

the Milliwatt



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

September, 2006

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) ...

Request for amateur radio operators for public service event

To any and all amateur radio operators who can help out: I have once again volunteered to coordinate Amateur Radio Communications in support of the Maryland Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's 4th annual Chesapeake Challenge Walk. This year's Challenge Walk will be quite a bit different than the past 2 years, it will be held on Saturday and Sunday September 16th and 17th 2006. The walk will be a 2 day 50 Kilometer event scheduled to begin Saturday in Annapolis and conclude Sunday in downtown Baltimore. Walkers will be staying overnight at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in Linthicum, MD. Each operator will also get a T-shirt and meals are provided.

I am looking for operators to help out with either fixed positions at rest stops or mobile along the course for each day. I will need some experienced operators for the Net Control station each day. I would also like to use a few Shadows for key event staff and Bicycle Mobile operators. I am considering using APRS this year to track various logistics and key figures. Anyone, with or without experience in working public service events, is welcome to come help out. I welcome all put in as much or a little time as available. The MS Society people always put together a great event with a lot of good times and good food and camaraderie. The hams always seem to have a fun time as well, I know I always have.

If you are interested in helping out with this Public Service Activity, please contact me at: kb3cjt@arrl.net or drollhauser@comcast.net or call me at 443-883-2576

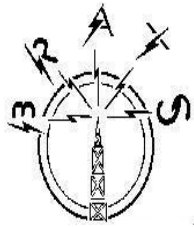
Special Guest at Next BRATS Meeting

Martin, M0AAK, of the British BRATS will be visiting the Baltimore-Washington area next month. He will be our guest at the September 12 meeting at the Pikesville Library. Please plan to join us and welcome Martin ...

Reminder

BRATS MEETINGS MOVE TO RANDALLSTOWN, OCTOBER 17

Our September 12 meeting will be the last one in Pikesville for at least 9 months. Our meetings move to the Randallstown Library, 8604 Liberty Road, at Old Court Rd, 7:15 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of each month through at least June, 2007. See you there!



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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

Another hamfest gone by, but not just another hamfest, another great hamfest. Thanks to all of our workers (especially Les and Mike), buyers and sellers and to our fine weather committee who outdid themselves. We heard from many attendees that there was much of everything they were seeking, and that they had a great time looking around and visiting with friends. We look forward to doing it again next year and hope You will join us once again (date to be announced soon)

Thanks again and 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 Faussonne, KB3LJM

Chairman of the Board: Heru Walmsley, W3WVV

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: KB3JQQ

Sun 8 pm MATS ATV Net

As needed Weather/Emergency Net, Skywarn

BRATS Board of Directors

Through 12/06:

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

Through 12/07:

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

*Appointed by the President

REGULAR BRATS MEETINGS

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

Next BRATS Meetings

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

Tuesday, October 17
7:15 PM, *Randallstown Library*
8604 Liberty Rd. at Old Court Rd.

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Vanity Call Sign Fee to Go Down September 6

The regulatory fee to obtain or renew an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will drop slightly starting with applications received by the FCC on or after Wednesday, September 6, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) says. The new fee will be \$20.80 for the 10-year license term. This year promises to be a big one for vanity call sign renewals, since the initial round of vanity grants under the current system occurred in 1996. Licensees who want to retain vanity call signs issued under the current (post-1995) system must pay the regulatory fee when renewing.

Israel to impose tough new rules on amateurs

According to the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), Israeli authorities have imposed "draconian new rules" on radio amateurs. Effective January 2007, many of Israel's radio amateurs will not be able to operate their radio equipment unless it has been inspected and authorized by government officials. The requirement follows ratification of a new law aimed at preventing harmful radiation from radio equipment, RSGB says. Amateurs who operate only VHF and UHF equipment at an output below 20 W are exempt. Radio amateurs also will have to obtain permits to erect antenna support structures, and these will only be granted if the licensee can demonstrate that the installation will not cause harmful radiation. The new rules provide that operation of Amateur Radio equipment without the proper permits will be considered a criminal offense. According to a spokesman for Israeli amateurs, the harsh new rules followed in the wake of public concern regarding the safety of cellular telephone masts. The RSGB notes that no study has shown any evidence of harmful radiation from cellular or from Amateur Radio installations. Earlier this year, Moshe Galili of the Israeli Ministry of Communications told the Israel Amateur Radio Club annual general meeting that his agency was working toward an across-the-board exemption for Amateur Radio with respect to the non-ionizing radiation law adopted last December, which covers RF sources as well as magnetic and electrical fields from power lines.

N8BJQ is new CQ WPX Award manager

Steve Bolia, N8BJQ, has been named to succeed Norm Koch, WN5N (ex-K6ZDL), as manager of the CQ WPX Award program, CQ Publisher and President Dick Ross, K2MGA, has announced. The WPX awards are issued for confirmed contacts with stations having different call sign prefixes. Koch is retiring after 25 years in the position. "We thank Norm for his many years of devoted service to the WPX program, to CQ and to Amateur Radio," said Ross, "We wish him all the best in the future." The September issue of CQ will include updated address information to submit award applications.

Donald R. Newcomb, W0DN, SK

Don Newcomb, W0DN, of Henderson, Nevada, died July 27. He was 71. Newcomb founded the Butternut Company, manufacturer of a series of highly regarded antennas, and he held several patents in antenna design. A bit of a renaissance man, Newcomb also was an accomplished musician, held a doctorate in French and was a university professor in Minnesota before he started Butternut in the late 1970s. In 1994, Newcomb sold Butternut to Bencher Inc and retired to Nevada. Funeral arrangements are pending. -- tnx Bob Locher, W9KNI

New Website!

www.usrepeaters.com (U S Repeaters) Dedicated repeater directory, easy to use ...

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Massive CubeSat Launch Fails

An attempt to launch 15 CubeSats from 11 universities and one private company failed today [July 26] . California Polytechnic State University, which coordinated the launch, confirmed the failure on its CubeSat Web page. Fourteen of the CubeSats carried Amateur Radio transmit-only payloads. Space Launch Report cites payload users as reporting that the mission went awry sometime after first-stage separation. The Dnepr-1LV rocket lifted off from Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 1943 UTC today. Originally set for June 28, the launch had been postponed until July 26. The CubeSat project was 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. Thirteen of the satellites were to have downlinks in the Amateur Radio satellite allocation between 435 and 438 MHz, and one was to operate on 145.980 MHz. None of the spacecraft carried a transponder. Transmitter power outputs ranged from 10 mW to 2 W. The Dnepr launch failure reportedly was the first in seven orbital launch attempts. The Dnepr vehicle is a repurposed SS-18 "Satan" three-stage intercontinental ballistic missile, originally designed in the 1980s to compete with the US Peacekeeper missile. The START 2 treaty allowed up to 150 of the missiles to be converted for use as space launchers.

In-flight Internet dealt a setback

Boeing announced today that it will pull the plug on Connexion, the company's in-flight Internet service designed for commercial jets. "Regrettably, the market for this service has not materialized as had been expected," Boeing Chairman and Chief Executive Jim McNerney says in a statement. "We believe this decision best balances the long-term interests of all parties with a stake in Connexion by Boeing." The service was used by international carriers, including many that flew trans-Pacific routes, according to Reuters. Lufthansa also was one of the Connexion's bigger subscribers, offering the service on about 50 flights. Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS), Japan Airlines, Korean Air, All-Nippon Airways, Singapore Airlines and China Airlines are other Connexion customers. Connexion fees were \$26.95 for an entire long-haul flight, or \$9.95 for an hour, according to Reuters. It was not yet clear yet what Connexion's end will mean for the service's current airline customers.

SSTV tests planned from ISS, school contacts set for German astronaut

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program reports that ISS Expedition 13 Commander Pavel Vinogradov, RV3BS, has set up a camera to use for slow-scan television (SSTV) from the ISS. Vinogradov plans to soon test the system over Moscow on 144.49 MHz -- perhaps as early as this weekend -- and radio amateurs within range are encouraged to receive the SSTV images. For now, the SSTV system will only be used to transmit. Due to various issues with 144.49 MHz in Europe, the European and US ARISS teams will be recommending frequencies for use over other countries. Responding to a request from the European Space Agency (ESA), ARISS has scheduled school group contacts at three ESA-organized events for new Expedition 13 astronaut Thomas Reiter, DF4TR . The Greek Minister of Education asked for a QSO with Reiter during the ESA Space Camp in Greece July 29. This is expected to be a major event, with the minister asking an interview question, and Greek national TV covering the occasion. A QSO with visitors at the Museum of the Swiss Air Force is set for September 22, while a contact with visitors to Germany's Mannheim Museum has been rescheduled for November 20, during Expedition 14. Reiter, the first German astronaut to be a part of an ISS crew, likely will use the space station's German call sign, DP0ISS.

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Student computer pranksters face jail

A pair of California State University, Northridge students each face up to a year in jail for a prank that involved hacking into a professor's computer, giving grades to some 300 students and sending pizza, magazine subscriptions and CDs to the professor's home. Lena Chen, 20, of Torrance and Jennifer Ngan, 19, of Alhambra face misdemeanor charges of illegally accessing computers. They are scheduled to be arraigned Aug. 21. "They felt the professor was unfair, and it was on behalf of all the students," said Frank Mateljan, a spokesman for the city attorney's office, which filed the charges. "They were trying to be college pranksters." Mateljan said Chen admitted assigning grades to fellow students and inflating Ngan's grade from a D-plus to an A in the professor's political institutions course. The school would not release the professor's name. The hackers are alleged to have used personal information culled from the university system to order deliveries of pizza, 20 magazine subscriptions and a shipment of blank CDs to the professor's home. The professor was billed for the purchases but was not required to pay. Investigators also said the students arranged for the professor's campus e-mail to be forwarded to an account they created.

U.S. broadband subscribers jump 33% in 2005

U.S. high-speed Internet subscriptions soared 33% last year to 50.2 million lines, according to the latest data released by the Federal Communications Commission Wednesday. More consumers signed up for digital subscriber line (DSL) service from telephone companies like AT&T and Verizon Communications than cable modem service from companies like Comcast and Time Warner. DSL subscriptions jumped 5.7 million lines vs. cable companies adding 4.2 million subscribers in 2005, according to the FCC. The cable industry's market share dropped 3.5 percentage points to 57.5% while DSL gained 3.3 percentage points to reach 40.5, the agency said. DSL is typically less expensive than cable Internet service but offers slower download speeds. The United States is ranked 12th in the world for broadband subscribers behind countries including Iceland, South Korea and Japan, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's most recent rankings. U.S. officials have attributed the low ranking to other countries subsidizing the cost and because some of those nations have concentrated population centers that are easier to serve. An estimated 42% of Americans had high-speed Internet access at home in March 2006, according to the Pew Internet & American Life Project. That was up from 30% of Americans with high-speed access one year earlier, it said. U.S. cable and telephone companies are engaged in a fierce battle to offer customers a package of communications services, including voice, data, wireless and subscription television.

Ofcom publishes responses to 71-86GHz consultation

UK communications regulator Ofcom has published the responses it has received to its consultation into the 71-86GHz bands. The consultation could have serious implications for the primary amateur and amateur satellite allocation from 75.5 to 76.0GHz. The RSGB, satellite group Amsat UK and the UK Microwave Group have submitted a joint response to the consultation aimed at protecting amateur bands. This and all the other responses can be found on Ofcom's website. See the RSGB website for the link. The Ofcom consultation document -Making Spectrum Available in the 71-76GHz and 81-86GHz Bands - can also be downloaded from Ofcom's website. (RSGB)

Space presentations available on the web

Two presentations from amateur satellite group Amsat-UK's recent International Space Colloquium have been published on the web. One is a presentation by Achim Vollhardt, DH2VA, on detecting signals from the Voyager 1 space craft, while the other is about the P3E amateur satellite project by Peter Guelzow, DB2OS. PDFs of both can be downloaded from the Amsat-DL website. (RSGB)

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Some call signs missing from DXCC Honor Roll in August QST

The ARRL DXCC Branch Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, says a problem with the DXCC software caused a few call signs not to appear in the DXCC Honor Roll listing in August 2006 QST. "Although there were some errors in this computer-generated list, the online Honor Roll listing produced from the same database is correct," Moore assured. "We will publish a correction in October 2006 QST." Anyone who was on the Honor Roll between April 1, 2005, and March 31, 2006, and whose call sign did not show up in the QST list should contact Moore via telephone (860-594-0234) or e-mail.

First ARRL Online Auction Planned for October

The ARRL may be giving eBay and the other auction sites a little competition in the Amateur Radio arena this fall when the first ARRL Online Auction gets under way. Auction proceeds will help to support the League's educational services and programs. The event now is in the planning stages, says ARRL Business Services Manager Deb Jahnke, K1DAJ. "We will soon embark on an exciting new venture," Jahnke said in providing the broad strokes of the online auction to ARRL Headquarters staff members. Jahnke and her Business Services team will plan, organize and manage the event, which is planned for late October -- the exact dates haven't been set yet -- and she promises it will be lots of fun. The auction will be open to all -- ARRL members and otherwise. Bidders just need online access to take part. "With an online auction, we can reach potential bidders across the nation and around the world," Jahnke pointed out. Jahnke says she anticipates that the online auction will be open for about two weeks, and participants will need to register in advance. "Stay tuned for more details as our auction plans start to gel," Jahnke says. At this stage, she says, the auction planners are seeking additional ideas and, of course, offers of potential auction booty. Contact Jahnke via e-mail.

FCC Denies Reconsideration Petitions, Adopts Minor Changes to BPL Rules

An FCC that's still optimistic and enthusiastic about BPL met August 3 to consider and unanimously adopt a Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O) in response to several petitions for reconsideration of its BPL rules -- including one from ARRL. But one commissioner stressed that the FCC has an obligation to protect Amateur Radio operators from BPL interference and to respond promptly to interference complaints. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, and General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, were on hand for today's meeting during which the FCC suggested it was attempting to strike a balance between interference to licensed services and the BPL industry's needs.

League Calls Manassas BPL Interference Report "Flawed," "Misleading"

The ARRL has told the FCC it has found a radio interference report filed on behalf of the Manassas, Virginia, BPL system "flawed in numerous respects." The League responded this week to a July 17 letter and BPL interference study the FCC mandated following repeated complaints from local radio amateurs.

Congressman, ARRL Appeal to FCC to Accommodate BPL Interference Concerns

US Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), and the ARRL have appealed to the FCC to accommodate the interference concerns of Amateur Radio operators. Ross's letter to FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin and the League's plea to individual commissioners and a face-to-face meeting with one FCC member come in advance of the Commission's consideration of two significant Broadband Over Power Line (BPL)-related actions.

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FCC Suspends Amateur Licenses for Failure to Maintain Mailing Address

The FCC has suspended two Amateur Radio licenses because the holders had failed to maintain correct mailing addresses in the Commission's licensee database. Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth wrote Larry L. Smith, KC7LJR, of Middleton, Idaho, and Larry J. Maniag, KD7JTG, of Payson, Arizona, on June 28 to inform them the FCC was suspending their Technician tickets for the remainder of their license terms or until each licensee provides a valid mailing address.

Remote operation and the new licence (in Great Britain)

Remote operation will be a standard feature of the new licence due to come into force on 1 October. Full licence holders will be allowed to remotely control an unattended station for their personal use. For example, they could run a home station from elsewhere (eg from work or when travelling) or operate a purpose built remote site. The remote link can be any publicly available system (eg dial-up, ISDN, internet, wi-fi). Systems using amateur frequencies can also be used. In addition, all licensed amateurs are allowed to remotely control their station within a range of 100m. Under the new licence, this will not be regarded as unattended operation. However, when operating a remote controlled station, licence holders must still stay within the general terms of their licence. They should ensure that both unattended equipment and the communications link are secure and cannot be used by others. They must also prevent uncontrolled transmissions in the event of the communications link failing. Shared use systems are still not permitted under the new licence, but it might be possible to obtain NoVs for this purpose.

Emergency Communications Bill Includes Amateur Radio as Interoperability Agent

A bill to enhance emergency communication at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) includes Amateur Radio operators as part of an overall effort to provide interoperability among responders. The 21st Century Emergency Communications Act of 2006 (HR 5852), an amendment to the Homeland Security Act of 2002, passed the US House this week on a 414-2 vote and has gone to the Senate. Its sponsor, Rep David G. Reichert (R-WA) -- who chairs the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Science and Technology -- says his legislation is designed "to improve the ability of emergency responders to communicate with each other" -- interoperability.

Amateur Radio License of Convicted Felon in Jeopardy; Hearing Pending

The FCC has initiated a hearing proceeding against Robert D. Landis, N6FRV, of Atascadero, California, who was convicted on two felony counts in 1991, fined \$10,000 and sentenced to 11 years in prison. The hearing will determine whether Landis will be allowed to continue to hold his Advanced class license, which is due to expire on November 1. The Order to Show Cause released August 1 was in response to a complaint pointing out Landis's conviction for lewd behavior involving a minor. For several years now, the FCC has applied character standards once reserved for broadcast licensees to Amateur Radio licensing and renewal cases.

DXCC Announces Accreditation Criteria Rule Change

ARRL's DXCC program has added language to its Accreditation Criteria to minimize difficulties stemming from online DXpedition logs. The change, recently approved by the ARRL Board of Directors Programs and Services Committee, limits the level of QSO detail that DXpeditions may provide on Web-based log sites, search engines or other public forums and still qualify for DXCC accreditation. ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, notes that it's become accepted practice for DXpeditions to post QSO information on the Web.

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PA-5 AMPS

Subject: FWD: PA5 amps

From: TOMSMB@aol.com

Date: Sat, 29 Jul 2006 15:15:43 EDT

I came across a box with 2 of the PA5-10 amplifier modules and one PA5-30. All 3 tested good when driven by one of our TXA5-70 ATV exciter/modulators. They were engineering prototypes so they aint prurdy but they work. See photos on our Specials and Surplus web page. The PA5-10's use the Toshiba SAU-4 power module and got over 12 watts pep output on the bench. The PA5-30 uses the Mitsubishi M57745 power module and gets over 30 watts pep. When we were designing the current TC70 transceiver, we had an idea to make it a 30-40 watt unit but found that the cost of having to add a fan and a much more expensive RF T/R relay that would handle the power would price the unit too high. We opt for the 20 watt brick and made the TC70-20 series instead.

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

Irish radio amateurs seek 500 kHz allocation

According to the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), the Irish Radio Transmitters Society has applied to Irish communications regulator ComReg for a small allocation in the region of 500 kHz for Amateur Radio experimentation. The move follows a similar proposal made by the RSGB to UK regulator Ofcom in 2004. Ofcom has not yet made a decision on the RSGB proposal, but the society is hopeful of an allocation between 501 and 504 kHz. There is also a possibility that Ofcom might designate the spot frequency of 500 kHz as a maritime memorial frequency. In recent years, there has been little traffic on the band 415 to 526.6 kHz, after most countries stopped using it as a Morse emergency maritime frequency in the 1990s.

Amateur breaks UK 10GHz distance record

Ian Lamb, G8KQW, has broken the record for the longest distance terrestrial contact on 10GHz from the UK. At around 0520UTC on Sunday 16 July, he exchanged reports with Lars-Bertil, SM4DHN, on 10,368.2MHz using CW at a never-before achieved distance of 1,347km. Ian said: "This was an unbelievable contact for me, not only because of the sheer distance involved but also because both Lars-Bertil and I are located several hundred kilometres inland at either end of the path." Soon after the record breaking contact, he also worked SM6AFV at a distance of 1,192km and SM6HYG at a distance of 1,118km. All the contacts took place during a period of strong tropospheric ducting between the UK and Europe. What makes these QSOs particularly impressive is that Ian was only using 2W of power. According to Ian, his success was down to "being in the right place at the right time". [GB2RS]

UK 5 MHz experiment extended to 2010, gains two new channels

UK telecommunications regulator Ofcom and the Ministry of Defence okayed extending the 5 MHz Amateur Radio experiment until June 30, 2010, and adding two new channels -- 5368 and 5373 kHz (center frequencies). Under the expanded plan, the UK and the US now will enjoy three center-frequency channels in common -- the two new channels and 5405 kHz. The UK experiment, which began in 2002, was to have concluded July 31. The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) says the extension followed discussions between Ofcom and the RSGB. Current notices of variation (NoVs) issued by the Radiocommunications Agency -- the former telecoms regulator -- still expire July 31, 2006, however, and Full license holders in the UK who want to continue using the 5 MHz frequencies will have to file a new NoV application, available online from the Ofcom and RSGB Spectrum Web sites. Applicants must explain how they plan to experiment on the 5 MHz channels, which can include participation in the 5MHz Working Group's 5MHz Experiment. The RSGB document 5MHz Operating Practice provides information on using the 5 MHz channels in the UK.

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WA7BNM Contest Calendar

Aug 26-27

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

Aug 27

SARL HF CW Contest

Aug 27-28

Kentucky QSO Party

Sept. 2-3

All Asian DX Contest, Phone
RSGB SSB Field Day

Sept. 2

Russian RTTY WW Contest

Sept 4-5

MI QRP Labor Day Sprint CW

Sept 9-10

WAE DX Contest, SSB

Sept 9-11

ARRL Sept. VHF QSO Party

Sept 10-11

Tennessee QSO Party

Sept 12-14

YLRL Howdy days

Sept. 15-17

SARL VHF/UHF Contest

Sept 16-17

Wash. State Salmon Run
QCWA Fall QSO Party

Sept 17

North American Sprint, SSB

Sept 23-24

CQ WW DX Contest, RTTY
Texas QSO Party
Scandinavian Activity , SSB
ACGW VHF/UHF Contest

ARRL DX Bulletin

CHAGOS ISLANDS, VQ9.

Jim, ND9M (VQ9JC and KG4JC), will be returning to Diego Garcia (AF-006) this week for another four month tour. QSL either direct or via the bureau to ND9M.

IRAQ, YI.

Richard, SP8HKT, plans to be active again as YI9KT. He will be in Diwaniyah until January 2007. Look for him on 80 through 10 meters. QSL via SP8HKT, direct only.

EAST TIMOR, 4W6.

Mike, 4W6AAB has been reported on 20 and 30 meters between 0730 and 0930Z using RTTY. QSL via PA7FM.

Reported "Firedrake" Jammer/Intruder Shifts Frequency

A Chinese-language "intruder" signal first spotted earlier this summer on 14.260 MHz this week shifted frequencies. International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 Monitoring System (IARUMS) Vice coordinator Uli Bihlmayer, DJ9KR, says the powerful jammer -- dubbed "Firedrake" -- had been transmitting Chinese music on 14.260 MHz since August 5.

DXCC Desk approves operations for DXCC credit

The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved these operations for DXCC credit: KH8SI, K1ER/KH8, KS6FO/KH8, WH7S/KH8, K8YSE/KH8, AH7C/KH8 and KH6BK/KH8 -- Swain's Island, for contacts made from July 28 through August 2, 2006. The DXCC Desk will begin accepting QSL cards for Swain's Island on October 1. 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.

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Hamfests

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

Sat./Sun. Sept. 16-17 - Virginia Beach, VA
 Va Bch Hamfest, VA Wesleyan College, 1584
 Wesleyan Dr. (146.97/R) www.vahamfest.com

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: 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)

SEANET EVENT

Special event station 8J3SEA will be aired until 15 September
 for the 34th Seanet Convention that will be held in Osaka on
 14-17 September. QSL via the JARL bureau.

QCWA Special Event

The Quarter Century Wireless Association's Wild Rose branch
 will operate special event callsign VE6QCWA from 1 to 30
 September to celebrate the upcoming QCWA National
 Convention taking place in Calgary, Canada from 28 to 30
 September. (GB2RS)

milliwatt swap shop

ads are free and get results!

WANTED: Cushcraft AR6 6-mtr antenna or equivalent 6 mtr. Vertical.
 Call Neil, W3ZQI, 410-765-8439, days, or e-mail: w3zqi@bratsatv.org

KA3PSZ Estate Sale:

Ameritron AL-811 linear amplifier \$ 400
 SWAN 350B 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meter SWAN SWR 1A Power Meter \$ 15
 Hallicrafters SX-77A Receiver \$100
 Ringo 10 meter vertical* \$50
 *must be removed from mounting
 MFJ816 Wattmeter \$20
 All prices negotiable. Frank Stone AC3P 410-687-7209 email: ac3p@arrl.net

the Milliwatt

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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

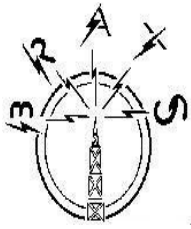
8411 Harford Road, Parkville, 410-665-3622. Home of fine trains, model kits, x-acto, cars, planes, ships, many radios. Yaesu FT101ZD, Kenwood TS 820S, 930S, Heathkit SB-102, National NC-183, more ... Dick, N3JWN, 410-488-2806

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

September 2006

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

UTAH ATV

Lots of projects and links:

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

(Thanks, Scott, KB3JQQ)

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)

Sunday, 8 PM

MATS Net, KB3LNN Net Control

(BRATS ATV and Linked FM Repeaters)

Next BRATS Meetings

Tuesday, September 12: 7:15 PM

Pikesville Library, 1301 Reisterstown Rd

Tuesday, October 17: 7:15 PM

Tuesday, November 21: 7:15 PM

Randallstown Library, 8604 Liberty Rd at Old

Court Rd

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
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