

the Milliwatt



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

April, 2007

Attention All Amateurs ...

ARRL VEC still "busy, busy, busy!"

The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) reports business continues to be brisk following the FCC's deletion of Morse code as a ham radio licensing requirement. "Busy, busy, busy!" is how ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, described the situation in her department. She says nearly 800 exam sessions are on the schedule for March with another 600 for April, "and it doesn't look like test session activity will be slowing down any time soon," she added. ARRL VEC hosts 450 exam sessions in a typical month. Despite the hectic pace, Somma says personnel have been able to process most test session paperwork promptly. "The majority of our VE teams are returning the sessions in good order and with all the needed forms," she noted. "Thank you!" Even so, processing times are down a bit. Somma advises applicants to allow 15 days from the testing date before checking on application status. To follow up, first use the FCC Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)) "Search Licenses" tab, or check the ARRL Web [license search](#) engine. To contact the FCC, call toll-free during business hours 888-225-5322. Applicants who tested at ARRL VEC sessions whose applications have not been granted within 15 days may call ARRL VEC, 860-594-0300.

Ham Radio Antenna Bills in Play in Three States

Lawmakers in three states -- Arizona, Maryland and Oklahoma -- are considering Amateur Radio antenna bills that would put the essence of the limited federal pre-emption known as PRB-1 into each state's statutes. The Arizona and Maryland bills go a step beyond most PRB-1 legislation. They not only would require that municipal land-use or zoning regulations "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio communication per PRB-1, spelled out in the FCC's Amateur Radio rules in §97.15(b), they would extend the same protections to homeowners in certain private communities where deed covenants, conditions and restrictions ([CC&Rs](#)) apply.

[Full Story](#)

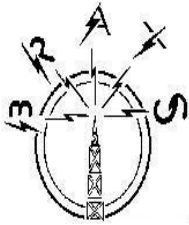
Revised ARRL Band Chart available

A new ARRL band chart reflecting all changes to the FCC Amateur Radio Service rules as of February 23, 2007, is available for [downloading](#) on the ARRL Web site in either black and white or color versions. Created by ARRL Senior Technical Illustrator, Dave Pingree, N1NAS, the attractive new chart represents a major change from earlier designs. This is the same chart featured in the eight-page "Welcome" tear-out section in March QST (following page 48). The entire QST tearout also is available for [downloading](#) in PDF format.

HELP WANTED FOR BRATS HAMFEST!

Please contact Les, W3GXT at lesmclure@comcast.net to volunteer for the hamfest, not just on hamfest weekend, but NOW. We need help with mailings, fairgrounds arrangements, and many other things ... Mark Sunday, July 22 on your calendar.

AREA ATV MEETING: Sunday March 25, 10:30 AM to 4 PM, at the Historical Electronics Museum in Linthicum!



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The award-winning monthly publication of The BRATS.

Items herein may be reprinted with credit.

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX, Editor

Passing of an Old Friend (Guest Editorial)

As of February 23, 2007, Our Old Friend "morse code" has now slipped into history as a requirement for a U.S. Amateur License. The tones and burps in the lower portions of the HF bands will become more and more silent as those that remember CW start to become silent keys themselves. "Silent Key" will go by the wayside as well. As a longtime Extra, I can honestly say that getting up to speed was an excitement all its own. Just 5 WPM for my Novice was a thrill learning those mysterious tones. I for one, can certainly see it both as a defunct digital mode and a unique mode to operate pulling out a QSO from those melodious tones. Ditty dum dum ditty will have a narrower meaning from this time on. Dee, NB2F .

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: brats@bratsatv.org

InfoLine: 410-461-0086

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

President: Ed Rosen, N3GXH

Vice Pres: Edward Koritzer, N3DGY

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Vice Chairman, Technical: Mike Dees, N3EZD

Vice Chairman, Operations: Ian Millet, N3CVA

BRATS Repeaters

BRATS Linked Repeater System:

WB3DZO: 147.03+, 224.96-, 448.325-

BRATS Stand-alone repeaters:

443.350+

BRATS Packet Network Nodes

W3GXT-5 145.05

W3GXT-10 224.52

BRATS ATV Repeater System:

W3WCQ: inputs: 426.25, 1253.25

outputs: 439.25, 911.25

BRATS Weekly Nets

Mon 9 pm Traffic and Info Net, W3GXX

Tues 11:45 Informal ATV Net, W3WVV

Tues 9 pm BRATS Horsetraders Net, Grant, KA3CEA

Wed 9 pm BRATS ATV Net

Thurs 9 pm BRATS ATV Net

Sat 1 pm Weekly News Bulletin, 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 12/08:

KB3LJM, K2GZL

Through 12/07:

KA3IDB, W3ZQI, 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, April 17

7:15 PM, *Randallstown Library*

8604 Liberty Rd. at Old Court Rd.

Annual Elections

Amateur Radio activity shut down in Iraq

Iraq Amateur Radio Society ([IARS](#)) President Diya Sayah, YI1DZ, has informed ARRL that all Amateur Radio activity in Iraq has been suspended until the security situation there improves. He says the suspension affects both Iraqi citizens as well as any foreigners -- including military personnel and contractors -- who have been on the air from Iraq. The request to halt all ham radio activity and the issuance of licenses in Iraq originated with a letter from the Iraqi Ministry of Defense to Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki as part of a new security plan, Sayah said. He received subsequent confirmation via the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research to shut down ham radio activity, although he allows for a possible misunderstanding on the part of government officials as to the nature and purpose of Amateur Radio.

TAPR Digital Communications Conference Call For Papers

Technical papers are solicited for presentation at the 26th Annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference to be held September 28-30, 2007 in Hartford, Connecticut. These papers will also be published in the Conference Proceedings (you do NOT need to attend the conference to have your paper included in the Proceedings). The submission deadline is July 31, 2007. Please send papers to: Maty Weinberg; ARRL; 225 Main St ; Newington, CT 06111 or you can make your submission via e-mail to: maty@arrl.org Papers will be published exactly as submitted and authors will retain all rights. (AMSAT)

ARRL Seeks Comments on New HF Digital Protocol

The ARRL is seeking comments from amateurs concerning development of an open-source (non-proprietary) data communications protocol suitable for use by radio amateurs over high-frequency (HF) fading paths. This is not a Request for Proposals (RFP). An RFP may or not be forthcoming depending on evaluation of the information received.

ARRL Honorary Vice President, Past Director Ed Metzger, W9PRN, SK

ARRL Honorary Vice President and Past Central Division Director Edmond A. "Ed" Metzger, W9PRN, of Springfield, Illinois, died Monday, February 26. He was 93. An ARRL Charter Life Member, Metzger spent more than half his life serving the League in a variety of capacities.

FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC. (FAR) SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc., FAR, a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer 56 scholarships for the 2007-2008 academic year to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over 75 local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds three of these scholarships. 11 are funded with the income from grants. The remaining 42 are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors. Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$3,000 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Amateur radio clubs, especially those in Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin, are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their world wide web home pages. Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card postmarked prior to April 30, 2007.

Please send name, call sign and address to:

FAR Scholarships

Post Office Box 831

Riverdale, MD 20738 Applications are also available electronically upon request to Scholarships@Farweb.org.

The Foundation encourages all qualified amateurs to apply for these awards.

'Potty parity' -- AA to open up first-class toilets to all fliers

In a move the Fort Worth *Star-Telegram* (*free registration*) brands as "potty parity," American Airlines today will scrap its rule that requires passengers to stay in their class of the cabin when using the lavatory. That means that coach customers can now venture into the first class cabin if they have to use the bathroom. "It was difficult to explain to customers sitting in the forward section of coach why they couldn't walk a few feet away and use the lavatory," American spokesman Tim Wagner tells *The Associated Press*. AA first instituted the rule in 2003. And though other airlines enforce similar rules on some flights, AP says American was the only carrier to apply the rule on all of its flights. Per federal laws, however, passengers on all international flights that take off from foreign airports still must stick with the bathroom in their part of the plane.

Cushcraft Corporation acquired by Laird Technologies

Cushcraft Corporation, a manufacturer of antennas for Amateur Radio, commercial and industrial applications has been acquired by Laird Technologies. A February 26 announcement put the purchase price was \$89.75 million. Headquartered in St Louis, Laird Technologies designs and manufactures antenna systems, electromagnetic interference shielding products and wireless systems, among other products. "This purchase broadens Laird Technologies' breadth of antenna products for infrastructure applications," a Laird news release said. Statements from Laird Technologies and Cushcraft do not mention Cushcraft's Amateur Radio antenna product line. Cushcraft has design and manufacturing centers in New Hampshire, California and Utah.

Missing laptop found in ET hunt

The Space Sciences Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley, has signed up more than 1 million volunteers worldwide in a search for extraterrestrial intelligence. They've found no aliens yet, but they have at least turned up one missing laptop. The Berkeley effort, better known as SETI(at)home, uses volunteers' computers when they go into screen-saver mode to crunch data from the Arecibo radio observatory in Puerto Rico. The computers are trying to spot signals in the radio noise from space. One volunteer, James Melin, a software programmer for a county government agency in Minnesota, runs SETI(at)home on his seven home computers, which periodically check in with University of California servers. Whenever that happens, the servers record the remote computer's Internet Protocol address and file it in a database that people running the SETI software can view. One of the computers on which Melin installed SETI(at)home is his wife's laptop, which was stolen from the couple's Minneapolis home Jan. 1. Annoyed -- and alarmed that someone could delete the screenplays and novels that his wife, Melinda Kimberly, was writing -- Melin monitored the SETI(at)home database to see if the stolen laptop would "talk" to the Berkeley servers. Indeed, the laptop checked in three times within a week, and Melin sent the IP addresses to the Minneapolis Police Department. After a subpoena to a local Internet provider, police determined the real-world address where the stolen laptop was logging on. Within days, officers seized the computer and returned it. No one had been arrested as of Wednesday and the case remains under investigation, said Lt. Amelia Huffman of the Minneapolis Police Department. Kimberly's writings were safe, and the thieves didn't appear to have broken into her e-mail or other personal folders. But the returned computer contained 20 tracks of rap music with unintelligible lyrics, possibly from the person who stole the computer or bought it on the underground. "It's really, really horrid rap," Melin said. "It makes Ludacris look like Pavarotti." Kimberly was more enamored with Melin's detective work. "I always knew that a geek would make a great husband," she said. "He always backed up all my data, but this topped it all. It became like Mission: Impossible for him, looking for hard evidence for the cops to use. ... He's a genius -- my hero."

TAPR Announces Production Of HPSDR Janus and Ozy Boards

Here is a ground floor opportunity for amateur radio operators interested in experimenting with Software Defined Radio. This week TAPR announced production plans of the High Performance Software Defined Radio (HPSDR) Janus and Ozy boards. According to the HPSDR organization, the Janus module is a very high performance, dual, full duplex, A/D and D/A converter board. This is planned as a cost effective approach to develop a board which approaches the performance of professional high end sound cards. Paired with the Ozy board and with proper software, it can act like a very high performance sound card external to the PC. The OZY module is an FPGA based interface controller card that provides the input and output connections to the real world. OZY also provides a high speed USB 2.0 interface to the controlling PC. Interested radio amateurs should visit Dale's, WA8SRA HAMS DR website <http://www.hamsdr.com/>. You will need to register for full access on the site. If you are already a member and have previously expressed interest in these projects, log in and re-enter your quantities of each board.

Satellite Shorts From All Over

Clive G3CWV reported that during the period 23 January to 14 February OSCAR 11 was heard with good steady signals. To investigate the on-board clock's hour problem Clive would welcome some telemetry from different parts of the world, at times when the orbits do not pass over the UK. Please e-mail to him at @amsat.org. The VHF beacon is on 145.826 MHz with AFSK FM ASCII Telemetry. For additional information about OSCAR 11 see:

<http://www.users.zetnet.co.uk/clivew/> Some satellite operators may be able to copy EME signals from the Japanese Big Dish Project. JAMSAT is participating with several other organizations in setting up a 32m-Dish EME station in Ibaragi, Japan. They plan to be active on 144MHz, 432MHz, 1296MHz and 5.6GHz from 23 Feb to 24 March at possible windows. Full information is available at: <http://8n1eme.jp/modules/news/> and the planned EME operating schedule can be seen at <http://8n1eme.jp/SKD-EME-8N1EME-060215-1EN.pdf>.

Shorts from all over

The Southern Africa Amateur Radio Satellite Association (SAAMSAT) will be holding its annual space Communications conference in Gauteng on Saturday 23 June 2007. South Africa's latest satellite project SumbandilaSat which is planned for launch in June and carries Amateur Radio Equipment. For more information about the conference visit:

<http://www.amsatsa.org.za> . AMSAT-UK reminds everyone the dates for the 2007 AMSAT-UK Colloquium are 20 through 22 July 2007. We are holding it a week earlier than normal to avoid clashing with the Central States VHF Event. Venue is to be the University of Surrey, as per previous years. Details of the colloquium can be found at: <http://www.uk.amsat.org>. Planning has started for the October 2007 AMSAT-NA Space symposium which will be held in Pittsburgh this year. More details are coming soon. The University of New South Wales in Australia is building BlueSat which will include amateur radio frequencies. More information about this project is on-line at: <http://www.bluesat.unsw.edu.au>. (AMSAT)

AREA ATV MEETING: Sunday March 25, 10:30 AM to 4 PM, at the Historical Electronics Museum in Linthicum!

FCC denies "Hams for Action" petition for rule making

In a February 28 [letter](#), the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) denied a petition for rule making filed last July by Don Schellhardt, KI4PMG, on behalf of "Hams for Action" (HFA). The petition requested that the FCC adopt rules, under certain circumstances, to override private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) preventing radio amateurs from installing antennas and antenna support structures. HFA asked the FCC to preempt CC&Rs that fail to provide reasonable accommodation for any ham certified as an "emergency communications operator." Scot Stone, deputy chief of the WTB's Mobility Division, said the FCC "has previously addressed the question of whether to preempt CC&Rs in deeds and bylaws" that restrict the installation of Amateur Radio antennas and support structures. "In the [PRB-1](#) decision, the Commission established a policy of limited preemption of state and local regulations governing amateur station facilities, including antennas and support structures, but expressly decided not to extend its limited preemption policy to CC&Rs in home ownership deeds and condominium bylaws because "[s]uch agreements are voluntarily entered into by the buyer or tenant when the agreement is executed and do not usually concern the Commission." Stone pointed out that the FCC in 2001 rejected a petition asking it to adopt rules preempting CC&Rs that don't reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio and affirmed that PRB-1 applies only to public land-use regulations. The HFA "has not presented grounds for the Commission to revisit this policy," Stone concluded.

FCC lops fine, admonishes Amateur Radio licensee

The FCC has reduced from \$11,000 to \$2500 the fine it [imposed](#) in 2004 on Daniel Granda, KA6VHC, of Whittier, California. In a *Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O)* released March 1, the FCC said Granda intentionally interfered with Amateur Radio communications and failed to respond to FCC correspondence. Granda, whose Amateur Extra class license renewal is under review, petitioned for reconsideration of the \$11,000 fine in 2004. "In his petition, Mr Granda does not dispute our finding that he caused deliberate interference to Amateur Radio communications nor does he deny his failure to respond to official Commission correspondence," recounted Assistant FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief George R. Dillon, who signed the *MO&O*. "He does contend, however, that imposition of the full forfeiture amount would impose a financial hardship on him and his spouse." The FCC agreed to reduce the fine to \$2500 after reviewing Granda's federal tax returns. "The reduction of the forfeiture amount, however, does not lessen the severity of the violations cited in this proceeding, specifically Mr Granda's intentional interference to radio communications," Dillon cautioned. "For that reason, we will further admonish Mr Granda for his violations." In an ominous footnote, the *MO&O* noted that the Enforcement Bureau had asked the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) to "consider this violation in processing Mr Granda's pending license renewal application for KA6VHC." In August 2003, the WTB set aside the grant of renewal of Granda's license, which expired in November 2003. His renewal application has reverted to "pending" status.

FCC Universal Licensing System modifies Customer Support Hotline hours

The FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) has announced modified hours for Universal Licensing System (ULS) [Customer Support Hotline](#). Online customer support remains available 24/7 on the FCC Web site. The ULS includes the Amateur Radio Service licensee database. Effective March 5, customers will be able to reach the FCC ULS Customer Support Hotline Monday through Friday (excepting federal holidays) from 8 AM until 6 PM Eastern Time. Among other things, ULS Customer Support is a resource for those with technical concerns or with questions about which application purpose is appropriate for a particular filing, the information a particular ULS form or schedule requests and FCC Registration Number (FRN) password issues. Contact ULS Customer Support at (877) 480-3201, option 2 (toll-free) ; (888) 225-5322, option 2 (toll-free) or (717) 338-2888. TTY service is available at (717) 338-2824.

FCC turns down petition to reconsider vanity application dismissal

The FCC has rejected the petition of Ronald W. Moody, K9RWM, of Colfax, Wisconsin, to reconsider its dismissal of his 2006 vanity call sign application. Last April, Moody sought to obtain K9RM. The Commission denied his application, however, because the Universal Licensing System (ULS) showed the call sign as unavailable because the license had expired less than two years earlier. "A call sign is not available for reassignment until two years after the license expires or the licensee's death, whichever is sooner," Scot Stone, deputy chief of the FCC Wireless Telecommunication Bureau's Mobility Division, explained in a February 22 [letter](#). Last June, the WTB got word that the previous holder of K9RM had died in December 2002, and it entered that information into the ULS. "Because more than two years had passed since the licensee's death, amateur station call sign K9RM became available to the vanity call sign system on June 9, 2006," Stone told Moody. "At the time your application was processed, the ULS database showed that the call sign K9RM was not assignable. Consequently, we conclude that your application was properly dismissed." The WTB granted K9RM to an Indiana licensee last June 24.

FCC says no commercial credit for prior military, Amateur Radio, experience

The FCC has told a California radio amateur that it will not waive a commercial license application rule on the basis of his Amateur Radio Morse code qualifications. Last April, Robert E. Griffin, K6YR, of San Luis Obispo, applied for an FCC First Class Radiotelegraph Operator's Certificate -- known as a T1 license -- requesting a waiver of §13.201(b)(1)(iv). That rule says T1 applicants must have a year's experience "sending and receiving public correspondence by radiotelegraph at a public coast station, a ship station, or both." Griffin, who's ARRL Santa Barbara Section Manager and transmits the West Coast Qualifying Run on approximately 3.590 MHz, argued that the FCC should waive the rule because it's nearly impossible in an era of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) to acquire the requisite experience and that the rule presented "an unreasonable hardship and a burdensome requirement." He sought credit on the basis of his military and Amateur Radio radiotelegraph experience, including participation in the Military Affiliate Radio System, in lieu of experience at a public coast station or ship station. In a [letter](#) February 22, the FCC said Griffin failed to demonstrate that the rule in question was "inequitable or burdensome" insofar as *all* T1 applicants face the same requirement, and it denied Griffin's request. "A request for relief from the existing requirement of §13.201(b)(1)(iv) would better be addressed in a rule making proceeding, rather than through the waiver process," the FCC allowed.

FCC Denies Petition to Require Exam Questions in Languages Other than English

The FCC has turned down a petition seeking a rule requiring question pools be prepared for each examination element in languages other than English. Filing on behalf of the Puerto Rico Amateur Radio League ([PRARL](#)), Victor Madera, KP4PQ, sought the change to §97.523 of the rules last year. Madera is the PRARL's secretary and ARRL Puerto Rico Section Manager. The organization cited a need to administer consistent ham radio license exams in Spanish. In a [letter](#) today, the FCC suggested that the PRARL would be better off to approach the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators ([NCVEC](#)) Question Pool Committee (QPC) about establishing language criteria.

Washington Bill Seeks Excise Tax Exemption for Ham Radio Repeaters

ARRL Western Washington Section Manager Ed Bruette, N7NVP, is seeking support from his section's members for a bill that would exempt Amateur Radio repeater owners from having to pay a substantial excise tax based on the commercial value of the repeater's site. Bruette says the problem arose from a new interpretation of the Washington tax code by the state's Department of Revenue that includes repeater site leaseholds.

UK offers "special research permits" for 501 kHz experimentation

Amateur Radio Full licensees in the UK may obtain special research permits to experiment in the vicinity of 501 to 504 kHz, the Radio Society of Great Britain ([RSGB](#)) reports. Telecoms regulator [Ofcom](#) will grant a limited number of Amateur Radio Full licensees permission to operate between 501 and 504 kHz for 12 months, starting March 1, 2007. The RSGB says special research permits under a *Notice of Variation* may be available to Full Amateur Radio licensees on a case-by-case basis to applicants who can demonstrate a genuine interest in LF experimentation and provide adequate supporting documentation. The RSGB says Ofcom will take applicants' prior low-frequency (LF) experience into consideration in an effort to minimize potential interference and will monitor interference reports and limit the number of special research permits if necessary. In any case, Ofcom will not permit ERP levels greater than -10 dBW (0.1 W). A standard application form ([OFW306](#)) is available from the Ofcom Web site.

Australia's WIA applies for 500 kHz amateur allocation

The Wireless Institute of Australia ([WIA](#)) has applied to the Australian Communications and Media Authority ([ACMA](#)) for experimental access to a small band of frequencies near 500 kHz. Amateur Radio operators in the United States, the UK, Sweden and Germany have recently been granted experimental or provisional access to frequencies just above 500 kHz. The New Zealand Amateur Radio Transmitters also has applied for access to the band. "We conducted a poll last year of Australian radio amateurs to ascertain if there was an interest in a similar allocation in Australia," WIA Director Glenn Dunstan, VK4DU, said. "We received numerous enthusiastic responses." The WIA requests a temporary/experimental amateur allocation of 505-515 kHz, in line with current medium-frequency allocations available to radio amateurs and experimenters in Europe and the US. The WIA requested a temporary amateur allocation, rather than an experimental license, because many administrations prohibit communication between amateur and non-amateur stations, Dunstan explained. The WIA proposes a maximum necessary bandwidth of 200 Hz, which limits operation to CW and robust data modes such as PSK31. It's also proposed that normal amateur output power limits be permitted. In the US, a group of 21 radio amateurs are operating in the vicinity of 505 kHz under experimental license [WD2XSH](#), issued to the ARRL last year

Ham-astronauts retract balky antenna during spacewalk

International Space Station (ISS) Expedition 14 Commander Mike Lopez-Alegria, KE5GTK (photo), and Flight Engineer Mikhail Tyurin, RZ3FT, retracted a stuck antenna on a Progress cargo spacecraft during a more than six-hour spacewalk February 22. The antenna failed to retract last October when the Progress docked to the station's Zvezda Service Module. Moving the antenna was necessary to ensure it wouldn't interfere with the Progress undocking in April. Wearing Russian Orlan spacesuits, the pair completed several other tasks during the spacewalk from the Pirs docking compartment. It marked the fifth such excursion for Expedition 14.

Pehuensat-1 gets OSCAR designation

AMSAT OSCAR Coordinator Bill Tynan, W3XO, has announced that AMSAT has issued an OSCAR number to Argentina's Penuensat-1 satellite. It will be known as Pehuensat-OSCAR-63, or PO-63. The second Argentine Amateur Radio satellite, Pehuensat-1 is in a 635 to 640 km sun-synchronous polar orbit (97.92 degree inclination). It was launched January 10 from India. Pehuensat-1 will transmit voice messages in three languages -- English, Hindi and Spanish -- on 145.825 MHz followed by AX.25 1200 bps packet. Named after the native Patagonian Pehuen tree, Pehuensat-1 was developed by the Argentina School of Engineering at the National University of Comahue, the Argentina Association for Technology and Space and AMSAT-LU. More information is on the [AMSAT-LU](#) Web site. [Reception reports](#) are welcome.

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

March 22
RSGB 80m Club Champ. SSB

Mar. 24-25
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB

March 25
UBA Spring Contest, 2 m

March 26
QRP Homebrew Sprint

Mar 31-Apr 1
QCWA Spring QSO Party

April 2
RSGB 80m Club Champ. CW

Apr 3-5
YLRL DX-YL to NA YL, CW

April 5
SARL 80m QSO Party

Apr 7-8
SP DX Contest
Missouri QSO Party
EA RTTY Contest

April 8
UBA Spring Contest, SSB
SARL Hamnet 40 m contest

April 9
144 MHz Spring Sprint

Apr 10-12
YLRL DX to NA Contest, SSB

April 11
RSGB 80m Club Champ. SSB
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint

Apr 14-15
JIDX Contest, CW
Georgia QSO Party

April 14
EU Spring Sprint, CW

April 16
Run for Bacon QRP Contest

April 17
222 MHz Spring Sprint

April 19
RSGB 80m Club Champ., Data

April 21
ES Open HF Championship

April 21-22
Ontario QSO Party
YU DX Contest

April 25
432 MHz Spring Sprint

Apr 28-29
SP DX RTTY Contest
Helvetia Contest
Florida QSO Party

ARRL DX Bulletin**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6.**

Ghis, A61NT has been active on 30 meters around 1400z and 17 meters around 0900z. QSL via ON5NT.

COMOROS, D6.

Vlad, UA4WHX is QRV as D60VB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

SUDAN, ST.

Jovica, ST2A plans to be active on 80 meters at varioustimes from Thursday through Saturday. QSL via T93Y.

VIET NAM, XV.

Rolf, SM5MX is QRV as XV9SW from Hanoi. Activity is mainly on 20 and 15 meters using CW. QSL to home call.

NIUE, ZK2.

Yoshi, JJ8DEN is QRV as ZK2PR. His length of stay is unknown. Activity is mostly on 30, 17 and 15 meters using CW and RTTY. QSL to home call.

MADAGASCAR, 5R.

Vlad, UA4WHX is QRV as 5R8VB. Activity is on all HF bands using CW and SSB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

ALGERIA, 7X.

Yves, F5MSR is QRV as 7X0MT from Algiers. Activity is on the HF bands using mostly CW and digital modes using QRP power. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

FAROE ISLANDS, OY.

Ole, OY3QN has been QRV on 30 meters between 1600 and 1800z. QSL via OZ1ACB.

POLAND, SP.

In celebration of the 40th anniversary of club station SP6PAZ, Piastowski Klub Krotkofalowcow club members are QRV as HF40PAZ until April 30. QSL via SP6PAZ.

Continued next page ...

ARRL President Emeritus Jim Haynie, W5JBP, is "Amateur of the Year"

Dayton Hamvention® has named ARRL President Emeritus *Jim Haynie, W5JBP*, as its 2007 *Amateur of the Year*. Hamvention says Haynie's League leadership "helped define Amateur Radio's role in emergency communication." ARRL Laboratory Manager *Ed Hare, WIRFI*, will receive *Hamvention's Special Achievement Award* to recognize his technical expertise in documenting the threat of interference from broadband over power line (BPL) systems. *David Cameron, VE7LTD*, was named the recipient of the *Technical Excellence Award* for his work developing the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP). Hamvention announced its award winners today.

Buenos Aires Subway to have Wi-Fi by April

US vendor Cisco and Argentine vendor Metrotel are expecting to complete the deployment of Wi-Fi on the Buenos Aires underground by the end of April, reports BNamericas, quoting local news service Canal Ar. 70 stations on four lines are to be connected by a 200km fibre-optic cable installed by Metrotel, with Cisco providing the Wi-Fi equipment.

HAMFESTS

March 31 - April 1: Timonium, MD Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest (BARC Hamfest) Timonium Fairgrounds. Free VE Exams on SUNDAY at 9:30 AM (register at 9 AM). Preregistration is requested: John Creel, WB3GXW, 301-572-5124. (146.67/R) email: info2007@gbhc.org 410-HAM-FEST (410-426-3378)

Sunday, April 15 - Chesapeake, VA CARS SpringFest 2007, Moose Lodge# 898, 1400 N. George Washington Highway. (146.82/R) 757-465-0074. w4car@yahoo.com 757-465-0074

Sunday, May 6 - Hagerstown, MD. Antietam Radio Assoc. Hagerstown Area Hamfest. Washington Co. Agricultural Educ. Center, 7313 Sharpsburg Pike, Hagerstown, MD 147.09/R, dilbert3@earhtlink.net 301-432-2358

Saturday, May 19th - Georgetown, DE Sussex Technical High School ARC, S.T.A.R. Hamfest, Sussex Technical High School, 17099 County Seat Highway (Rt 9), Georgetown, a few miles west of Georgetown (use football entrance west of High School). About 30 miles (45 mins) north of Salisbury and Ocean City MD
Opens: 7 am to 5 pm
Contact Herb Quick, KF3BT in Seaford, DE at 302-629-4949
Talk-In: 147.075+ (PL 156.7) (Sussex ARC, KB3BHL) E-mail: hamiltongraphics@aol.com Cost: Free admission; Tailgating space Free, Indoor Tables \$10

Sunday, May 27 - West Friendship, MD MD FM Memorial Day Hamfest, Howard County Fairgrounds, Rte 144 near Rte 32, adjacent to I-70 (146.76/R, 442.000/R) 301-641-5313

Sunday, June 3 - Manassass, VA Manassass Hamfest, Prince William County Fairgrounds. 10624 Dumfries Rd (146.97/R, 442.200/R) 703-369-2877, mblasdl@aol.com

Sunday, July 22 - West Friendship, MD *The Famous BRATS MD Hamfest and Computer Fest.* Howard County Fairgrounds, Rte 144 near Rte 32, adjacent to I-70 (147.03/R, 448.325/R) 410-461-0086 voice and fax

DAYTON HAMVENTION

For those of you who have been asking when Dayton is: Friday, Saturday, Sunday May 18, 19, 20, Hara Arena, Trotwood, Ohio ...
www.hamvention.org

VE EXAMS

BARC VE Exams for 2007

At BARC Clubhouse, 12360 Owings Mills Blvd, Owings Mills. Registration at 1:30, exams begin at 2 PM. No one admitted after exams begin. Rusty, N3WKE; n3wke@arrrl.net
Saturdays: June 2, August 4, September 1, November 3, December 1
Sundays: April 1 (at Timonium), May 6, October 7

AERO VE EXAMS

\$14 Fee, (ARRL VEC)
March 24; May 19; July 21; September, 29; November 17 -- White Marsh Library, 8133 Sandpiper Circle, White Marsh, Md. 21236
Register at 1 PM, exams begin at 1:30 PM
Pat, AC3F, 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)

MORE ARRL DX BULLETIN

MAURITANIA, 5T.

Alex is QRV as 5T3TN and is generally active on 80 through 20 meters using CW. QSL via RW3TN.

NEPAL, 9N.

Stig is QRV as 9N7JO and has been active on 30 meters around 0100z. GUYANA, 8R. Esmond, 8R1AK/p has been active on 80 meters around 0530z. QSL to home call.

EGYPT, SU.

SU8DLH has been QRV on 160 meters between 0145 and 0400z. QSL via DK2CL.

TRISTAN DA CUNHA AND GOUGH ISLANDS, ZD9.

Brian is QRV as ZD9BCB and has been active on 20 meters between 1800 and 2000z. QSL via SQ8AQD.

CHATHAM ISLAND, ZL7.

Station ZL7/KH0PR has been active on 80 meters using CW between 1030 and 1430z. The length of stay is unknown. QSL via JJ8DEN.

SUPPORT A HAM RADIO CLUB!

Attend a Hamfest next Sunday

milliwatt swap shop

ads are free and get results!

Send ad to: BRATS, P.O. Box 5915
Baltimore, MD 21282-5915, or email
to w3gkxk@verizon.net

FOR SALE: Sylvania 6413TA 13" TV Bilingual on-screen display (English and Spanish) last-channel recall, 3-in-one remote. Price, \$50. Contact Jerry, KB3AP, 443-618-0618.

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.

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

Estate Sale: SWAN 350B 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meter 350 watt transceiver, \$ 200; SWAN SWR 1A Power Meter (2), \$ 15; Hallicrafters S-77A Receiver (Needs Work), \$ 25; Ringo 10 meter vertical (Must be removed from roof), \$50; MFJ901 Antenna Tuner, \$40. All prices negotiable. Contact Frank Stone AC3P 410-687-7209 email: ac3p@arrl.net

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 w3gkxk@verizon.net

FOR SALE: YAESU FT-1000 xcvr, 80-10 meters Kenwood speaker with tuned filter, Yaesu pedestal - mount mike, like new, \$1600 or best offer; ALSO: National SW-3 receiver and TPTG (Tuned Plate Tuned Grid) 10-Watt 1915 era Transmitter , with power supplies for both, \$300 or best offer. Call Bruce, W3UWV, 410-308-3558.

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

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

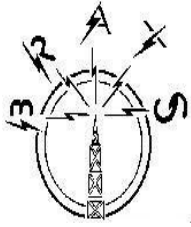
WANTED: AC Gilbert erector sets; old, new, large, small, need not be complete. CASH paid. Lewis, 410-296-4874

ATTENTION: if you do NOT want your ad to run again, please send me an email to that effect.
Thanks! w3gkxk@verizon.net

WANTED: Your ad for this space. Send copy to w3gkxk@verizon.net

2007 BRATS HAMFEST SCHEDULED!

Sunday, July 22, 2007 at the Howard County Fairgrounds.
Info: 410-461-0086



the Milliwatt



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

April 2007

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
www.qcwa.org

AARC

1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7:30 PM
Davidsonville Family Rec.
Center, Queen Anne Bridge Rd,
Wayson Rd (147.105R)
www.w3vpr.org

AMRAD

2nd Thursday, 7:30 PM,
Dolley Madison Library; 1244
Oak Ridge Ave. McLean, VA
(147.21/R)
www.amrad.org

BARC

1st and 3rd Wednesday, 7:30
PM
12360 Owings Mills Blvd (near
warehouse) Owings Mills, MD
(146.67R)
www.baltarc.com

CARA

4th Tuesday,
Gateway Center, Rm 401, 6751
Gateway Dr. Columbia South
off Rt 175 (147.135/R)
www.columbiaara.org

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 145.43/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)

Next BRATS Meeting

Tuesday, April 17, 7:15 PM

Randallstown Library, 8604 Liberty Rd
Annual elections

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

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		