watt 70cm transmitter in case you cant wait for my review in the next ATVQ. Tom O'Hara W6ORG P. C. Electronics www.hamtv.com 626-447-4565 m-th 8am-5:30pm Pacific time

Changes announced for ARRL International EME Competition

The ARRL Program and Services Committee has approved the addition of a Single Operator Assisted (SOA) category for single-band and multiband ARRL International EME Competition entries. Under SOA, one person performs all operating and logging as well as equipment and antenna adjustment and alignment. The use of spotting assistance or nets (operating arrangements involving other individuals, DX-alerting nets, packet, etc) is permitted. The new category will be in play for the upcoming 2005 contest season, although it was not approved in time to make the contest announcement in August QST. This change means that single-op single-band and multiband EME event participants now may compete as unassisted or assisted. Certificates will be awarded for the new category. The EME competition cover three 48-hour weekend periods (0000 UTC Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday). Dates and designated bands for 2005 are September 24-25: 2304 MHz and Up, and October 22-23 and November 12-13: 50 MHz through 1296 MHz. For more information contact ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND.

WA7BNM Contest Calendar	
Aug 28	SARL HF CW Contest
Aug 28–29	Kentucky QSO Party
Sept 3	Wake Up QRP Sprint AGCW Straight Key Party
Sept 3–4	All Asian DX Contest, Phone IARU Region I Field Day, SSB RSGB SSB Field Day
Sept 4	DARC 10 Meter Digital Contest
Sept 5–6	MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint
Sept 10	Swiss HTC QRP Sprint
Sept 10–11	Arkansas QSO Party ARRL Sept VHF QSO Party
Sept 11	North American Sprint, CW End of Summer PSK 31 Sprint
Sept 11–12	Tennessee QSO Party
Sept 14–16	YL:RL Howdy Days
Sept 16–18	SARL VHF/UHF Contest
Sept 17–18	ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest Scandinavian Activity CW Washington State Salmon Run QCWA Fall QSO Party
Sept 18	North American Sprint, SSB
Sept 24–25	CQWW DX Contest, RTTY Tesla Cup Scandinavian Activity, SSB Texas QSO Party AGCW VHF/UHF Contest
Sept 25	UBA ON Contest, 6 meters
Sept 26	Fall QRP Homebrewer Sprint
Oct 1	TARA PSK Rumble Contest
Oct 1–2	Oceania DX Contest, Phone California QSO Party UBA ON Contest, SSB
Oct 2	RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest, SSB EU Autumn Sprint

Amateurs Get "New" FM Satellite

PO-28 (POSAT-1): Frequencies:

Uplinks: 145.925, 145.975 MHz

Downlinks: 435.075, 435.275 MHz

Want to Learn about GPS?Go to: <http://gpsinformation.net>**ARRL DX BULLETIN****MALAWI, 7Q.**

Harry, 7Q7HB is QRV in his spare time during the next three months. QSL direct via G0IAS.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6.

David, G4BXH is QRV as A6/G4BXH. QSL via operator's instructions.

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS.

Marek is QRV as HF0POL and has been active using PSK31 on 20 meters around 1930z and then on 30 meters from 2000 to 2100z. QSL via SP3WVL.

MINAMI TORISHIMA, JDI.

Marcus Loran Ham Club station JD1YBJ has been active on 30 meters around 0830z and then around 2000z. QSL via operator's instructions.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC, OM.

Special event station OL200BA and others are QRV until December 31 to celebrate the "Battle of the Three Emperors" in Austerlitz 200 years ago. QSL via operators' instructions.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, S9.

Charles, S9SS has been QRV on 20 meters using SSB around 2145 to 0000z. QSL via N4JR.

CENTRAL AFRICA, TL.

Dave, WIDV is here during the construction of a new orphanage. He will be QRV as TL8DV during his spare time. QSL via W3MC.

MALI, TZ.

Chris, TZ9A is often QRV on 20 meters using SSB between 2200 and 0000z. QSL via operator's instructions.

SYRIA, YK.

Saad, N5FF is QRV as YK1BA and continues to be active on 40 and 80 meters from between 0100 and 0300z. He has also been active using RTTY on 20 meters. QSL to home call.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6.

Alexander is QRV as A6/RV6LNA and has been active on 40 meters CW around 1930z. QSL via UA6MF.

MOUNT ATHOS, SV/A.

Monk Apollo, SV2ASP/A has been QRV on 40 meters CW around 0130z. He has also been active on 20 meters CW around 0830 and 1700z. QSL via operator's instructions.

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO, YT.

In celebration of its 10th anniversary, members of the SKY Contest Club are QRV as YT310SKY, YZ610SKY and 4O310SKY using CW, SSB and RTTY, respectively, until the end of theyear. QSL via YT6A.

ST. PIERRE MIQUELON, FP.

Look for Paul as FP/K9OT on 30 or 40 meters CW between 0000 and 0200Z. QSL via K9OT

HAMFESTS

Sat/Sun, Sept. 10–11: Gaithersburg, MD FARFEST (Gaithersburg Hamfest), Montgomery County Fairgrounds (146.955/R) Free VE Exams at the Marriott. Bill Dobson, N3WD, 410–526–2154

Sat/Sun, Sept. 17–18: Virginia Beach, VA Virginia Beach Hamfest & Electronic Flea Market, VA. Wesleyan College, 1584 Wesleyan Dr., Virginia Beach.
<http://www.vahamfest.com> (146.97/R)

Sept 23–25 Digital Communications Conference by TAPR–ARRL, Santa Ana, California. See <http://www.tapr.org> or <http://www.arrl.org>

Saturday, September 24: Bensalem, PA Courtyard Marriott, 3327 Street Rd. Mid Atlantic States VHF Conference Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club, Jim, WA3EHD 215–659–4359.
jantonacci@worldnet.att.net

Sunday, September 25: Wrightstown, PA Hamarama by Mt Airy VHF Club Ed, WA3DRC
packrats_w3ccx@yahoo.com (Note: there is an underscore between packrats and w3ccx above)

Sunday, October 2: W. Friendship, MD CARA Hamfest at the Howard County Fairgrounds 410–553–2652 (147.135/R)

Sunday, October 16 Sellersville, PA RF HILL ARC Hamfest, Firehouse, Sellersville PA (145.31/R)

Sunday, October 30: Westminster, MD. CCARC's Mason–Dixon Hamfest. Carroll County Agr. Center, Westminster. (145.41/R) Shirley, KB3KYJ, 301–829–8791

REMEMBER TO RENEW! If you received a letter re: June or July expiration of your BRATS membership, PLEASE renew NOW!!! Thanks!

NOTICE: If you know of any hamfests or VE Exams not listed here, please let us know by sending us an email ... Thanks!

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Baltimore, MD 21282–5915, or email
to mayerzimmerman@verizon.net

FOR SALE: The famous W3GXX low band station. ICOM 730 xcvr. , PS 15 p/s, Bencher BY2, MFJ 900 EconoTuner, MFJ 481 Grandmaster; National NC183 rcvr., HyGain 14AVQ. Make reasonable offer for everything. Do it before I donate all the equipment to JHS22. 410–786–6839; w3gxxk@verizon.net

Renew

Each month we send out a letter to each person whose membership is about to expire. If you received a renewal letter, please send us a check. If you lost the letter, use the renewal form on [page 12](#). Do it today! Thanks!

2005 BARC VE Exams

At the BARC Clubhouse:
12360 Owings Mills Blvd. Owings Mills
Saturdays: Sept 3, Nov 5, 2005
Sundays: October 2, 2005
Register at 1 pm, exams at 2 pm
Call Rusty, N3WKE, 410–247–0578 or email n3wke@arrl.net
(Thanks, Russ, N3YI)

2005 Aero Club Exams

At White Marsh Library: Sept 24, Nov 19
Register at 1pm, Exams at 1:30pm
Contact Frank, AC3P 410–687–7209 or email AC3P@arrl.net
(Thanks, Neil, W3ZQI)

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)

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Send ad to: BRATS, P.O. Box 5915
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FOR SALE: Heathkit Security Sentinel GD-3810, \$20. Kenwood MC520DM hand mike, back lite, numbers, \$20. Power Kraft table saw w/ base and rollers, \$75. Companion jig saw, 15" throat, \$40. 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. P/S: 13.8VDC @20 amps \$40. Table mount rack cabinet, \$5. Complete UHF repeater system with 2 Motorola Hand-helds, 1 mobile charger, \$150. W2IHY 8-band Audio equalizer, noise gate, \$175. Call Ted, W3OWN, 410-668-5580. Please leave message if you get answering machine.

FOR SALE: ICOM 706MKIIG, ICOM IC 718, Yaesu CPU 2500-r, Kenwood 950sdx, Astron R35A, Mirage B 3016, SGC SG-500 Amp. Palstar WM 150M, Dell P III laptop. Best offer. popularc@hotmail.com or call Ball and Ball in Laurel, 301-490-1587.

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

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: Your ad for this space. *MILLIWATT* want ads are free and get results. Send your ad to w3gzk@verizon.net

VTS - VIDEOTAPING SERVICE

Video/DVD duplications, video tape transferred to DVD. One source up to 2 hours, \$30. Standards, conversions. Call VTS toll free at 1-877-891-1002. BRATS member Bob Shapiro, K2MYS <http://www.videotapingservice.com>

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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

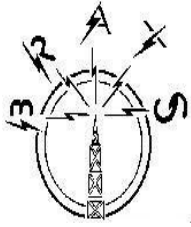
Eric, WA3TAD, Audio-Visual Service / Retro Radio, 3401 Chestnut Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21211. 410-467-3620; wa3tad@comcast.net

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

FOR SALE: Yaesu VX6R triband HT, near mint condx. Wall charger, manual, dual band mag mount, BNC-SMA and SO-239 - BNC adapters, Yaesu cloning cable, \$225. Call Ira, KB3I, 443-465-2381 or email: irawex@comcast.net

FOR SALE: ADI AR-146 2-mtr mobile rig. Very dependable, includes mounting bracket, lighter plug adapter, magmount antenna, \$125. Yaesu FT50R dualband 2-mtr/440. Scans from 76 MHz to 999 MHz (less cell). Extra battery, CA-15 charger, ear/throat mike, over shoulder harness, regularly \$330. Sell for \$275. Contact Russ for either or both rigs: n3yi@yahoo.com



the Milliwatt



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

September 2005

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

BRATS Public Service

September 9-11, 2005 2005 Bank of America Chesapeake Bay MS Challenge Walk Hams with mobiles or bike mobiles are needed for this 3-day, 50-mile walk from Maryland's Eastern Shore to Baltimore City. Contact Dave KB3CJT
drollhauser@comcast.net

Saturday - October 15, 2005 (7 am to 3 pm) UNDER ARMOUR BALTIMORE RUNNING FESTIVAL Hams with portables, mobiles, and bike mobiles are needed for rest stops and shadowing event officials for the Marathon, Half-Marathon, Team Relay, 5K, and Kid's Fun Run in Baltimore City. Contact Ian, N3CVA@hotmail.com or call 410-303-1412.

UTAH ATV

Lots of projects and links:

http://www.ussc.com/~uarc/utah_atv/utah_atv.html

(Thanks, Scott, KB3JQQ)

ATV NETS

Brats Nets:

Wednesday and Thursday, 9 PM:

Rotating Net Control

Friday at 11:45 AM, W3WVV

Homepages

BRATS

<http://www.bratsatv.org>

HATS (Houston ATV Society)

<http://www.hats.stevens.com>

Black Mountain AQTV Repeater

<http://www.w6yx.stanford.edu>

Kent Amateur Radio Society, K3ARS:

<http://www.k3ars.org>

NEXT BRATS MEETING

Tuesday, September 13, 7:30 PM
At the Pikesville Library
1301 Reisterstown Road

Other Radio Club Meetings

QCWA

Monday at Noon, Cactus Willie 7315 Ritchie Hwy, Glen Burnie
3rd Thursday, 1 PM: Old Country Buffet, Joppa Road at Satyr Hill
Last Wednesday, 1 PM: Denny's Bel Air Rd at Putty Hill

AARC: 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7:30 PM

Davidsonville Family Rec. Center, Queen Anne Bridge Rd, Wayson Rd (147.105R)

AMRAD: 2nd Thursday, 7:30 PM,

Dolley Madison Library; 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. McLean, VA (147.21/R)

BARC: 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 PM

12360 Owings Mills Blvd (near warehouse) Owings Mills, MD (146.67R)

CARA: 4th Tuesday,

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

BRATS Membership Renewal: Regular=\$15; Retired/Disabled/Student \$10; Family \$20

Name _____	Call Sign _____	BRATS No _____
Address _____	City/State/Zip _____	
Phone _____	Email _____	

MAIL TO: BRATS, P.O.Box 5915, Baltimore, MD 21282-5915
