

# the Milliwatt



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

**November, 2006**

## *Silent Key*

**The Rev. David S. Remington  
KA3GBB**

**September 28, 2005**

David was a long-time member of The BRATS.  
We will remember him as a quiet, kind gentleman  
We will all miss him...

Ed Note: We just found out about David's passing by reading  
it in October, 2006 QST. We checked The Sunpapers obits  
on-line and David did indeed pass away a year ago.

## **FCC Releases Long-Awaited "Omnibus" Amateur Radio Report and Order**

Ending a protracted waiting period, the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the so-called "omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, was adopted October 4 and released October 10. In it, the FCC adopted nearly all of the changes it had put forth in its 2004 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in the proceeding. **The R&O the FCC released this week does not include action on the Commission's proposal to eliminate the Morse code requirement for all license classes.** A Report and Order in that proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, is pending. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, expressed the League's gratitude to the FCC for acting this week in the wide-ranging proceeding.

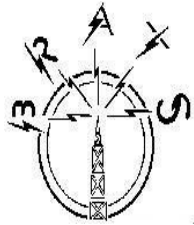
## **Apologetic Radio Jammer Jack Gerritsen Gets Seven Years, Fines**

It was a day many radio amateurs in Southern California had been anticipating for a long time. On September 18, US District Court Judge R. Gary Klausner sentenced convicted radio jammer Jack Gerritsen, now 70, to seven years imprisonment and imposed \$15,225 in fines on six counts -- one a felony -- that included willful and malicious interference with radio communications and transmitting without a license. Before sentencing, Gerritsen apologized to the federal government, the FCC and the local Amateur Radio community, which had endured the brunt of Gerritsen's on-air tirades and outright jamming. "I'm sorry, and I apologize to everyone here," Gerritsen told those in the courtroom, which included more than a dozen radio amateurs and Gerritsen's family members. Gerritsen's contrition did nothing to convince Klausner toward leniency.

## **Tuesday, December 19: BRATS Annual Elections and Holiday Party**

7:15 PM, Randallstown Library; 8604 Liberty Rd, Randallstown

If you want to run for office or as a Board member, email [w3gxxk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gxxk@verizon.net)



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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

Ian, N3CVA has been asked to relay thanks for "your support of the Under Armour 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Baltimore Running Festival from the organizers". 18 local and out-of-state amateur radio operators volunteered to support this public service event. Thanks to all who participated ... If you have any comments, suggestions or concerns, let Ian know, at [n3cva@hotmail.com](mailto:n3cva@hotmail.com) Please plan to join us on December 19 for the BRATS Holiday party and elections. If you want to run for office or as a Board member, please let me know: [w3gxx@verizon.net](mailto:w3gxx@verizon.net).  
73, Mayer, W3GXX

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

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

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

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

**InfoLine:** 410-461-0086

**Meetings:** 3rd Tuesday, 7:15 PM, Randallstown Library

**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, W3WVV

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

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

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### BRATS Repeaters

#### BRATS Linked Repeater System:

WB3DZO: 147.03+, 224.96-, 448.325-

#### BRATS Stand-alone repeaters:

443.350+

#### BRATS Packet Network Nodes

W3GXT-5 145.05

W3GXT-10 224.52

#### BRATS ATV Repeater System:

W3WCQ: inputs: 426.25, 1253.25

outputs: 439.25, 911.25

### BRATS Weekly Nets

Mon 9 pm Traffic and Info Net, W3GXX

Tues 11:45 Informal ATV Net, W3WVV

Tues 9 pm BRATS Horsetraders Net, Grant, KA3CEA

Wed 9 pm BRATS ATV Net

Thurs 9 pm BRATS ATV Net

Sat 1 pm Weekly News Bulletin, W3GXX

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

*Third* Tuesday of each month,

7:15 pm at the Randallstown Library

8604 Liberty Rd at Old Court Rd

#### **Next BRATS Meeting**

Tuesday, November 21

7:15 PM, *Randallstown Library*

8604 Liberty Rd. at Old Court Rd.

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### Hams to re-enact first cross Atlantic contact attempt

Radio amateurs from both sides of the Atlantic will be celebrating an important occasion in radio history in December this year. The event will mark the 100th anniversary of Canadian radio pioneer Reginald Fessenden's attempt to make the world's first radio voice contact across the Atlantic. The plan was to achieve a voice contact between Brant Rock, Massachusetts and Machrihanish, Scotland. But the attempt was scuppered when a storm blew down the antenna at the Scottish site. Instead, Fessenden transmitted Christmas greetings from Brant Rock to ships of the United Fruit Company. This was the very first voice radio broadcast. One hundred years later, on 29-30 December, hams intend to complete what Fessenden failed to do in 1906 and make voice contacts using special event stations between Brant Rock and Machrihanish. There will be three primary special centennial event stations operating from 2000UTC on 29 December to 2000UTC on 30 December. These will be W100BO/W1F at Brant Rock operated by a team led by Steve Barreres, GB1FVT, at Machrihanish operated by a team headed up by Duncan MacArthur, GM3TNT, and W1AW in Newington, Connecticut. Hundreds of other ham radio stations across both the UK and US are also set to participate in the event. The special event stations will use a variety of modes, reflecting the advances that have been made in radio technology since 1906. These will include AM from the early 20th century, SSB and FM from the second half of the 20th century, and Echolink/IRLP plus digital voice HF from the 21st century. You can find out more about this centenary event on the web at [www.hello-radio.org/event](http://www.hello-radio.org/event)

### Foundation license boosts Amateur Radio numbers in Australia

The Wireless Institute of Australia ([WIA](http://www.wia.org.au)) reports that the number of new radio amateurs "down under" has grown by upward of 500 licensees -- 3.4 percent -- in the 11-month period ending August 1. WIA credits the Foundation license with helping to reverse a trend of declining ham radio numbers. Following the UK model, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) instituted the Foundation license in mid-October of 2005, and nearly 900 applicants have so far taken advantage of the new entry-level license. "There now seems little doubt that the WIA examination service will process more than 1000 successful candidates in the first full year of assessing Foundation license candidates," the WIA said earlier this summer. "It is now also apparent that an increasing number of people are upgrading from Foundation to Standard and Advanced, and feedback from assessors and several clubs offering training confirms this trend will continue to accelerate over the coming months." As of August 1 there were 14,204 radio amateurs in Australia, not counting repeater or beacon licenses. ACMA adopted a distinctive four-letter suffix starting with "F" for all VK Foundation licensees. Holders enjoy limited access to 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as the entire 2 meter and 70 cm bands using voice modes or "hand-keyed" CW only (ie, no keyboard or computer-generated code) at 10 W or less. Gibraltar also offers a Foundation license for beginners.

### Western Pennsylvania Section Convention host cancels future hamfests

Just two days after hosting the ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Convention September 10, the Butler County Amateur Radio Association (BCARA) [<http://www.w3udx.org/>] voted to throw in the towel and get out of the hamfest business. **The main reason**, cited in the September issue of the club's Tell-A-Ham newsletter, **is a lack of member involvement.**

"The few, dependable workers have burned out," wrote BCARA Treasurer Kevin Berry, KF4RMA, who edits the newsletter and took on tasks this year as hamfest vendor chairman, parking chairman, treasurer and flyer preparation, among others. According to the newsletter, fewer than one-quarter of the club's 80 members pitched in to make the hamfest happen this year, and nearly all handled multiple duties during the event.

The September 10 gathering at the Butler County Farm Show Fairgrounds was the club's 29th annual hamfest. Whether it's also the last, BCARA President Jim Love, W1JHL, told ARRL, is in the hands of the membership.

"If we can get the manpower that is required to support the hamfest we will continue the tradition," he said. "However, this year, as in the recent past, we have not received the needed help."

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### **IARU inaugurates electronic newsletter**

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has launched a monthly electronic newsletter, The IARU E-Letter. The e-publication reports on various IARU activities and projects in all three IARU regions. The newsletter appears on the IARU Web site and is distributed to subscribers via the "iaru-news" e-mail list maintained by the IARU International Secretariat. Anyone who would like to receive The IARU E-Letter via e-mail should e-mail a request.

<http://www.iaru.org/e-letter/>

### **Microsoft's Zune to be available Nov. 14 in U.S. for \$249.99**

Microsoft Thursday said its Zune media player will be available in the U.S. on Nov. 14 for a retail price of \$249.99. The Redmond, Wash.-based Dow component added that the online service for Zune will also be available on this date with a subscription allowing access to "millions of songs" costing \$14.99 per month. The Zune, Microsoft's competition for Apple iPod product, will come with 30 gigabytes of memory and feature a three-inch liquid crystal display screen, a built-in FM tuner, and wireless functionality for content sharing.

### **The future of in-flight entertainment**

How would you like to download an iPod playlist directly to your airline seat when you book it? Or send instant messages from the air? Such amenities could be closer at hand than you think, according to a report in the South Florida Sun-Sentinel. Technology and communications companies promoting the latest in in-flight entertainment gathered last week at the annual World Aviation Entertainment Association Convention in Miami Beach to tout their wares. "The technology to do amazing things is available now," Michael Rogerson of Intheairnet, a firm that installs entertainment systems, tells the paper, which frames in-flight services as a competitive issue, noting that the airline "that provides the best customized entertainment is the one that will generate the most loyalty." The only thing slowing the deployment of such systems is cost, as already strapped airlines are hoping to avoid having to pass on additional charges to passengers. It was high charges for in-flight Web service, as much as \$30 for an international flight, that kept demand low for Boeing's Connexion service, prompting the company to pull the plug on the service last month. Also attending the convention were several broadcast networks and movie studios -- including NBC, HBO, Warner Bros., E! and CNN -- hoping to score lucrative airline contracts, as well as vendors for "amenity kits, earphones, dinnerware, airsickness bags and a variety of other products the airlines buy in huge quantities."

### **Fox tries to thwart DVR fast-forwarding**

LONDON -- Fox is running a 30-second television spot with just one static image in an effort to reach viewers who fast forward through ads using digital video recorders like TiVos. U.K. advertisements for Fox's new drama, Brotherhood, which premieres in Britain in October, simply show an image of Providence, where the show is set, and the program's logo. Viewers fast-forwarding through the ad would see the image for a few seconds; those watching it normally would hear dialogue from the show in the background. Jon Hollett, a Fox International spokesman, said the company was experimenting with ways to get its messages to DVR users who routinely breeze through ads without antagonizing real-time viewers by broadcasting a flat, silent image for thirty seconds. "This is something that is going to have to be addressed one way or the other," he said. "Making sure that you can get to your viewers when they're fast forwarding ... is of crucial importance." Television executives fear the new technology could make ad-supported free programming obsolete. In the United States, DVR users could dodge as much as \$8 billion of the \$74 billion in television ads shown this year, according to Jupiter Research, a technology consulting company. Some media companies have attempted to fight the trend. One DVR provider, ReplayTV, was driven into bankruptcy in 2003 by a lawsuit over its automatic ad-skipping feature. Advertisers also have begun experimenting. Earlier this year, KFC Corp. promised coupons at its restaurants to viewers who could identify a secret code only visible when its commercials were replayed in slow motion. Twentieth Century Fox International, a unit of News Corp., said its ad would begin appearing Friday.

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### **Japanese University Launches Amateur Radio CubeSat**

Hokkaido Institute of Technology's HIT-SAT satellite has joined several other CubeSats carrying Amateur Radio payloads in space. The tiny satellite launched successfully September 23 (Japan Standard Time) from the Uchinoura Space Center in Japan, and its CW telemetry was copied around the world on the satellite's initial orbits. Over the weekend, HIT-SAT's CW telemetry was halted as a power-saving measure during attitude control procedures, but the satellite remained silent after attitude control should have ended.

### **Motorola unveils cellphone 'vending machines'**

Consumers needing a cellphone or accessories on the run have a new option now that Motorola has rolled out a series of what the company calls "robotic stores." The vending machine-like stores unveiled Wednesday will carry about 30 products, initially including 12 phones and 18 accessories, said Bob Many, Motorola's director of automated retailing. The "Instantmoto" will go into 20 malls and airports nationwide as part of a pilot program. Chicago has three outlets operating, including one in the Macy's store downtown. The program will be expanded depending on its success, Many said. Phone customers will be able to purchase mid- to high-end models, including the Razr and the Q, and can buy with or without a service plan. Motorola says it is the first retailer to sell electronic gadgets this way. The robo-stores are operated by San Francisco-based Zoom Systems. Zoom "doesn't consider this vending," said Gower Smith, the company's chief executive, but vending machines are precisely what the stores resemble. Unlike vending machines, however, they don't drop the products from their racks. Instead, the products are gently delivered to consumers by a robotic arm. And the stores are run from a central location, much the same way that automated teller machines are operated. Schaumburg-based Motorola is the world's second-largest mobile phone maker behind Finland's Nokia.

### **Wireless spreads to more campuses**

More than one-third of U.S. college campuses have Wi-Fi, giving their students blanket wireless broadband access at school, according to data released today by the non-profit Campus Computing Project. The annual survey for 2006 found that 35.9% of colleges are totally wireless, compared with 29% last year. Also, 68.8% of participating campuses have a strategic plan for wireless, which is up from 64% in 2005. The study found that 60.5% of colleges and universities increased their information technology budgets for wireless for the current school year. The Campus Computing survey also found that security incidents and threats declined. The survey, which began in 1990, is a continuing study of computing and information technology in U.S. higher education. It's based on data just collected in September and October from 540 campuses.

### **AMSAT announces 2006 Board of Directors election results**

AMSAT-NA has announced the results of its 2006 election for Board of Directors. Elected as directors were Tom Clark, K3IO, with 800 votes; Lou McFadin, W5DID, with 652 votes, and Bob McGwier, N4HY, with 647 votes. Lee McLamb, KU4OS, got 321 votes to be first alternate, while Paul Shuch, N6TX, picked up 312 votes to be second alternate. Directors serve two-year terms. AMSAT Manager Martha Saragovitz reports that members cast a total of 937 votes.--AMSAT News Service

### **Digital pioneer TAPR celebrates 25th anniversary at DCC**

Some 100 communication enthusiasts gathered in Tucson, Arizona, September 15-17 for the TAPR/ARRL Digital Communications Conference (DCC). This conference marked the 25th anniversary of the formation of TAPR -- Tucson Amateur Packet Radio -- one of the driving forces behind the packet radio revolution that began in the middle 1980s. TAPR continues to be at the cutting edge of Amateur Radio innovation. QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, represented ARRL Headquarters at the conference. Other ARRL family Members on hand included Southwestern Division Vice Director Ned Stearns, AA7A, Arizona Section Manager Tom Fagan, WB7NXH, and ARRL Honorary Vice President Fried Heyn, WA6WZO. Conference topics included progress reports on the status of the Eagle Project, the next high-altitude satellite planned by AMSAT-NA, as well as developments in software-defined transceivers and APRS. During the event, Kenwood displayed a new 2meter/70 cm transceiver, which will come on the market early next year and does not yet have a model number.

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### **Nokia unveils better Bluetooth wireless connection**

HELSINKI - Mobile phone market leader Nokia unveiled a new short-range wireless connection on Tuesday that is smaller and more energy-efficient than current Bluetooth technology and can be used in devices such as watches. The new radio technology, dubbed "Wibree", can work alongside Bluetooth short-range wireless connections but use just a fraction of the power. "It's up to 10 times more energy efficient than Bluetooth," Bob Iannucci, head of Nokia Research Center, told a news conference. Nokia said it had worked for five years to develop the technology and would put it through a standardisation process along with a number of other wireless technology firms. When Wibree has become a standard, the technology would be available to anyone at the same reasonable terms. "Our aim is to establish an industry standard faster than ever before by offering an inter-operable solution that can be commercialised and incorporated into products as quickly as possible," Iannucci said. Like Bluetooth -- used to link cellphones with headsets, computers and printers to transfer calls, calendar items, documents, songs and pictures -- Wibree provides a radio link of up to 30 feet between devices.

#### **LINKING SMALLER DEVICES TO PHONES**

Because of their low energy consumption, Wibree radio chips will make it possible and efficient to connect phones and other electronics devices to low-power watches, sports sensors, wireless mice or health monitors, which often have not been able to use Bluetooth technology due to its power demands. "Bluetooth is widely used in phones. Smaller devices around the phone is where the big problems are, and we want to create the link there," Jani Tierala, business development manager at Nokia Research Centre told Reuters. "We believe that the use-cases are relevant enough to enough firms to see the value in this," he said. Nokia said it expected the first commercial version of the standard to be available during the second quarter of next year, while products using Wibree should follow soon after that. Nordic Semiconductor said it will be ready to ship Wibree chips by the second half of 2007. Nokia expects devices currently connected by Bluetooth will get a dual Bluetooth-Wibree chip, while devices that are not connected now will use a Wibree-only chip. Bluetooth technology was invented by Ericsson in the 1990s and subsequently given away to the market as an open standard. "Bluetooth is clearly not suited to some of the cooler applications like intelligent jewellery, watches -- a less power hungry, smaller, cheaper solution will open some interesting new opportunities," said Ben Wood, director at U.K.-based Collins Consulting. While Bluetooth is looking for ultra high frequencies above 6 gigahertz for faster connections, Wibree will operate in the 2.4 gigahertz band, sharing it with many technologies. Wibree technology would eventually add a few cents on top of current prices for Bluetooth chips, Iannucci said. Finnish-based Nokia said companies working with it on defining the standard are Broadcom Corp., CSR Plc, Epson, Nordic Semiconductor, Taiyo Yuden Ltd and Amer Sports unit Suunto. "I guess the challenge is getting industry-wide support for yet another wireless standard, given the overwhelming number of standards in play at the moment its hard to see how companies can justify the R&D commitment to all of them," said Wood.

### **Shortwave broadcast transmissions cut back**

Radio broadcasters are increasingly cutting back on their shortwave transmissions, according to a new report published in the International Herald Tribune. The report, written following the demolition of 13 shortwave radio antenna towers in Spain, suggests that many radio broadcasters are increasingly moving away from shortwave to new forms of communication such as Internet radio and podcasting. Some companies are considering phasing out shortwave altogether. Even BBC World Service -- the leading international radio broadcaster -- is reviewing its shortwave services. But fans of shortwave have leapt to the technology's defence. They argue that it is one of the most reliable means of communication and highlight how it has allowed broadcasts to be heard by people in repressive countries even when FM and internet broadcasts have been blocked. During the Cold War, international broadcasters used shortwave to spread their message over the Iron Curtain. The history of shortwave can be traced back to 1927 when Dutch company Philips Laboratories undertook shortwave broadcasts from Eindhoven to the Dutch East Indies. To see the International Herald Tribune report click on the link. [[www.iht.com/articles/2006/09/24/business/radio25.php](http://www.iht.com/articles/2006/09/24/business/radio25.php)] [GB2RS]

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### FCC Docks Travel Center for Marketing Non-Certified CBs as Amateur Gear

The FCC has fined Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores Inc of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, \$25,000 for violating the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, by offering for sale non-certified Citizens Band (CB) transceivers. The Forfeiture Order (NoF) released September 29 recounts a history of alleged violations dating back to 2001, when the Commission issued the first of seven citations to Love's for marketing non-certified CB transceivers. All CB transmitting equipment must first receive FCC certification before it can be marketed or sold in the US.

### FCC launches new Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau

The FCC this week formally launched its new Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB). "The events of September 11, 2001, and last year's hurricane season underscored America's dependence on an effective national telecommunications infrastructure," the Commission said in making the announcement. "The new bureau will build on the Commission's longstanding commitment to meet the needs of public safety by promoting robust, reliable and resilient communications services in times of emergency." The PSHSB will assume some functions that had been under the umbrella of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB), where the Amateur Radio Service will remain. WTB Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division Chief Michael J. Wilhelm, WS6BR, has assumed a role within the new bureau, however. The PSHSB is responsible for the combined public safety-related functions previously spread among other bureaus and offices. It will include Policy, Public Communications Outreach and Operations and Communications Systems Analysis divisions. The Public Communications Outreach and Operations Division will operate the FCC's Communications Center and the High Frequency Direction Finding Center. The last WTB reshuffle occurred in 2003. This latest reorganization, announced last March, was several months in the planning. Some observers had speculated that Amateur Radio would be shifted to the PSHSB, thus removing it from the WTB's market-based approach to regulation. Moving some of the WTB's current responsibilities to the new bureau could nonetheless speed up the process of moving Amateur Radio-related proceedings through the Commission.

### We Get Mail - ATV

From: "Bob Delaney" <[ka9uvy@hotmail.com](mailto:ka9uvy@hotmail.com)>

Date: Sat, 14 Oct 2006 14:24:51 -0500

After just seeing a guy looking for ATV activity in CT on the ATV logger I had a thought and I am curious as to know how many of you are actually active on the air with ATV? Seems like a lot of us are happy to have ATV gear and only use it for special occasions or emergency situations. Many of us seem to like to talk about it and experiment but seldom ever really use it. I like to work DX and all of the ATV around here is simplex so I am on every day calling CQ, watching for openings etc. If you are really active on ATV please take a moment and go to the ATV activity logger page at [dxworld.com](http://dxworld.com) <http://dxworld.com/atvlog.html> Please type in your callsign and location and simply put (simplex) or (repeater) so that some of the other mode users will see how many people still use this mode. Who knows maybe you will meet someone that you never knew was out there. I have an idea that there won't be over 10 callsigns on the logger before midnight! Prove me wrong...Please 73, Bob KA9UVY-TV Amateur Television Station Celebrating 12 years on ATV 1994-2006

**Band Open ?? Call 618-242-7063 anytime !!**

FYI The tropo forecast page URL <http://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html>

Latest Balloon launch information <http://showcase.netins.net/web/wallio/ARHABlaunchannouncements.htm>

Also can be reached via internet on the following page <http://dxworld.com/atvlog.html>

Check out <http://members.tripod.com/silatvg> for S. Il. ATV

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### SUNSPOTS

(excerpted with permission from ARRL Propagation Bulletin )

Bill Huntimer, KI0CW in Dell Rapids, South Dakota wrote to ask, "Would you explain what sunspots do to radio interference?"

Sunspots can be great for HF radio propagation. The more sunspots we see, the greater the density of charged particles in the ionosphere, which reflect or refract radio waves. Higher densities mean higher frequencies can propagate worldwide, instead of just passing through the ionosphere and off into space. When there are sunspots, there is also the possibility of other solar activity, such as solar flares, and holes in the Sun's corona, which can spew out a solar wind of charged particles. These particles, as well as x-rays from flares, may disturb the Earth's magnetic field, and cause charged particles in the ionosphere to re-combine, canceling the charge. Lower density of charged particles means that the Maximum Usable Frequency is lower. In addition, polar cap absorption occurs, so propagation over the poles becomes poor. Sometimes in the media, we may hear of interference to broadcast TV or FM radio signals related to sunspots. The interference can be from distant stations, when listeners are accustomed to hearing only local stations. The interference is actually due to improved propagation. For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service at <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. -- Tad Cook K7RA

(Thanks, Neil, W3ZQI for forwarding this to us ...)

### Special event for HMS Hood remembrance

The HMS Hood Association will be airing special event station GB2HA from 4 to 12 November in remembrance of the famous battleship. The station's operator Malcolm Butler, G0LMD, aims to make contacts with radio amateurs both in the UK and further afield. HMS Hood was the pride of the British Naval Fleet at the start of the Second World War. She was destroyed in one of the most famous naval battles of the war. On 24 May 1941 in the Denmark Strait, the Hood and fellow Royal Navy warship the Prince of Wales took on German battleships Bismarck and the Prinz Eugen. Hood was sunk in the ensuing battle. Only three members of her 1,421 crew survived. Of these three, only Ted Briggs is still alive. The HMS Hood Association was set up in 1975. The GB2HA special event station has been aired every year since 1995. The frequencies being used this year are 40, 20 and 2m. You can find out more about the Hood Association on the web at [www.hmshood.com](http://www.hmshood.com)

### German amateur radio license changes

German Novice class operators have been given permission to operate on the HF bands as part of a major shake-up of Germany's amateur radio licenses. From 1 September, German D O prefix stations are allowed to transmit 100W on 1.810 to 1.850MHz and on 80, 15 and 10m. They are also allowed to use 2m and 70cm at up to 75W. In addition, German Novices can experiment on the 10GHz band but are limited to a maximum output of only 5W PEP. The German class A license has also been updated. Class A licensees can now transmit on 7.100 to 7.200MHz with 250W PEP and on 50MHz as well. [RSGB]

### ARRL 500 kHz Experiment in Organizational Phase

The project manager for the ARRL 500-kHz experiment, Fritz Raab, W1FR, says "The 500 KC Experimental Group for Amateur Radio" is still in the organizational stages. The FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology on September 13 granted Part 5 experimental license WD2XSH to the ARRL on behalf of a group of radio amateurs interested in investigating the LF spectrum. The two-year authorization permits experimentation and research between 505 and 510 kHz (600 meters) using narrowband modes at power levels of up to 20 W effective radiated power (ERP).

### DXCC Desk approves operation for DXCC credit

The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved these operations for DXCC credit: 9Q1D (Democratic Republic of the Congo), current operation beginning September 22, 2006. This accreditation also includes 9Q1TB and 9Q1EK.. Also approved TT8LN (Chad) Feb. 12-June 5, 2006. A reminder: The DXCC Desk now is accepting submissions for Swain's Island (KH8). For more information, visit the DXCC Web page.



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## WA7BNM Contest Calendar

- Oct. 28-29  
CQ WW DX Contest, SSB  
eXtreme CW World-Wide  
10-10 Int'l Fall Contest, CW
- November 4  
IPARC Contest, CW
- Nov. 4-5  
Ukaranian DX Contest
- Nov. 4-6  
NA Collegiate ARC, CW
- Nov. 5  
IPARC Contest, SSB  
High Speed CW Club Contest  
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest
- Nov 11-12  
WAE DX Contest, RTTY  
JIDX Phone Contest  
OK/OM DX Contest, CW  
Kentucky QSO Party
- Nov 11-13  
CQ WE Contest
- Nov. 16  
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint
- Nov. 17  
YO Int'l PSK 31 Contest
- Nov 18-19  
SARL Field Day Contest  
LZ DX Contest  
All-Austrian 160-Meter Contest  
RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz Contest, CW
- November 20  
Ruin for the Bacon QRP Contest
- Nov. 25-26  
CQ WW DX Contest, CW

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### *Silent Key*

**Raymond A Mills, Jr**  
KA3GMP  
October 7, 2006

**Stephen E. Uhrig**  
WA3WSW

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## ARRL DX Bulletin

### ANGOLA, D2.

Vladimir, UA4WHX is QRV as D20VB and has been active on 80 meters using CW around 2330z and 40 meters using CW around 0400z. QSL to home call.

### DJIBOUTI, J2.

Jean, J28JA has been QRV on 20 meters around 1600z. QSL via F5JFU.

### SUDAN, ST.

Nader, HZ1NH is QRV as ST2NH. He is active on various satellites. His length of stay is unknown. QSL via EA7FTR. Meanwhile, ST2A has been QRV on 20 meters around 1530z using RTTY and 40 meters around 0400z using CW. QSL via T93Y.

### MOUNT ATHOS, SV/A.

Monk Apollo, SV2ASP has been QRV on 30 meters around 0810z and 20 meters around 0600 to 0700z.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, 9Q.

SM5DIC, F5LTB and VE2EK are QRV as 9Q1D, 9Q1TB and 9Q1EK, respectively. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and SSB when conditions permit. QSL to home calls.

### BOTSWANA, A2.

Hardy is QRV as A25/DF3GY and has been active on 20, 17 and 15 meters using RTTY at various times. QSL to home call.

### CAPE VERDE, D4.

Angelo, D44BS has been active on 17 meters around 1700z. He will soon be active on 6 meters as well.

### SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS.

Station DT8A has been active on 20 meters using RTTY around 2300z.

### HUNGARY, HA.

Special event stations HA506NF and HA501DAE will be QRV from October 1 to December 31 to commemorate the Hungarian uprising of 50 years ago. QSL via HA6NF and HA1DAE, respectively.

### JAPAN, JA.

JJ4UEL/4 is QRV from Nino Island, IOTA AS-117. Activity is on all HF bands using SSB. QSL to home call.

### SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS.

Oleg is QRV as LU/R1ANF from the Argentine Jubany Base and has been active on 40, 30 and 20 meters using CW. QSL via RK1PWA.

### ANTARCTICA.

Alex, UA1ZCK is QRV as R1ANC Vostok Base, IOTA AN-016. He is usually QRV on 20 meters around 0600 to 1000z. QSL via RU1ZC.

### FRANZ JOSEF LAND, R1FJ.

Station R1FJT has been QRV on 20 Meters from around 1200 to 1500z. QSL via UA4RC.

### SUDAN, ST.

Jovica is QRV as ST2A and has been QRV on 30 meters between 1800 and 1930z. QSL via T93Y.

### NAMIBIA, V5.

Operators V5/DJ8VC, V5/DF6QP and V5/DL8JS are QRV until October 13. Activity is on all bands, especially on 20 meters. QSL to home calls.

**Reminder! Tuesday, December 19**

**BRATS Annual Elections and Holiday Party at the Randallstown Library**

## Post-2001 IRCs bear expiration dates

Many DXers still use International Reply Coupons (IRC) issued by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) to cover return postage for QSL cards. As of January 1, 2002, UPU-issued IRCs bear expiration dates, after which the coupon *has no value*. The so-called "Beijing model 1" IRC expires December 31, 2006. The newest IRC, the "Beijing model 2" (photo), expires December 31, 2009. Check any IRCs you've got on hand for an expiration date! (Curiously, the United States Postal Service *International Mail Manual* states that the period of exchange for IRCs issued by the UPU on or after January 1, 1975, is *unlimited*.) The UPU says IRCs are exchangeable in all member countries for the minimum postage of a priority item or an unregistered air mail letter sent to a foreign country. An IRC costs \$1.85 in the US. Although US post offices are not obliged to sell IRCs, it is mandatory for post offices in UPU member countries to *exchange* the coupons.

## the Milliwatt

### COMMERCIAL UHF ATV AMPS FOR SALE

A few years ago I was able to offer some Comark (Thales) commercial UHF TV solid state amps for sale. They were from a channel 60 transmitter. I now have 14 amps that were factory tuned for 420-450 (Thales tag right on the amp says tuned for 435-440 ATV). These are one of a kind special manufacture. Original price over \$4500 each. I have three power supplies, each runs on 220V AC input and provides the 26 volts needed for up to 4 amps. These amps are rated as 300 watt CCIR key down forever. Up to 50 watts drive, about 9-10 db gain per amp. N connector in and out. Each amp can actually achieve 1200 watts PEP but is biased for ultra linear commercial service (under -56 dbm intermod/crossmod). You get one amp plus a couple N connector cables, plus one power cable with connector one end for \$500 plus shipping. About the size of 4 D1010 amps physically. about 20 inches deep, 10 inches wide, and 3.5 inches thick. Great for repeaters or that really healthy driver amp for that 5 KW TV transmitter you always wanted to build. Can be parallel combined for more power. I have 4 combiner units for \$150 each. Each is made for 1 amp as driver to 3 amps as parallel finals for 900-1200 watts PEP Video output. Power supplies are \$200 each. I also have two metering panels, and one test cord, plugs into the front of the amp. A schematic for the amp is included. (I have to get copies made as of today). Cash, check, money order. Shipping and packing runs about \$80 per unit. W6ORG has picture set. Henry Ruhwiedel, AA9XW; 5317 W 133rd; Crown Point, IN 46307 - 219 776 7300

### Hamfest

**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:** November 4, December 2

#### AERO VE EXAMS

\$14 Fee, (ARRL VEC)  
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)

### Don't Forget

Starting Tuesday, October 17, BRATS meetings move to Randallstown Library, 8604 Liberty Road at Old Court Road  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:15 PM

## milliwatt swap shop

*ads are free and get results!*

#### KA3PSZ Estate Sale:

Ameritron AL-811 linear amplifier \$ 400  
SWAN 350B 80 - 10 meter 350 watt transceiver \$ 200  
SWAN SWR 1A Power Meter (2) \$ 15  
Hallicrafters SX-77A Receiver (needs work) \$25  
Ringo 10 meter vertical  
(must be removed from roof) \$50  
MFJ901 antenna tuner \$40  
All prices negotiable. Frank Stone AC3P 410-687-7209 email: [ac3p@arrl.net](mailto:ac3p@arrl.net)

**WANTED:** Cushcraft Ringo AR6 6-mtr antenna or equivalent.  
Call Neil, W3ZQI, 410-765-8439, days, or e-mail: [w3zqi@bratsatv.org](mailto:w3zqi@bratsatv.org)

**ATTENTION:** If you do NOT want your ad to run again, please send an email to that effect! Thanks!  
[w3gkx@verizon.net](mailto:w3gkx@verizon.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](mailto:w3gzk@verizon.net)

=====

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

=====

**FOR SALE:** Yaesu FT50R dual band ( 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:w3gzk@verizon.net)

### VTS - VIDEOTAPING SERVICE

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

### JADE COMPUTERS, LLC

1009 Ingleside Ave, Baltimore, MD 21228. Phone 419-719-1246; Fax 410-719-9494. Your answer to custom built PC, office and home networking. Reseller for Net Integrity server, cable modem, DSL, webpage design and hosting POS and networking. We do CPR to your CPU. Kid tested, mother approved. Order PC on line: <http://www.jadecomputers.net> email: [joed@jadecomputers.us](mailto:joed@jadecomputers.us)

### Antique Radio Repair, Restoration

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

### Radio Consignment Shop at Overlea Hobbies

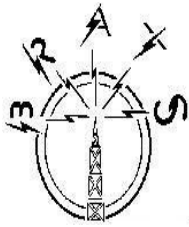
8411 Harford Road, Parkville, 410-665-3622. Home of fine trains, model kits, x-acto, cars, planes, ships, many radios. Yaesu FT101ZD, Kenwood TS 820S, 930S, Heathkit SB-102, National NC-183, more ... Dick, N3JWN, 410-488-2806

### AUDIO CONVERSIONS.

Your records and cassettes converted to CD. High quality A-D conversions of your recordings to digital form. I can also make short run duplications of your CD's for your band or office projects. Call Scott, KB3JQQ at 410-615-2434 or via email at: [KB3JQQ@yahoo.com](mailto:KB3JQQ@yahoo.com) Also, I do operating system reloads and virus/spyware removal. Computer repairs since 1986. A+ certified.  
<http://home.comcast.net/~convertrecords/>

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

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



# the Milliwatt



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

## November 2006

### Next BRATS Meetings

Randallstown Library, 8604 Liberty Rd at Old Court Rd  
**Tuesday, November 21: 7:15 PM**

**Tuesday, December 19: 7:15 PM**

## UTAH ATV

Lots of projects and links:

[http://www.ussc.com/~uarc/utah\\_atv/utah\\_atv.html](http://www.ussc.com/~uarc/utah_atv/utah_atv.html)

(Thanks, Scott, KB3JQQ)

## 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

at the Randallstown Library

8604 Liberty Rd, Randallstown

**Tuesday, November 21: 7:15 PM**

**Tuesday, December 19: 7:15 PM**

Our December meeting will include elections and  
our Holiday party ...

## 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)

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