



# the Milliwatt



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

## March, 2008

### Amateurs Visiting Australia May Operate Under Class License

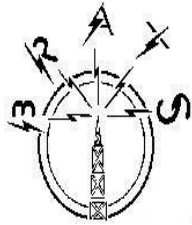
According to the Australian Communications and Media Authority ([ACMA](#)), Amateur Radio operators traveling to Australia who wish to operate in that country do not need to apply for an Australian Amateur Radio license. This new policy, effective February 15, 2008, allows amateurs who hold a non-Australian Amateur Radio license to operate up to 90 days under a Class License; licensees who will be in Australia for more than 90 days will need to apply for an Australian Amateur Radio license. -- *Information provided by Roger Hickey, W6MSC*

### Winnipeg Amateur Prevails Over City

On 23 January 2008, Gilbert Restiaux, VE4GIL learned that the City of Winnipeg had dropped their objections to his tower. In 2002, Gil moved to a new neighbourhood. After checking with planning authorities in the city, he received their verbal agreement to erect a 48-foot tower and HF yagi in his back yard. Five years later, one of Gil's neighbours complained to municipal authorities because he did not like the appearance of Gil's tower. The neighbour lodged complaints by telephone twice a day every day for several months. The City of Winnipeg eventually laid two charges against Gil of violating Winnipeg's zoning by-law. Gil hired a lawyer, did a great deal of research, and enlisted the help of Tim Ellam, VE6SH of RAC's Antenna Structures Committee. Tim provided Gil and his lawyer with documentary references that were of assistance to Gil's lawyer in arguing that the city's attempts to regulate Gil's Amateur Radio antennas were beyond municipal jurisdiction. On 23 January, the day before Gil was scheduled to attend court on the matter of his tower, Kerri Tymchuk, a solicitor for the City of Winnipeg wrote to Gil's lawyer informing him that the city will not be pursuing this prosecution. Although not clearly stated in Tymchuk's letter, Gil's lawyer suggested that the City of Winnipeg understands it does not have jurisdiction over Amateur Radio antennas.

### Garmin unveils touch-screen phone with GPS

Garmin, the nation's leading maker of satellite-powered navigational devices, is getting into the wireless phone business with a handset that incorporates GPS. This is the breakthrough product that cellphone and GPS users around the world have been longing for—a single device that does it all, said Cliff Pemble, the company's president and chief operating officer. We believe the Nuvifone will change the way people view converged devices in the future. Garmin, which is based in the Cayman Islands and has operational headquarters in suburban Kansas City, Mo., has long been a leader in the market for global positioning satellite technology. New data from Telematics Research Group indicates that navigation-equipped phones will outsell navigational devices by next year. Garmin is entering a market crowded with experienced players like Samsung, Motorola, Apple and Nokia—which is in the process of acquiring the company that provides Garmin's digital maps, NavTeq. Garmin and its chief rival, Netherlands-based TomTom, have been rumored for months to be working on cellphones. Mio Technology, another GPS company, said this week it was developing its own phone with chipmaker Qualcomm. The Nuvifone, whose price has not been announced, will have a camera, wireless Internet surfing platform, MP3 player and 3.5-inch touch-screen display and give voice-prompted, turn-by-turn directions.



# the Milliwatt

The award-winning monthly publication of The BRATS.

Items herein may be reprinted with credit.

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX, Editor

## Some Thoughts

Back to our try a new mode soapbox. During one of the prior quiet cycles, I tried operating some CW. I had not been on CW for a number of years, but got on because propagation on SSB was non-existent. I enjoyed it and quickly got my speed up to 25 wpm or more! Look at Page 8 of today's MW. One record was set on 241 GHz. Another on 500 KHz. Try a new band. Page 5 has some satellite news and notes. Try a new band or a new mode. You will like it!

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).

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Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, 7:15 PM, Pikesville Library, 1301 Reisterstown Rd., Pikesville, MD.

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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 CATS 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 12/09:

KA3IDB, KB3FIF, K0RYX

### Through 12/08:

W3ZQI, KB3LJM, K2GZY

## Regular BRATS Meetings

3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:15 PM

Pikesville Library, 1301 Reisterstown Rd

## Next BRATS MEETING

Tuesday, March 18, 7:15 PM

at the Pikesville Library

1301 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville

### **FCC Changes Lockbox Bank for Vanity Call Sign Payments**

As of February 14, 2008, U.S. Bank has replaced Mellon Bank as the lockbox bank for all FCC programs (with the exception of auction-related payments). Applicants who manually file FCC paper applications via mail -- usually for new vanity call signs or for renewal of vanity call signs -- will need to send payments to U.S. Bank. Amateurs filing paper applications for a new Vanity Call Sign Applications need to submit FCC Payment Form 159 and the FCC Regulatory Fee <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vanityfee.html>>, along with the FCC Form 605 and FCC Form 605 Schedule D. After completing all required forms, mail them along with the payment to the address of the Commission's new lockbox bank: Federal Communications Commission, PO Box 979097, St Louis, MO 63197-9000. When submitting fees, payments or applications to the lockbox bank, filers should specifically reference the Government Lockbox number - 979097 -- on the 159 payment form. U.S. Bank will accept hand-delivered filings or courier deliveries at their office located at U.S. Bank, attn: FCC Government Lockbox Number 979097, SL-MO-C2-GL, 1005 Convention Plaza, St Louis, MO 63101. According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, "The FCC has also established a 45-day transition period that began on February 14 to mitigate the transition's impact and to provide time to resolve any reconciliation and change-over discrepancies." The FCC strongly encourages the use of their electronic filing and payment options. Electronic payments can be submitted through their secure Web site <<http://www.fcc.gov/fees/feefiler.html>>. Electronic payments allow for faster processing of applications. Further info can be found on FCC Web Site <<http://www.fcc.gov/fees/lockbox.html>>. <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/08/0215/>

### **ARRL to Offer Award for 6 Meter Operations**

Attention 6 meter operators there's a new award to work toward! The ARRL Board of Directors approved a new award honoring the late Fred Fish, W5FF, the only amateur who worked and confirmed all 488 grid squares in the 48 contiguous United States on 6 meters. The Fred Fish Memorial Award will be granted to any amateur who duplicates Fish's accomplishment. Fish was a mainstay on the VHF+ bands for many years, having achieved Worked All States (WAS) on 6 meters through 432 MHz, as well as DXCC for 6 meters. He is widely regarded as a gentleman operator and one of the finest amateurs in the VHF+ community. ARRL Contest Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, will oversee this award. Kutzko, an avid VHF+ operator himself, said, "We hope the new award will increase 6 meter activity throughout the US and the world. We also hope it will lead to the activation of rare grid squares in the US by encouraging the native ham population of a rare grid square to give 6 meters a try, as well as through so-called Grid DXpeditions. We actively call on the 6 meter community to help educate VHF+ newcomers to the fun that is available on 6 meters. Complete details on the Fred Fish Memorial Award will be available soon.

### **European Reciprocal Licenses Now Limited to Advanced and Extra Class**

The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) has revised its table of equivalence between FCC amateur licenses and the CEPT license. Effective February 4, 2008, Recommendation T/R 61-01 (as amended) now grants full CEPT privileges only to those US citizens who hold an FCC-issued Amateur Extra or Advanced class license. This means that those US licensees who hold an FCC-issued General or Technician license are no longer eligible for full operating privileges in countries where CEPT-reciprocal operation had previously been permitted. US Novice class licensees have had no reciprocal operating privileges under the CEPT provisions. These changes are the result of a re-evaluation of US and CEPT license classes equivalence by the CEPT's Radio Regulatory Working Group at its meeting January 29-February 1, 2008 in Basel, Switzerland. The Working Group deals with numerous areas of concern including Amateur Radio, and is responsible for applications from countries to participate in T/R 61-01, as well as other Amateur Radio related issues. Changes in the US license structures and examinations often have ancillary implications beyond the immediate impact upon the US licensees, said Dan Henderson, N1ND, ARRL Regulatory Information Manager. While this CEPT change affects several classes of US licensees when they visit Europe and other CEPT signatory countries, it has no effect on their operating privileges at home.

### **FCC Denies Petitions to Bring Back Morse Code Testing**

In a *Memorandum Opinion and Order (MOO)* released today, the FCC denied two petitions calling for General or Amateur Extra license applicants to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. In December 2006, the FCC released a *Report and Order (R&O)* in the Morse code proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, that eliminated Morse code testing as of February 23, 2007.

**Southwest latest to test in-flight Web access**

In case you missed this from last week, Southwest says it will begin testing in-flight Internet service on some of its flights this year. The Dallas Morning News (free registration) writes Southwest's partner is Row 44, a California-based company that has already announced a partnership with Alaska Airlines to test its system on one airplane beginning this spring. Southwest hopes to start testing the technology on four of its Boeing 737 aircraft this summer. The New York Times (free registration) says Southwest passengers with Wi-Fi-enabled devices would have Internet access for e-mail and Web browsing after the tests and subject to approval by the Federal Aviation Administration. The Times says the technology being used by Southwest would support cellphone and voice-over-IP calls. Despite that, airline spokeswoman Brandy King says Southwest has not embraced voice calling. Many passengers of all airlines have voiced opposition to opening up airplane cabins to potentially chatty seatmates. Southwest's move follows tests now underway by JetBlue and American. As for AA, the Times writes the carrier last week said it had finished the first aircraft installation of an Internet broadband connection aboard a Boeing 767-200 aircraft and will install and test the technology on all 15 such aircraft throughout the year. The 767-200s are used primarily for transcontinental flights.

**Continental adding live TV, Wi-Fi options**

Continental will add live television programming and onboard e-mail and instant messaging capabilities on some of its aircraft beginning next year, the airline announced today. The airline says its offerings will include 36 channels of live television, The Associated Press reports. The Houston Chronicle says first-class customers will get free access to the entertainment system, while other passengers will have to pay a \$6 fee. The service will be installed aboard Continental's new Boeing 737s and Boeing 757-300s. Continental's service will be provided by LiveTV, a wholly owned subsidiary of JetBlue Airways that has provided live television programming and other services to JetBlue since its inception, according to FLORIDA TODAY. Reuters says LiveTV will begin installing the service on about 225 Continental jets in January 2009, a process expected to take about 18 months to complete. Once done, the effort will cover the majority of the carrier's domestic fleet, Reuters says. The news agency adds the service will cost Continental next to nothing to start, but it will also get little in return. LiveTV CEO Nate Quigley says: "We're providing most of the capital and we're retaining most of the revenue."

**AA to let customers check flight status on Web cellphones**

American Airlines said it has upgraded its mobile website to let customers check in for flights and look at itineraries on their Web-enabled cellphones. The airline said Thursday that it would expand the service this spring to let customers book flights, change reservations and request upgrades from a Web-enabled device. American said its website recognizes users of mobile devices and directs them to a mobile version of AA.com. Content is more condensed than on the regular site for users of desktop or notebook computers, but it's designed to be navigated from a mobile device, the airline said.

**Airport Check-in: Denver reaches out to workaholics, gamers**

Productivity-minded travelers at Denver International can work at new self-service kiosks equipped with word-processing, spreadsheet and presentation software. Marketed by Louisville, Colo.-based Zoox Stations, the four office-service kiosks feature an Internet connection, laser printers, USB ports, laptop-charging outlets and booths for privacy. Cost: 25 cents a minute. Video game enthusiasts can also get their fix at the 64 game stations the company has installed throughout the airport.

**Air Force working on cheaper plug-and-play satellites**

Satellites represent an extremely impressive technological achievement, serving as communications relays in orbits as high as 22,600 miles above the Earth or providing precise location information to handheld Global Positioning System receivers priced at as little as \$100. At the same time, satellite development and manufacturing seems stuck in the pre-automation age, with each bird laboriously handcrafted in a process that takes years and with costs for new Defense Department satellite systems routinely measured in the billions of dollars. The Transformational Communications Satellite (TSAT) system for example, intended to serve as the next-generation space-based communications hub for Defense and capable of transmitting huge amounts of data in seconds rather than minutes using current systems, won't go into service until 2016 and has a price tag of \$16 billion.

Full Story: [http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=39089&dcn=e\\_gvet](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=39089&dcn=e_gvet)

**Bouncing Signals off the ISS**

Bernd, DF2ZC, reports that he has successfully held a CW contact on 144 MHz by bouncing his signal from the structure of the International Space Station. According to his posting on Moon Net, his work was triggered by Peter Sundberg, SM2CEW's attempts to complete a QSO by using the ISS as a reflector. From Sundberg's experience DF4ZC believed it would be a worthwhile attempt considering that the B PSK 63 mode would enable us to exchange all information within few seconds if he used only the EME report and QSO rules. His second try on Sunday December 9th at 1626 UTC. That's when he copied signals at elevations of greater than 20 degrees and within a minute exchanged all data. Signal reports were about S3 to S5 DF2ZC running only 300 watts out. [RAC]

**Pico-powered Parts**

Advanced Linear Devices of Sunnyvale, California have released a new family of Field Effect Transistors that require no gate bias at all! They start conducting well below 1 mV, making amplifiers and oscillators that operate on a massive 20 mV (yes, that is millivolts) B+ rail feasible. Who will be the first to design us a complete rig that runs on a lemon and two nails? (Thanks to WIA News) [RAC]

**AMSAT Maryland Lab Update**

Bob, KF4KSS, AMSAT Lab Manager provided an update on the work to bring the new Pocomoke City, MD facility shared with the Hawk Institute of Space Sciences on-line.

- January will close the cleanroom construction activities.
- February will begin the tower and all the RF for the satellite control station including U, V, L, S and HF bands. Details will be published as they are completed.
- After the tower installation, we will begin work on the engineering unit of the structure for the AMSAT Eagle amateur radio satellite. We plan on having parts of it complete in time for the Dayton Hamvention in May.
- An on-line gallery of Lab pictures can be found at <http://picasaweb.google.com/bob2leo>

**Dates for ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference Announced**

The Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Corporation ([TAPR](#)) has announced that the 2008 ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference will take place September 26-28 at the [Holiday Inn Hotel](#) in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. The conference is an international forum for radio amateurs to meet, publish their work and present new ideas and techniques. Presenters and attendees will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn about recent hardware and software advances, theories, experimental results and practical applications. Forums will feature the latest developments in Amateur Radio digital communications, as well as demonstrations of emerging digital technology. More information is available on the [ARRL/TAPR DCC Web site](#).

### **German travel agency to offer nudist flight**

German nudists will be able to start their holidays early by stripping off on the plane if they take up a new offer from an eastern German travel firm. Travel agency OssiUrlaub.de said it would start taking bookings from (today) for a trial nudist day trip from the eastern German town of Erfurt to the popular Baltic Sea resort of Usedom, planned for July 5 and costing \$735. It's expensive, I know, managing director Enrico Hess told Reuters by phone. It's because the plane's very small. There's no real reason why a flight in which one flies naked should be more expensive than any other. The 55 passengers will have to remain clothed until they board, and dress before disembarking, said Hess. The crew will remain clothed throughout the flight for safety reasons.

### **Swedish study methane from burping cows**

A Swedish university has received 3.8 million kronor (\$590,000) in research funds to measure the greenhouse gases released when cows belch. About 20 cows will participate in the project run by the Swedish University for Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala, about 40 miles north of Stockholm, officials said Monday. Cattle release methane, a greenhouse gas believed to contribute to global warming, when they digest their food. Researchers believe the level of methane released depends on the type of food they eat. Project leader Jan Bertilsson said that the cows involved in the study will have different diets and wear a collar device measuring the methane level in the air around them. Bertilsson said 95% of the methane released by cows comes out through the mouth. This type of research is already being conducted in Canada so we will be in contact with Canadian agricultural researchers in the near future, he said. The research will be funded by a grant from the government's Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning.

### **Snakes on a plane really!**

Vietnamese authorities seized more than a ton of snakes that were smuggled into the country on a Vietnam Airlines flight from Thailand. The Associated Press says thousands of non-venomous rat snakes were sent on the flight as cargo. The 60 boxes of snakes had been declared as live fish. AP says many of the snakes, which were surrounded by plastic filled with ice water, died, according to local officials. It's also not the first time that Vietnamese authorities have had to deal with snakes. Last month, they found more than 1,540 pounds of dead snakes on a Thai Airways flight. Vietnam Airlines spokesman Trinh Ngoc Thanh says he suspects a problem with cargo inspection at Bangkok. We plan to send a letter to the Bangkok airport authorities urging them to enhance inspection to avoid this incident from happening again, Thanh tells AP.



### **Dog has a ruff job at Florida airport**

Southwest Florida International relies on an old-fashioned remedy for runway safety: a smart dog. Since 2001, a 9-year-old border collie named Radar has been patrolling the runway and chasing away any birds in sight. Birds being sucked into aircraft engines is one of the most persistent safety problems at airports. Border collies scare the birds but don't harm them. The military was first to use dogs to chase birds from runways. Southwest Florida was the first commercial airport to begin using dogs in 1999, says airport spokeswoman Victoria Moreland. She says other airports have inquired about it, and some are adopting the program. She says bird strikes and bird populations have fallen dramatically. Surrounded by lakes and wetlands, the airport draws a variety of species, including sandhill cranes, eagles, wood storks, turkey vultures, egrets, herons and ducks. The Federal Aviation Administration has asked airports to update wildlife management programs. Other airports have used fake owls, firecrackers and propane cannons to deter birds.

**Washington State Ham Faces FCC Forfeiture Order**

On January 30, the Regional Director of the Western Region of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau issued a Forfeiture Order to James J. Grinton, K7VNI, of Bellingham, Washington in the amount of \$7000 for willfully and repeatedly violating Section 97.113(b) and Section 97.119(a) of the Commission's Rules ( Rules ). The noted violations involve Grinton engaging in the transmission of one-way communications and his failure to transmit his assigned call sign in the Amateur Radio Service... [ARRL Web Extra]

**Radio Amateur Named Head of Tropical Prediction Center**

Veteran meteorologist Bill Read, KB5FYA, was named the new director of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Tropical Prediction Center, which includes the National Hurricane Center (NHC) earlier this month. Read had served as the Center's acting deputy director since August 2007. The NHC has a dedicated amateur station on-site W4EHW and has worked closely with hams for decades. In announcing Read's appointment to head the Center, NOAA Administrator Conrad Lautenbacher cited Read's three decades of experience with the agency and of his reputation as a trusted consultant to emergency managers in the Houston area.

**ARRL 2008 Teachers Institute Dates Announced**

Sponsored by the ARRL Education and Technology Program and funded by ARRL members, the ARRL Teachers Institute is building on five years of success, offering 72 teachers the opportunity to explore and experience wireless technology basics, teaching of basic electronic concepts integral to micro controllers and robotics, bringing space technology into the classroom, radio astronomy basics, building a radio telescope, building and programming a robot and more.

**Arkansas tower collapse**

Investigators are trying to find out why a huge tower in Arkansas collapsed. At 2000 feet high it was once the second highest structure in the world. No one was seriously injured when the tower fell but crews working to strengthen the tower had been just minutes away from climbing it to replace cable. Initial reports suggest that work on high level guy wires caused the top section to fail, which then damaged other guy wires on its descent. Built in 1965, the tower held transmitting antennas for local TV and radio stations. [RSGB]

**New ARISS antennas now in orbit on the European Columbus laboratory module**

Frank Bauer KA3HDO, ARISS International Chairman, extended his congratulations to the ARISS-Europe team on the successful launch on February 7th of the newest on-orbit amateur radio hardware - additional ARISS antennas!! The antennas are mounted on the European Columbus module which flew inside the payload bay of the Space Shuttle Atlantis. [RAC]

**The Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club Hamfest 2008**

The Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club will be holding a Hamfest from August 8 - 10, 2008, in conjunction with the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) Annual General Meeting. At this time they are calling for papers/presenters who may wish to contribute to the program. [For complete details on the Hamfest, click here](#) [RAC]

**Interference on 902-928MHz**

RAC has become aware of increasing levels of interference to Amateur Radio operations on the 902-928MHz (33cm) band from wireless power meters and is calling on Radio Amateurs who use that band to provide any information to help identify the extent and nature of the problem. [RAC]

**Radio Records: WA1ZMS and W4WWQ Go 114 KM on 241 GHZ**

A pair of United states hams are now the likely distance holders for a contact on the 241 Gigahertz band. At 01:24 U-T-C on January 31st, Brian Justin, WA1ZMS portable 4 operating from Grid Square FM07 made contact with Peter Lascell, W4WWQ, also operating portable 4 from Grid Square EM96. That s a distance of 114.4km and beating out the old record of 79 km by 35.4 Km. WA1ZMS says that the QSO was over 2 years in the making with several failed attempts at even shorter distances during that time period. He says that the key to success this time was the very driest of winter air that may only take place one day a year in his part of the country. The mode used for the contact was CW. (WA1ZMS) [AR NEWSLINE]

**EME on 25 watts**

A new UK record is claimed by Angus Young, M0IKB, after working a nAmerican by moonbounce on two metres. Angus achieved the 500,000 mile contact with KB8RQ using just 25 watts to an indoor, homebrew 7 element beam. 2m EME is a well established practice, but usually requires large aerial arrays and high power. Angus said, I was really shocked when I picked up the signal, it was brilliant. [GB2RS]

**Antipodean Amateurs Achieve 2200 Miles on 2m**

In two spectacular openings on the two metre band, a new Australia to New Zealand record was set. On 29 December, VK4DMC worked ZL1CN at a distance of 3549 kilometres. VK4DMC was running 200 watts into an 11 element Yagi just 8 meters above ground. Then on 9 January, there was an opening to ZL from VK5 resulting in several contacts, the best being between VK5BC and ZL1TWR over a distance of 3482km.

**500 kHz Distance Record Set**

On January 17, Neil Schwanitz, V73NS/WD8CRT, on Roi-Namur in the Marshall Islands, received a signal from experimental station WD2XSH/20. This experimental station, operated by Rudy Severns N6LF, is located in Cottage Grove, Oregon -- 4737 miles away from the island in the Kwajalein atoll. The 13 words-per-minute CW transmission was copyable by ear and also appeared in the Spectran capture; "SL" in the capture is from a non-directional beacon on 505 kHz located in Khomotovo, Russia.

**Belgians get five watts at 500kHz**

The Belgian national society UBA has received notice from their licensing authority BIPT that Belgian amateurs can use the segment 501-504kHz on a secondary basis. Only CW is permitted but this can be at any speed, so it includes QRSS. The power limit is 5 watts ERP. [RSGB]

**Greenland gets 5MHz**

The Greenlandic telecom administration has announced seven 5MHz frequencies for OX operators to use SSB, CW and digimodes. They now have 5260, 5280, 5290, 5368, 5373, 5400 and 5405kHz.

**More time and power for 500kHz enthusiasts (in Great Britain)**

There is good news this week for those experimenting on the MF band 501 to 504kHz. Following representations made by the RSGB, OfCom have extended the validity of all Notices of Variation by one year to 28 February 2009. At the same time the maximum permitted power has also been increased to 1W ERP from 100mW ERP. The full statement from Ofcom, including details of how to apply for a Notice of Variation, can be found on the [Ofcom web site](#). [GB2RS]

**WA7BNM Contest Calendar**

Feb. 24-  
High Speed CW Club Contest

Feb. 24-25  
North Carolina QSO Party

March 1-2  
ARRL Int 1 DX Contest, SSB  
Wake Up! QRP Sprint

March 2  
DARC 10-Meter Digital

March 3  
RSGB Club Championship, Data

March 8-9  
RSGB Commonwealth Contest  
Oklahoma QSO Party  
Idaho QSO Party  
EA PSK 31 Contest

March 8  
AGCW QRP Contest

March 9  
NA Sprint, RTTY  
UBA Spring Contest, CW

March 9-10  
Wisconsin QSO Party

March 12  
RSGB 80-m Club  
Championship, CW

March 15-16  
Russian DX Contest

March 15-17  
Virginia QSO Party

March 15  
10-10 Int. Mobile Contest

March 16  
9K 15-meter Contest

March 20  
RSGB 80m Club  
Championship, SSB

March 22-24  
BARTG Spring RTTY Contest

March 23  
UBA Spring Contest, 2m.

March 29-20  
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB

April 4-6  
YLRL DX to NA Contest, CW

April 5-6  
SP DX Contest  
EA RTTY Contest  
QCWA Sprint QSO Party  
Missouri QSO Party  
Yuri Gagarin Int 1 DX Contest

(Thanks, WA7BNM)

**ARRL DX Bulletin****HUNGARY, HA.**

Special event callsign HG550REX is QRV until the end of 2008 to commemorate Renaissance Year 2008 and to remember the ascension of the throne of the most popular king Matthias Corvinus that occurred 550 years ago. QSL via HA5GY.

**CHAD, TT.**

Phil, TT8PK has been QRV on 20 meters SSB around 2100 to 2200z. QSL via F4EGS.

**SRI LANKA, 4S.**

Ron, 4S7RO has been QRV on 160 meters CW between 1730 and 2100z. QSL via DJ9ZB.

**ANTARCTICA.**

George is QRV as LU2ZD from the Ejercito Primavera Base. Activity is generally on 20 meters around 2200 to 2300z. QSL via LU4DXU.

**SWEDEN, SM.**

Members of the Kungälv Radio Club are QRV as SF700BF during 2008 from the city of Kungälv to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the Bohus Fortress. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters, including 70 cm. QSL via SK6NL.

**MACAU, XX9.**

Vong, XX9LT has been active on 20 meters around 1000z. QSL direct.

**WEST KIRIBATI, T30.**

Udo, C21HC is QRV as T30HC. He has been active on 20 meters CW around 0600z. QSL via DL9HCU.

**TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5.**

Saul, WA1UKN is QRV as VP5/WA1UKN from Grand Turk until May 7. Activity is on 40, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters. QSL to home call.

**OMAN, A4.**

Chris, A45XR has permission to operate on 30 meters and has been active at various times. QSL direct.

**ARGENTINA, LU.**

Dario, LU3DR is QRV as AY0DX until December 31 in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the "San Jose" school in Tandil. QSL via LU3DR.

**BANGLADESH, S2.**

Hugo, LA5YJ is QRV as S21XF until the end of March. Activity is on 30, 20, 17 and 15 meters using mainly CW. QSL to home call.

**NIUE, ZK2.**

Joe is QRV as ZK2CC and has been active on 20 meters using SSB around 0100z. QSL via DL4RDJ.

**OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT.**

The following operations are approved for DXCC credit: Willis Island, VK9WWI, 2007 operation; Iraq, YI9PT, current operation; Palestine, E4/OM2DX, 2007 operation; and Guinea-Bissau, J5C, 2008 operation.

**Silent Key**

Jeffrey V. Sippel, K3OCO  
February 14, 2008

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Jeff, a long-time and very active BRATS member. Our condolences to Cleo and to Jeremy, KB3EEZ. We will miss his regular participation in the Weekly News Bulletin as well as in The BRATS Answer Men.

## Hamfests and Events

### Friday/Saturday, March 7-8:

Kulpsville, PA Winter SWL Fest. <http://www.swlfest.com/>

### Tuesday, March 11, 7 PM - Towson, MD

SKYWARN Class - Basics I

Baltimore County Public Safety Bldg. 700 East Joppa Rd.  
Terri Brush, [tbrush@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:tbrush@baltimorecountymd.gov) Thanks, Scott,  
(KB3JQQ)

### Saturday, March 15 - AMSAT- DC Meeting

11 AM ; At Pioneer Hall , Historical Electronics Museum, 1745 W.  
Nursery Rd. Linthicum MD. Talk-in 146/76/R (PL 107.2) Talks, demos,  
tutorials, socializing

### Sat./Sun, March 29-30 - Timonium, MD

Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest MD State Fairgrounds,  
2200 York Rd. 146.67/R, 449.625/R ( PL 107.2) N3VEJ 443-590-1444  
[Info2008@gbhc.org](mailto:Info2008@gbhc.org)

### Saturday, April 19 - Dover, PA

York Hamfest. Brookside Park 4054 Fox Run Rd. Dover, PA. 147.33/R  
(PL 123.0); Ray, W3AXC, 717-292-3529; [w3axc@arrl.net](mailto:w3axc@arrl.net)

### Sunday, May 4 - Boonsboro, MD

Antietam Radio Assn Hamfest Washington Co. Ag. Ctr, 7313  
Sharpsburg Pike, Boonsboro ( Hagerstown), MD. Karin, KB3GFV,  
301-432-2358 (147.09/R)

### May 16-18 : Dayton, Ohio

Dayton Hamvention, Hara Arena, (146.94/R) 937-276-6930; e-mail:  
[info@hamvention.org](mailto:info@hamvention.org)

### Sunday, May 25 -- W Friendship, MD

MDFMA Memorial Day Hamfest, Howard County Fairgrounds,  
(16/76R) 301-641-5313 evenings.

### Sat./Sun. May 30-31: Henrietta, NY

Rochester Hamfest, Atlantic Division Convention, Fair and Expo Center, 2695 E.  
Henrietta Rd. (146.88/R PL 110.9) <http://www.rochesterhamfest.org> Harold,  
K2HC, 585-424-5260

### Sunday, June 8: Manassas, VA

Manassas Hamfest, Prince William Co. Fairgrounds, (146.97/R) ; Mary  
Lu, KB4EFP, 703-369-2877. NOTE NEW DATE: One week later than  
usual!

### Sunday, June 15, Frederick, MD

Fathers Day Hamfest ; Frederick Co. Fairgrounds, 797 E. Patrick St. at  
I-70. (147.06/R); Bob, K9CMR; 301-831-5060

## Hamfests and Events

### Sunday, July 20 - West Friendship, MD

*The Famous BRATS Maryland Hamfest and Computer Fest* Howard  
County Fairgrounds **ONE WEEK EARLIER THAN USUAL!**  
410-461-1212; [www.bratsatv.org](http://www.bratsatv.org) 147.03/R, 224.96/R, 448.325/R

## VE EXAMS

### BARC VE EXAMS for 2008

12360 Owings Mills Blvd. Owings Mills Register: 1:30 PM, Exams  
begin 2 PM. No one admitted after exams begin

**Saturdays:** May 3, Jun 7, Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Nov 2, Dec 1.

**Sundays:** Jan 6, April 6, July 6, Oct. 5. [n3wke@arrl.net](mailto:n3wke@arrl.net) (Thanks,  
N3YI)

### 2008 AERO VE EXAMS

Registration at 1 PM, Exams at 1:30.

Fee \$14 ( ARRL VEC); All exams at White Marsh Library, 8133  
Sandpiper Circle; March 15, May 31, Sept. 27, Nov. 22. Pat Stone,  
AC3F, [ac3f@juno.com](mailto:ac3f@juno.com), 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)

### Czech Radio Amateurs to get 70 MHz

The Czech Telecommunication Office (CTU) has  
announced that Czech Amateurs will soon have access to  
the 70 MHz band. They plan to issue 20 special permits  
for 70.2-70.3 MHz with 10 Watts ERP. The permits will  
be valid until 31 Dec 2008.

### Free Test Preparation Software

Allan Peda, KC2SAD: Hi Everyone! I just finished a  
revised version of some FCC license preparation software  
and I updated it for all to use for free. Full tests can be  
found on: <http://vc72.vc.panix.com/hamexam/gentest.cgi>

### 6m frees up in Germany

Following in the switching off of the last two German  
analogue TV-transmitters on VHF channel 2, German  
telecommunications regulators have now officially lifted  
the 200km six metre protection zones around these  
stations. This gives all German class A licensee holders  
free and undisturbed access to the 6 meter band. [RSGB]

## milliwatt swap shop

*ads are free and get results!*

Send ad to: BRATS, P.O. Box 5915  
Baltimore, MD 21282-5915, or email  
to [w3gxk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gxk@verizon.net)

**ATTENTION:** if you do NOT want your ad to run again,  
please send me an email to that effect.  
Thanks! [w3gxk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gxk@verizon.net)

**FOR SALE:** Heathkit SB 1000 linear amplifier, \$750 + shipping; 1200 watt transmitter, 3-1000 tube requires 100 watt for 1K output, companion power supply 120V, only 744 hours use, both built by electrical power engineer and in 100% working order, \$2000 plus shipping; HyGain HDR 300A rotator, 25 sq ft wind load and control box \$ 950 + shipping. Kenwood TS-930S xcvr., \$300 + shipping. Contact Joel, W3YZI, at 410-913-9863.

**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, W3GXK, 410-786-6839 or [w3gxk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gxk@verizon.net)

**FOR SALE:** Alinco 110 2-mtr. xcvr. \$100. ACI linear for 2 meters, \$20. Heath HM102 power meter w/ antenna selector \$40. Call Jerry, KB3AP, 443-618-0618

**FREE!** You remove! TV grade 30-35 foot tower in New Market, MD (off I-70). Dennis 410-842-3336.  
[dennis.kinsel@ngc.com](mailto:dennis.kinsel@ngc.com)

### 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 410-719-1246 ; 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.us> 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

**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 [w3gxk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gxk@verizon.net)

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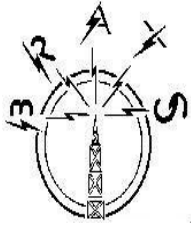
### WELCOME

February 25, 2008  
To Amy and Will (W3WCQ)  
A girl: Cordelia, 9lb 9oz  
Healthy Kid, Healthy Mom ...

### Silent Keys

<b>John R. Kraft K3HLE January 20, 2008</b>	<b>Philip S. Szcepanski W3YVT January 23, 2008</b>
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# the Milliwatt



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

## March 2008

### BRATS PUBLIC SERVICE

- Sunday, April 13  
MS Walk, Towson
- Sunday, May 25  
Veterans Run 5K and 10K races. Coordinated by  
BARC
- Sat/Sun June 7-8  
MS Bike Ride Tour de Shore, Salisbury, MD
- Friday, July 4  
Towson 4th of July Parade

For more information or to volunteer, email  
[publicservice@bratsatv.org](mailto:publicservice@bratsatv.org)

### 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  
145.43/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)

### 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)

### Next BRATS Meeting

**Tuesday, March 18, 7:15 PM**  
Pikesville Library, 1301 Reisterstown Rd  
*Please plan to join us!*

### 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)

### How Do I Join The BRATS?

I want to become a member, what do I do? Just print out  
the form below and mail it with your check (Member,  
\$15; Retired/Disabled/Student, \$10; Family, \$20) to:  
BRATS, PO Box 5915, Baltimore, MD 21282

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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

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