



# the Milliwatt



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

## April, 2008

### **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.

### **Google to offer hurricane alerts**

What started as a small research project made by 2 students at a University, ended up as being the giant of the internet, also known as Google. They've been adding quite a big number of new features/services to the world since its creation, like the old-school Blogger, the 1GB webmail era a.k.a. Gmail, and many others. Well, the latest addition to the Google family is being able to gather hurricane information taking in consideration your location. The working method is simple: just by using a Google application (which is somehow connected to the forecasting service), users can know how risky is the situation. Strangely enough, this service that displays the hurricane risk level will only be available during the Atlantic hurricane season, that happens from June 1 to November 30. During the rest of the year you will have to watch the TV or newspaper, listen to the radio, or make some phone calls, that is, if you're worried about getting hit by a hurricane.

### **Silent Key**

**Lewis I. Reinberg, W2BIE**

**March 15, 2008**

We are sorry to report the passing of Lew, W2BIE. Lew moved from Baltimore to Hempstead Long Island a number of years ago but always kept in touch. Lew and son Steve came to our hamfest religiously each year, often getting up at 3 AM to make the trip from Long Island. He was active in LIMARC. We will miss his pleasant countenance during his appearances on 63/03. Our condolences to his son Steve (N2HOK) and wife Elaine (W2ECR).

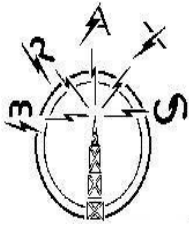
### **Lew Reinberg, W2BIE, (SK):**

Submitted by Ed Muro, K2EPM on March 17, 2008

I regret to inform you of the passing of Lew Reinberg, W2BIE.

Lew was licensed as a ham in 1953 and was very active on all bands (hf, vhf, and uhf.) He was a very active dxer and well known in the ham communities in New York and his beloved Baltimore. Retired from the photographic and electronics industry, Lew's last job was with the Azden Company who at one time made rock-solid ham radios. Both Lew's wife w2ecr & son n2hok are active amateurs. I don't think there was a room in Lew's house that wasn't within ear shot of a ham radio or scanner.

[eham.net]



# the Milliwatt

The award-winning monthly publication of The BRATS.

Items herein may be reprinted with credit.

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX, Editor

## Some Thoughts

Unfortunately, we had to get the Silent Key logo out again this month. Lew, W2BIE, passed away during March. We will miss him. Lew was a long-time member of The BRATS, keeping up his BRATS membership even though he lived in New York. Many of us remember him as he often got on the repeater during his frequent visits to Baltimore. Many of us recall his visits to our hamfest each year. Distance did not distance Lew from us. We certainly will miss him.

73, Mayer, W3GXX

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

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

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

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

InfoLine: 410- 461-1212

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

President: Ed Rosen, N3GXH

Vice Pres: Edward Koritzer, N3DGY

Secretary: Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX

Treasurer: Les McClure, W3GXT

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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 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, April 15, 7:15 PM

at the Pikesville Library

1301 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville

Tuesday, May 20, Randallstown Library

Tuesday, June 17, Pikesville Library

### **Radio hams tune into lottery grant**

A UNIQUE hobby group for radio enthusiasts has secured a grant of more than £5,000. The Worcester Radio Amateurs Association (WRAA), established in October 2006, is celebrating after being given £5,320 from the National Lottery Awards for All scheme. The group, the only amateur radio enthusiast organisation in the Worcestershire area, will use the cash to spread its wings into neighbouring towns. We are keen to promote amateur radio as a life-long hobby, said club chairman Pete Badham, adding that all members were absolutely chuffed with the grant. We want to show everyone just what radio means in today's world, where many technical advances are taken for granted. The money means we can move forward. We are now solvent enough to take it to the next stage - we can offer the training to people outside the club and go out into more schools. As well as regular meetings at their radio shack in Hallow, the club works closely with the Scouts and Guides, teaching youngsters how to use radio communication while camping. In 2007, the club took part in the Scouting movement's centenary celebrations. Members set up a radio station which enabled several hundred Scouts to take the Scout promise whilst the whole world listened. To find out more about the club visit [www.wraa.co.uk](http://www.wraa.co.uk) or call Mr Badham on 01905 330113.

### **Microsoft posts free service pack for Vista fixes**

Microsoft posted a major package of updates and security fixes for its Windows Vista operating system for download starting Tuesday. People whose PCs run the newest Microsoft operating system can use Microsoft's Windows Update tool or visit its Download Center website and download the free Service Pack 1. In some cases, computer users may need to download older updates before they'll be able to install SP1. Many of the fixes contained in SP1 have already been released as part of regular monthly updates in the year since the operating system went on sale to consumers. Microsoft has said SP1 improves Vista's reliability, security and performance. Before SP1 was made widely available, Microsoft had determined that a handful of programs will fail in some way after SP1 is installed. On Tuesday, a Windows team blog said PC users with some drivers installed will temporarily not be able to get SP1 at all. Microsoft said SP1 will block several applications from running for reliability reasons. The list includes BitDefender Anti-virus and Internet Security, version 10; Fujitsu's Shock Sensor hard drive protection for rugged laptops; two versions of Jiangmin KV Anti-virus software and Check Point Technologies' Zone Alarm Security Suite. The company said a few programs won't run on SP1, such as Web application design program Iron Speed Designer, while others will stop working well, like The New York Times Reader application. Certain device drivers from RealTek AC, Intel and Symantec are among those Microsoft said would prevent an upgrade to SP1. The software maker said PC users can seek out updates from most of the makers of those devices to fix the problem. Industry analysts offered mixed reports on whether Vista SP1 makes a noticeable difference on the way their computers run. Michael Cherry, of the research group Directions on Microsoft, said that after installing SP1, the time it took to copy files over a network returned to normal meaning, the operation felt as speedy as it did using Windows XP, Vista's predecessor. But he said one thing SP1 didn't fix was his ability to wake his PC from sleep mode, which he described as a hit or miss affair. Rob Enderle, principal analyst with the Enderle Group, said it took an hour or so to install the service pack on each of two of his computers, but once the machines were upgraded they both seemed snappier and less prone to crashing. Is Vista as fast as XP or not now it's close enough where you can have the argument, where before, (Vista) was clearly slower, Enderle said. While Cherry argued that breaking a short list of security programs was unacceptable, Enderle said that's par for the course with service packs, which often make changes to the deepest layers of the operating system, which security programs also access. For now, the service pack is available for copies of Vista in five languages: English, French, Spanish, German and Japanese. The service pack for other languages will be released for manufacturing in mid-April, which Microsoft is also expected to push the upgrades to computer users who have set their PCs to receive automatic updates. While Microsoft has not specified when retailers will start stocking boxed copies of Vista SP1, Web retailer Amazon.com is selling the software for shipping Wednesday.

### **Virgin unveils spaceship model**

Virgin Galactic Entrepreneur Richard Branson Wednesday unveiled a model of the spaceship he hopes will be the first to take paying passengers into space on a regular basis next year. Branson, whose [Virgin Galactic](http://www.virgin.com) is one of several commercial enterprises vying to offer the ultimate in sightseeing, said his SpaceShipTwo will start test flights later this year. Two thousand eight is going to be the year of the spaceship. We're excited about this, and everything it will do, said Branson at a media event at the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan. Virgin Galactic, part of Branson's airline, vacation and retail company Virgin Group, has more than 200 people signed up and \$30 million in deposits for the rides, which cost about \$200,000 per person.

### **Reminder:**

**May BRATS Meeting, Tuesday, May 20 at RANDALLSTOWN Library!**

April 15 and June 17 meetings in Pikesville as usual ...

**Denver's free Wi-Fi doesn't grant access to all sites**

Denver International Airport is blocking certain websites from its free Wi-Fi network, fearing that some customers could find the sites offensive, according to The Associated Press. For example, The Denver Post writes that if you want to browse Vanity Fair magazine, then you'll have to buy it at the newsstand, because (Denver's) Internet filter blocks Vanity Fair as provocative. The Post says other blocked sites include celebrity gossip site perezhilton.com and hipster-geek favorite boingboing.net. The Post adds the Sports Illustrated's swimsuit photos are also blocked, although the paper says that's even though the magazine's bare-breasted cover shot is on prominent display at airport stores, right next to Penthouse and Hustler.

Airport spokesman Chuck Cannon tells the Post the airport decided to begin using a web-filtering system provided by the Webwasher when the airport switched from fee-based Internet access to one with free access. The Post says Denver officials preferred to deal with infrequent blocking complaints rather than angry parents whose children walked by a screen showing pornography, Cannon said. Predictably, there are critics including the editor of blocked site boingboing.net. It seems particularly unfortunate that something as symbolic as the city's airport, a gateway to culture, commerce and the flow of ideas, would be blocked in such a fundamental way, boingboing.net's Xeni Jardin tells the Post. The intent is understandable, but the outcome is bad for Denver.

**New cellphone coaches, monitors heart rate**

Adidas and Samsung have teamed up for a new twist in training—a mobile phone that can coach. The companies announced Thursday a mobile phone that works with Adidas shoes and apparel to plan, track and motivate users in training. The device directs and motivates users during workouts by combining a mobile phone, heart rate monitor, stride sensor, MP3 player and the voice of an electronic personal coach. MiCoach hits retail stores in Europe this month and will roll out in the United States in 2009. It will cost \$304 to \$608 in Europe, depending on the service plan users select. U.S. pricing has not been set. This is the most advanced coaching system that is out there, said Andrea Corso, spokeswoman for Portland-based Adidas U.S. The new Adidas-Samsung collaboration is the latest of several tech-sport partnerships. Most comparable is Nike and Apple's Nike+, a wireless system that allows Nike running shoes embedded with a sensor to communicate with Apple's iPod Nano. An update this week allows users to plug their iPods into gym equipment and track their training there as well. MiCoach is a bit more expansive because it includes a mobile phone and a camera. It also helps runners set goals and then reach them by monitoring their heart rates and telling them when to slow down or speed up to meet a goal for distance, fitness or calorie burn. This about getting to the next level, whether that is running a mile or running a marathon, Corso said. Adidas will offer equipment and clothing for runners to attach miCoach and the heart monitor to themselves. The sensor can be attached to any shoe.

**Emirates says it's the first airline to allow cellphone calls**

Emirates says in a press release this afternoon that it has become the first airline in the world to commercially launch an in-flight mobile telephone service, affording even greater convenience to passengers wishing to stay connected while traveling. The first authorized mobile phone call made from a commercial flight was made today at 30,000 feet en route to Casablanca, onboard an Emirates Airbus A340-300 aircraft—the first in the airline's fleet to be equipped with the AeroMobile system. Emirates CEO Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum says: As the world leader in innovation for our customers, we are delighted to now offer them the choice of using their own mobile phones to contact friends, family or colleagues while flying with us.

Emirates says its mobile phone service will only be activated when the aircraft is at cruising altitude and the cabin crew will have full control over the system, including the ability to prevent voice calls at certain times such as during night flights. The number of calls that may be made at any one time is also limited to a maximum of five or six calls, the same number as for the current in-seat phones used regularly by Emirates passengers.

### At 63, Israeli immigrant solves 38-year-old math riddle

A mathematical mystery that has baffled the top minds in the esoteric field of symbolic dynamics for nearly four decades has recently been cracked by a 63-year-old former security guard.

Avraham Trakhtman, a mathematician who worked as a laborer after immigrating to Israel from Russia, has succeeded where dozens have failed, solving the elusive Road Coloring Problem.

The conjecture essentially assumes that it is possible to create a universal map that would direct people to arrive at a certain destination, at the same time, regardless of their original location. Experts say this proposition, which seems to defy logic, could actually have real-life applications in the fields of mapping and computer science.

In math circles, we talk about beautiful results — this is beautiful and it is unexpected. Even in layman's terms it is completely counterintuitive, but somehow it works, said Stuart Margolis, a colleague who recruited Trakhtman to Bar Ilan University near Tel Aviv.

He said the discovery was especially remarkable given Trakhtman's age and background. The first time I met him he was wearing a night watchman's uniform, he said.

The Road Coloring Problem was first posed in 1970 by Benjamin Weiss, an Israeli-American mathematician, and a colleague, Roy Adler, who worked at IBM at the time.

Weiss said he believed that given a finite number of roads, one should be able to draw up a map, coded in various colors, that would lead to a certain destination regardless of the point of origin.

For eight years, he tried to prove his theory. Over the next 30 years, some 100 other scientists attempted to as well. All failed, until Trakhtman came along and, in eight short pages, jotted the solution down in pencil last year.

Trakhtman said it took him a year to solve the problem. But that wasn't nearly as impressive as the journey he took to get to his current lofty position.

Originally from Yekaterinburg, Russia, Trakhtman was already an accomplished mathematician before he came to Israel in 1992, at the age of 48. But like many immigrants in the wave that followed the breakup of the former Soviet Union, he too struggled to find work in the Jewish state and was forced into stints working maintenance and security before landing a teaching position at Bar Ilan in 1995.

The soft-spoken Trakhtman declined to discuss his arduous odyssey, saying those were the old days. He said he was lucky to be recognized, but played down his recent achievement as a matter for mathematicians and said it hasn't changed him a bit.

The solution is not that complicated. It's hard, but it is not that complicated, he said in heavily accented Hebrew. Some people think they need to be complicated. I think they need to be nice and simple.

Trakhtman's solution is available for viewing on the Internet and will soon be published in the Israel Journal of Mathematics.

Weiss said it gave him great joy to see someone solve his problem, adding that Trakhtman's solution is something that is understandable.

Joel Friedman, a math professor at the University of British Columbia, said probably everyone in the field of symbolic dynamics has tried to solve the Roadmap Coloring Problem at some point, including himself. He said people in the related disciplines of graph theory, discrete math and theoretical computer science have also tried.

The solution to this problem has definitely generated excitement in the mathematical community, he said in an e-mail message.

Trakhtman's achievement is hardly the longest open problem to be solved recently. In 1994, British mathematician Andrew Wiles solved Fermat's last theorem, which had been open for more than 300 years.

Margolis, Trakhtman's colleague at Bar Ilan, said the solution could have many applications.

Say you've lost an e-mail and you want to get it back — it would be guaranteed, he said. Let's say you are lost in a town you have never been in before and you have to get to a friend's house and there are no street signs — the directions will work no matter what.

But even more exciting, he said, was Trakhtman's personal history and advanced age, at least in the math world.

The heartwarming part of it is here is a guy who had a good reputation for his work in the Soviet Union and couldn't get work, he said.

Math is usually a younger person's game, like music and the arts, he said. Usually you do your better work in your mid 20's and early 30's. He certainly came up with a good one at age 63, he said.

### AMSAT Block of Rooms at Dayton

AMSAT will once again have a block of rooms available for members at the Dayton Hamvention. The AMSAT rate will be available from May 14 Through May 18. To reserve a room you can e-mail Martha at the AMSAT Office ([martha@amsat.org](mailto:martha@amsat.org)) or call her at (301) 589-6062; fax at (301) 608-3410. She will need to know your name, your daytime phone number, dates room needed, credit card number and expiration date. Remember, if you snooze, you lose !

**ARRL, FCC, Department of Defense Review New Developments in PAVE PAWS Interference Mitigation**

The FCC, ARRL representatives and agents of the various US Air Force units working on developing a plan to mitigate alleged interference from 70 cm ham radio repeaters to PAVE PAWS radar systems on both coasts met February 20 via conference call. The purpose of the conference was to review the status of the mitigation plans at both sites: the Massachusetts Military Reservation on Cape Cod and Beale AFB, north of Sacramento, California. Thanks to the cooperation and assistance of the involved repeater owners on Cape Cod, ARRL Regulatory Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, said, I am pleased to be able to pass along that at this time that the Department of Defense has determined that the levels of harmful interference to the PAVE PAWS radar site on Cape Cod have been sufficiently reduced. As part of this determination, they are not rescheduling additional follow-up testing for that area until sometime in 2009. Henderson said that this decision doesn't mean New England is back to pre-mitigation repeater operation:

Any mitigation steps that have been taken should remain in place. A repeater that has gone off the air should not be simply turned back on at its original power level - its previously determined mitigation standard still applies in order to protect the primary user from harmful interference. Henderson stressed that the entire process is ongoing. The high degree of voluntary cooperation shown by the owners of Air Force-identified repeaters has helped demonstrate to the DoD that the amateur community takes its responsibility seriously. This should help us retain access to the band in the long run.

**Nominations Invited for 2008 Young Ham of the Year Award**

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year (YHOTY) Award. The award honors a licensee 18 years old or younger who has used ham radio to significantly contribute to the benefit of the Amateur Radio Service, to the state of the communications art, to the community or the nation. Any FCC licensed radio amateur, age 18 or younger, residing in the United States (including Alaska and Hawaii), Canada or Puerto Rico is eligible to be nominated for this award. Nominations and supporting materials must be submitted before May 30, 2008 on an official application.

**2010 Olympics seeks amateur radio volunteers**

The Vancouver Olympics Committee (VANOC) has given Radio Amateurs of Canada details of their search for ham radio volunteers to assist during the Olympic Winter Games (Feb. 12-28, 2010) and Paralympic Winter Games (March 12-21, 2010). Volunteers must have their own local accommodation in Greater Vancouver or Whistler areas.

**GAREC-2008 in Friedrichshafen, Germany**

The fourth Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference, GAREC- 2008, will take place on Thursday, 26, and Friday, 27 June 2008 in Friedrichshafen, Germany, in combination with HamRadio 2008 (27-29 June).

**VP6DX breaks expedition records**

Last month's VP6DX Ducie Island DXpedition logged nearly 183,700 contacts. This included nearly 7,000 on top band and more than 10,000 using digital modes. They made an almost equal number of CW and SSB contacts at around 87,000 each. By the time the south Pacific operation finished on 27 February, the group had broken several records. One was for the largest number of contacts made by any radio expedition. Further detailed information is on the web at [www.vp6dx.com](http://www.vp6dx.com)

### **FCC Slams Pennsylvania Ham with Forfeiture Order**

On March 6, the FCC announced that it has issued a Forfeiture Order in the amount of \$4300 to Ronald Mondgock, KA3OMZ, of Honeybrook, Pennsylvania, for willfully and repeatedly violating Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (Act), by operating radio transmitting equipment on the frequencies 439.850 MHz and 147.560 MHz without a license. Section 301 states a federal license is required to operate any apparatus for the transmission of energy or communications or signals by radio. Mondgock's Amateur Radio license expired in December 2005.

### **FCC Amateur Radio Enforcement Correspondence Posted**

The FCC has posted new Amateur Radio enforcement correspondence on its [Amateur Radio Service Enforcement Actions](#) Web page. Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth sent a *Warning Notice* to [Amanda F. Spenlinhauer, KB1COX](#). Hollingsworth also sent a letter inquiring about interference from a Part 15 device to a licensee in Holmen, Wisconsin, and a *Warning Notice* concerning interference on 10 meters from an unlicensed station, Harmony, North Carolina. Two cases were opened by the Commission regarding unlicensed transmissions on non-amateur frequencies by amateur licensees in Zebulon and Pikeville, North Carolina. The Appalachian Power Company in Charleston, West Virginia also received a letter from the FCC regarding radio frequency interference from power line hardware to an Amateur Radio licensee. Direct all questions concerning the Amateur Radio Service Enforcement Actions Web postings *via e-mail only* to [Riley Hollingsworth](#) in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division.

### **FCC's wireless airwaves sales raises \$19.6 billion**

One of the U.S. government's most significant sales of wireless airwaves concluded on Tuesday, racking up nearly \$19.6 billion in bids over 261 rounds.

The 700MHz spectrum, which is currently being used to air analog TV broadcasts, was put on the auction block by the Federal Communications Commission in January. It's scheduled to be freed up by February 2009 to make way for all-digital broadcasts.

The slice of airwaves has proven attractive to potential bidders including [Google](#), Verizon, and others not only because it's one of the last remaining chunks of beachfront spectrum, but because of its inherent properties, which mean the waves can travel long distances and propagate through walls. Some say those characteristics make it ideal for offering more robust, affordable wireless broadband services.

The FCC, in a nod to requests from Google and consumer advocacy groups, dictated that about one-third of the spectrum must abide by open access principles, requiring whoever wins control of it to allow consumers to operate whatever mobile devices and applications they like.

Another slice of the spectrum was intended to be used to build a nationwide network for public safety operators. But that segment reportedly did not attract the reserve price that the FCC had set, which is potentially a serious setback for proponents of that plan.

It wasn't immediately clear when the FCC would reveal the identities of the winning bidders.

### **Amateur Radio Exempt from California's New Hands Free Law**

On July 1, the State of California will have new laws on the books to deal with the use of wireless telephones while driving. There has been some confusion as to whether California amateurs who operate in their car will be affected by the new law. According to the California Department of Motor Vehicle's Web site

[http://www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws/dl208\\_03cell\\_phone.pdf](http://www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws/dl208_03cell_phone.pdf), the use of dedicated two-way radios such as walkie-talkies or Citizen Band (CB) radios is not affected by the new law for drivers 18 or older.

Source: The ARRL Letter Vol. 27, No. 10 March 14, 2008

**N2Y and N2J Special Event**

N2Y and N2J will be the Special Event call signs used for this year's special event honoring the precious lives that were lost and giving thanks to the world that stood by us in time of need while this tragic event shattered lives throughout the globe. Let us not forget the lives that were taken during the first attack on the World Trade Center in 1993. This is for them as well!

We will be operating from a very special location not many know about. Operations will commence on Sept. 11 at 0000UTC and will be a multi-operator event. Operating bands will be:

6m }  
 10m } Short periods of time unless bands open!  
 12m }  
  
 15m }  
 17m } Will be concentrating the most!  
 20m }  
 30m }  
 40m }  
  
 160m } Tentative!

**D-Star expands on two metres**

The D-Star system has become accessible to many more UK stations thanks to several newly operational two meter repeaters. These include GB7DG in Glasgow, GB7YD in Yorkshire, GB7MI in Manchester and GB7DE in Fife. D-Star repeaters have already become well established on the 70cm band but these VHF units will considerably broaden access to the network. An overview of D-Star was published in the March edition of RadCom, and coverage information can be found at [www.ukrepeater.net](http://www.ukrepeater.net) Barnsley's new 70cm D-Star repeater has been forced off the air because interference on its input from unlicensed devices. GB7YD dash C on 433.9125MHz has been removed from service until an alternative frequency can be found. This part of the band is used by a large number of licence-exempt micro power consumer electronic devices. These include vehicle keyless entry systems, wireless door bells and data links for home weather stations. [GB2RS]

**Ultra-stable microwave beacon**

Improvements have been made to the 5.76GHz beacon on Bell Hill, near Blandford in Dorset. GB3SCC has been given a high stability GPS locked frequency standard and DFCWi keying. The beacon now maintains its nominal frequency of 5760.905007MHz to an accuracy of a few Hertz. Reception reports will be gratefully received by G0API, whose address is correct in the RSGB Yearbook. Alternatively, visit the web site of the South Coast Repeater and Beacon Group at [www.scrbg.org](http://www.scrbg.org), where full details of all their beacons can be found. [RSGB]

**BBC closes European World Service transmitters**

The BBC has announced that all its shortwave radio transmissions to Europe ceased on 18 February 2008. Although they recognise that this will be a loss to some of their listeners, they point out that BBC World Service radio programmes are delivered to Europe via other platforms including longwave at night. The experimental Digital DRM transmissions for North East continental Europe will continue unaffected. Full details of World Service sound broadcasts can be found on the web at [bbc.co.uk/worldservice](http://bbc.co.uk/worldservice). The BBC's World Service grew from the original Empire Service, which was inaugurated in 1932. Last year it celebrated its 75th anniversary, with an estimated world audience of some 180 million. [GB2RS]

**Special permits for 4m band in Czech Republic**

It is reported that some amateurs in the Czech Republic will soon have access to the 4 metre band. There are plans to issue up to 20 special permits for 70.2 to 70.3MHz with 10 Watts ERP. The permits will be valid until 31 December 2008. [GB2RS]

**DXCC status of Kosovo clarified**

ARRL's DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, has clarified the situation regarding the DXCC status of newly independent Kosovo. It cannot be added to the list of DXCC entities until it becomes a member of the UN, or if it receives a prefix block from the ITU. The date of inclusion in DXCC will be the date that either of these conditions is met. [GB2RS]

**WA7BNM Contest Calendar**

March 29-30

CQ WW WPX Contest., SSB

April 4-6

YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest

April 5-6

SP DX Contest

EA RTTY Contest

QCWA Spring QSO Party

Missouri QSO Party

Yuri Gagarin Int 1 DX Contest

April 6

80m Club Championship, CW

April 11-13

YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL , SSB

April 12-13

JIDX CW Contest

Radio Maritime Day

Georgia QSO Party

April 12

EU Spring Sprint, CW

April 13

UBA Spring Contest, SSB

April 19

Holyland DX Contest

ES Open HF Championship

EA QRP Contest, CW

April 19-20

Ontario QSO Party

YU DX Contest

April 24

80 m Club Championship, Data

April 26-27

SP DX RTTY Contest

Helvetia Contest

Florida QSO Party

(Thanks, WA7BNM)

**NEXT BRATS MEETINGS, 7:15 PM**

Tuesday, April 15, Pikesville library

Tuesday, May 20, Randallstown Library

Tuesday, June 17, Pikesville Library

**MIR +10**

Slow Scan TV from Space Station Mir, 10 years later. On December 12, 1998 the crew members of the Russian Space station Mir activated the Marex SSTV system. Over the next two years the system broadcasted over 20,000 SSTV images back to earth via Amateur Radio. For the 10 year anniversary of the successful imaging project, the Marex team is planning on upgrading their web page system to accommodate the many images that were transmitted during the project's 2 year run. In 1998 we just did not have the resources in place to handle the hundreds of images coming in every day. As a result only a small select on of the images were ever posted for public enjoyment. *73 Miles WF1F MAREX-MG [AMSAT]*

**ARRL DX Bulletin**

NAURU, C2.

Dick, C21DL has been active on 160 meters between 1445 and 1540z. QSL via DJ2EH.

WAKE ISLAND, KH9.

Colin, WA2YUN is QRV as WA2YUN/KH9 while on work assignment. He is active as time permits. QSL via K2PF.

EGYPT, SU.

Hans, SU9HP has been active on 20 meters CW around 2000z. QSL via SC6A.

CONGO, 9Q.

Station 9Q1EK has been active on 160 meters around 0450z and 15 meters around 1000 to 1300z. QSL via SM5DJZ.

RAN, EP.

Sadegh, EP3HF has been QRV on 15 meters around 0930z and then 17 meters around 1000z. QSL direct.

GABON, TR.

Alain, TR8CA has been active on 160 and 80 meters using CW from around 0500 to 0600z. QSL via F6CBC.

**OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT**

The following operation is approved for DXCC credit: Equatorial Guinea, 3C7Y, 2007 operation.

MOZAMBIQUE, C9.

Rodrigo, CT1BXT is QRV as C91R from Maputo until August 1. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters, with an emphasis on the lower bands. QSL to home call.

FRANZ JOSEF ISLAND, R1FJ.

Gene, R1FJT has been active on 20 and 30 meters using PSK and RTTY at various times. QSL via UA4RC.

WESTERN SAHARA, S0.

Mahafud, S01MZ has been active on 40 meters around 2300z. QSL via EA1BT.

LAOS, XW.

Bruce, XW1B has been active using RTTY on 20 meters around 1100 to 1300z. QSL via E21EIC.

**OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT.**

The following operation has been approved for DXCC credit: Kermadec Island, ZL1GO/8, 2007 operation.

SVALBARD, JW.

Operators PE1L and PA0ZH are QRV as JW/home calls until June 15. Activity is on 6 meters. QSL via operators instructions.

**APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT.**

TX5C, Clipperton Island. VP6DX, Ducie Island. Both are 2008 operations.

## Hamfests and Events

**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

**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:** Feb 2, March 1, 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)

### Arthur C Clarke dies

We are sad to note the passing of writer Arthur C Clarke. While not a licensed amateur, his technical and literary work influenced many in the amateur world. He was well respected by many amateur organisations, notably AMSAT, and was once President of the British Amateur Television Club. [RSGB]

### SA Maritime Net

The South African Maritime Net operates 7 days a week, and provides weather reports from around the coast, and maintains contact with boats off the coast of South Africa and up into the Mozambique channel. There are two regular schedule times as follows:  
06:30 UTC: Starts on 14316 kHz for 5-10 minutes, and then moves to 7045 kHz.  
11:30 UTC: Starts on 14316 kHz for approximately 30 minutes and then moves down to 7045 kHz.

## 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)

### Alan Wright (9H1AW), Fixing Antenna, Silent Key

A 71 year-old Briton died tragically on January 22, 2008 when he fell a height of three storeys in George Borg Olivier Street in Rabat, Malta. Alan Wright, a radio amateur, fell off a ladder while fixing an antenna. Police sources said he was rather unfortunate not to fall onto his own roof but into a shaft, ending up on the roof of a residence below. The accident happened at about 4 PM. Mr Wright was married and had been living in Malta for over five years. He moved to Rabat only recently. On Sunday mornings he often frequented the Malta Amateur Radio League in Attard and was last seen there on January 13, 2008. His call sign was 9H1AW. An on-site inquiry was held and an autopsy will be performed. Police Inspector Nezren Grixti is heading investigations.

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20080123/local/elderly-radio-amateur-dies-in-fall>

### **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**

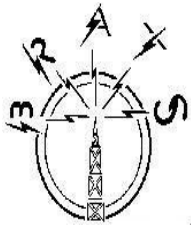
Eric, WA3TAD, Audio-Visual Service / Retro Radio, 3401 Chestnut Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21211. 410-467-3620; [wa3tad@comcast.net](mailto:wa3tad@comcast.net)

### **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)



# the Milliwatt



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

## April 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, April 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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