



the Milliwatt



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

April, 2009

Attention All Amateurs ...

Julius Genachowski Nominated as Next FCC Chairman

On Tuesday, March 3, President Barack Obama nominated Julius Genachowski as FCC Chairman. Genachowski, 46, is a technology executive and a former classmate of Obama's from Harvard Law School. Upon Senate confirmation, Genachowski will replace Acting FCC Chairman Michael Copps; Copps took over the Commission on January 22, 2009, two days after then-Chairman Kevin Martin resigned. Genachowski has been widely praised by industry executives and consumer-activist groups -- two groups often at odds -- for his wide-ranging experience and intimate knowledge of technology issues.

Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein to Leave FCC

On Friday, March 20, President Barack Obama announced his intention to nominate Democrat FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein to serve as Administrator for the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), of the United States Department of Agriculture; the nomination will need to be confirmed by the US Senate. It is speculated that Adelstein will not leave the five-member Commission until at least one of the three Commissioner vacancies is filled, since his departure would leave the FCC without a quorum.

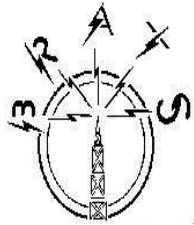
FCC Clarifies What Constitutes an Amateur Radio Repeater

In December 2007, Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, President of the Northern California Packet Association (NCPA), filed a Petition with the FCC, asking for the Commission to clarify the definition of a repeater. According to Part 97, Section 3(a)(39), A repeater in the amateur service is "[a]n amateur station that simultaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels."

FCC Denies Petition to Increase Size of Amateur Radio Question Pools

In April 2008, Michael Mancuso, KI4NGN, of Raleigh, North Carolina, filed a petition with the FCC, seeking to increase the size of the question pools that make up the Amateur Radio licensing exams. Mancuso sought to increase the question pool from 10 times the number of questions on an exam to 50 times more questions. On March 19, 2009, the Commission notified Mancuso that it was denying his petition.

BRATS MARYLAND HAMFEST Sunday July 19, 2009 at the Howard County Fairgrounds!



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The award-winning monthly publication of The BRATS.

Items herein may be reprinted with credit.

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX, Editor

Some Thoughts

Last month we mentioned the cancellation of the Frederick Hamfest. Hopefully they will find a lower priced venue and come back next year. We have had to cut back on table sales at our hamfest for a number of reasons, making it essentially a tailgating hamest. But we need your help, participation and support, so we too don't have to cancel in the future. Call 410-461-1212 and volunteer to help. Now!
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

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

Webmaster: Laura F, KB3LJM

Chairman of the Board: Heru Walmsley, W3WVV

Vice Chairman, Technical: Mike Dees, N3EZZ

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+, 224.8-

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

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:

Sun 8 pm MATS ATV Net

As needed Weather/Emergency Net, Skywarn

BRATS Board of Directors

Through 12/09:

KA3IDB, KB3FIF, K0RYX

Through 12/10:

W3ZQI, KB3LJM, K2GZL

Regular BRATS Meetings

3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:15 PM

Pikesville Library, 1301 Reisterstown Rd

Next BRATS Meeting

Tuesday, April 21, 7:15 PM

Pikesville Library

1301 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville

Please Plan to Join Us!

Hams to Activate Midway Atoll as K4M in October 2009

Earlier this year, US Fish and Wildlife Service ([USFWS](#)) [announced](#) that they would open [Midway Atoll](#) to Amateur Radio operations for two weeks only, from October 5-19, 2009. Tom Harrell, N4XP, of Monroe, Georgia, and Dave Johnson, WB4JTT, of Aitkin, Minnesota, have put together a team of 19 operators from all over the world to [activate Midway Atoll](#) for a 10 day period as K4M. This the first time that USFWS has allowed amateurs to operate from the wildlife refuge since 2002.

US Coast Guard to Discontinue LORAN Stations

Last month, the [US Coast Guard](#) announced that due to economic conditions, they would be closing down the 24 [LORAN-C](#) (Long Range Aid to Navigation) stations operated under the auspices of the USCG. LORAN stations provide navigation, location and timing services for both civil and military air, land and marine users. According to the USCG, LORAN-C is approved as an en route supplemental air navigation system for both Instrument Flight Rule ([IFR](#)) and Visual Flight Rule ([VFR](#)) operations. The LORAN-C system serves the 48 continental states, their coastal areas and parts of Alaska.

Burghardt to No Longer Sell Amateur Radio Equipment

On March 16, Jim Smith, W0MJY, owner of [Burghardt Amateur Center](#) in Watertown, South Dakota, announced that the company will no longer sell Amateur Radio transceivers and accessories. The company, now called Burghardt Radio Repair, has canceled all backorders. In an e-mail, Smith blamed the current economic conditions for the change that forced the company "to re-evaluate our goals and direction. We will continue to provide radio repair service as it has become a very busy business. Our technicians are very experienced and parts inventories are good. Thank you for your support in the past and we look forward to continuing our relationships through our servicing facility." Jim Smith's son, Mike Smith, KC0FTM, told the ARRL that even though the company has had to lay off employees in the past couple of months, "Burghardt will concentrate on service, just like we have been doing since 1973."

Amateur radio club losing its Hall of Science signal

AN AMATEUR radio club that has been doing volunteer demonstrations at the New York Hall of Science for more than 35 years may soon be in search of a new home. The Corona museum is undergoing extensive renovations and no longer has enough space to host the club, museum officials said. Though nothing has been finalized, the club has been talking to other museums about finding a permanent home. "It looks pretty likely to me that we'll leave the museum by the end of June," said New York Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club President Tom Tumino. His group started an online petition in December to protest the move. It has garnered more than 1,300 signatures to date. "We're 96 volunteers who paid and volunteered their time to maintain an exhibit," Tumino said. "I can't imagine why the museum would ever want us to leave."

ARRL Releases *Experimental Methods in RF Design*

The revised first edition of [Experimental Methods in RF Design](#) is now available from the ARRL. Co-written and updated by Wes Hayward, W7ZOI, Rick Campbell, KK7B, and Bob Larkin, W7PUA, [Experimental Methods in RF Design](#) explores wide dynamic range, low distortion radio equipment, the use of direct conversion and phasing methods and digital signal processing. Use the models and discussion included in the book to design, build and measure equipment at both the circuit and the system level. This edition explores wide dynamic range, low distortion radio equipment, the use of direct conversion and phasing methods as a serious communications architecture.

Legislation Introduced in US Senate to Inventory Radio Spectrum

Two US Senators -- Democrat John Kerry of Massachusetts and Republican Olympia Snowe of Maine -- have introduced a bill in the Senate that would mandate an inventory of radio spectrum bands managed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Federal Communications Commission. The inventory would include those frequencies between 300 MHz-3.5 GHz managed by the two agencies.

Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, Steps Down from ARISS and AMSAT Duties

Citing personal and professional reasons, Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, announced on March 24 that he will be step down from all his ARISS duties, effective immediately. Bauer serves as ARISS Program Leader, ARISS International Working Group Chair and as the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation's (AMSAT) Vice President for Human Spaceflight Programs, a position he has held since 1991. He is also one of two ARISS USA delegates, serving with ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO.

TWITTER ...

Airports are catching on to the Twitter trend. Baltimore/Washington International now has a Twitter account used to deliver airport status reports and travel information to travelers' smartphones. Twitter is an online service used to send and receive short messages no longer than 140 characters.

Southwest Airlines has opened its priority security lanes at Seattle-Tacoma. The Fly By lanes are dedicated screening lanes for its top-paying customers and frequent fliers. Launched last year, they're available at 64 airports, including Baltimore/Washington, Dallas Love Field and Phoenix Sky Harbor.

Pay to Pee?

Irish carrier Ryanair, Europe's largest budget airline, might start charging passengers for using the toilet while flying, chief executive Michael O'Leary said on Friday. "One thing we have looked at in the past and are looking at again is the possibility of maybe putting a coin slot on the toilet door so that people might actually have to spend a pound (\$1.43) to spend a penny in future," he told BBC television. ("spend a penny is British slang for relieving oneself). He said this would not inconvenience passengers travelling without cash. "I don't think there is anybody in history that has got on board a Ryanair aircraft with less than a pound." O'Leary has a reputation as a cost cutter, expanding Ryanair by offering low headline fares and charging extra for items such as additional luggage. Last week, Ryanair announced it was to shut all check-in desks at airports and have passengers check in online instead. "We're all about finding ways of raising discretionary revenue so we can keep lowering the cost of air travel," he said. (Perhaps passengers would spend less for exorbitantly-priced drinks on board, so they won't have to use the loo, said Reuters)).

News you can use

Want a Duplicate License?

Want a duplicate hard copy of your amateur radio license? Here's how to get one online.

1. Go to this website: <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>
2. Click on the button in the middle next to the word "Search" that says "licenses"
3. Enter your station call sign in the box and on the next screen.
4. Click on your call sign which will be underlined as a link
5. Click on the "Reference Copy" link near the top of the page
6. Print out the duplicate license

While this may not be an "official" license, it is just as good as the one sent out by the FCC. Actually, the only "official" license is the listing contained in the FCC's Amateur Service database.

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

April 4-5

SP DX Contest
Missouri QSO Party

April 11-12

Georgia QSO Party

April 18

Holyland DX Contest

April 18-19

Michigan QSO Party
Ontario QSO Party
YU DX Contest

April 25-26

SP DX RTTY Contest
Helvetia Contest
Florida QSO Party
Nebraska QSO Party

May 2-3

10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW
7th Call Area QSO Party
Indiana QSO Party
New England QSO Party
ARI International DX Contest

(Thanks, Bruce, WA7BNM)

Silent Key**David A. Packham**(listed in the Silent Keys in April *QST*)

ARRL DX Bulletin

NIGERIA, 5N.

Bodo, DL3OCH is QRV as 5N/KT3Q until July 24 while on business. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters, including EME. QSL to home call.

CHAD, TT.

Franck, F4BQO is QRV as TT8CF until July 1. Activity is on all bands using CW and SSB. QSL direct to home call.

UGANDA, 5X.

Nick, G3RWF is QRV as 5X1NH for two months. He is active generally on 80 and 40 meters during his early mornings and evenings using mostly CW. If propagation permits, he may be active using SSB, RTTY and PSK31 as well. QSL to home call.

ZAMBIA, 9J.

Gabriel, YO4HEK is QRV as 9J2YO and is here for one year. He is active on all bands using CW, SSB and PSK31. QSL via YO4ATW.

OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT.

The following operation is approved for DXCC credit:
Desecheo Island, K5D, 2009 operation.

CROATIA, 9A

Special event station 9A09P is active until December 31 in celebration of the city of Djurdjevac. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL via bureau.

FCC Proposes New Rules for Medical Devices Operating on 70 cm Band

On March 20, the FCC issued a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)*, proposing to allocate spectrum and adopt service and technical rules for the utilization of new implanted medical devices that operate on 413-457 MHz (70 cm). According to the Commission, these devices, called implanted neuromuscular microstimulators, would greatly expand the use of functional electric stimulation to restore sensation, mobility and function to those persons with paralyzed limbs and organs; they would be implanted in a patient and function as wireless broadband medical micro-power networks (MMNs). The Amateur Radio Service has a secondary allocation in the 70 cm band.

AO-27 Satellite Comes Back

In December, 2008 AO-27 went off the air. The control team members pursued a strategy to drain the batteries in the hopes of resetting the locked up modem. As of a week ago, the bird has rebooted into the primary bootloader.

During February, 2009 the control team has managed to upload the high level software (EOS) to AO-27 after several attempts. They took a week to collect data to check on the battery status and conduct an on-orbit checkout before returning to analogue mode.

As of March 1, 2009 the AO-27 control team reports that telemetry is looking good. During several passes over the US they turned on the Analogue Repeater. This week the control team will continue the data download schedule to collect as much whole orbit data to check on the health of the batteries. So far, it is looking like AO-27 will return to normal operations on or around March 7th.

AO-27 Uplink: 145.850 MHz FM

AO-27 Downlink: 436.795 MHz FM

<http://www.ao27.org>

Hamfests

April 4 - Georgetown, Del.
Sussex ARC Hamfest - Sussex Tech. H.S. 17099 Route 9,
Georgetown, De (147.075+) 302-629-4949

April 18 - York, PA.
York Spring Hamfest Brookside Park , 4054 Fox Run Rd.
(147.33, PL 123.0) 717-292-3529

Sunday, May 24: W. Friendship, MD
MDFM Memorial Day Hamfest, Howard County
Fairgrounds, Route 144 at Route 32 and I-70; (146.76/R,
444.00/R) WA3MNN 301-641-5313; wa3mnn@verizon.net

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Frederick Fathers Day Hamfest is **CANCELLED!!!!**

BRATS HAMFEST

Sunday, July 19, 2009
Howard County Fairgrounds

June 27-28 FIELD DAY

BRATS with AERO ARC at Camp Genyara, near PA state
line; call Frank, AC3P, 410-687-7209 or ac3p@juno.com

Next BRATS Meeting

Tuesday, April 21, 7:15 PM at the Pikesville Library, 1301
Reisterstown Road.

RSGB negotiates extensions to 500kHz NoVs

Following proposals from the RSGB, Ofcom have extended existing NoVs (NOVs =Notices of Variation = temporary
license) for 501 to 504kHz until 28 February 2010. Letters are being set to all NoV holders. The extension of the NoV
also authorises an ERP of up to +10dBW.

Apple rolls out smaller, talking iPod Shuffle

Apple introduced a smaller version of its popular iPod Shuffle music player Wednesday with a new feature that enables it
to announce songs to its user. The new 4 gigabyte Shuffle will be priced at \$79 and carry up to 1,000 songs, twice as
many as the last generation of Shuffles. Users can control their songs and playlists from an earphone cord using the new
VoiceOver feature which announces the songs to users in 14 different languages. The feature is particularly useful on the
Shuffle as it does not have a display screen like most iPods or other digital music players. Apple product manager Greg
Joswiak said this third generation of iPod Shuffle will be the world's smallest music player, smaller than a AA battery.

VE EXAMS

BARC VE EXAMS for 2009
12360 Owings Mills Blvd. Owings Mills
Register: 1:30 PM, Exams begin 2 PM.
No one admitted after exams begin

Sunday, April 5, 2008
Saturday, May 2, 2009
Saturday, June 6, 2009
Sunday, July 5, 2009
Saturday, August 1, 2009
Saturday, September 5, 2009
Sunday, October 4, 2009
Saturday, November 7, 2009
Saturday, December 5, 2009

n3wke@arrl.net (Thanks, N3YI)

2009 AERO VE EXAMS

Registration at 1 PM, Exams at 1:30.
Fee \$14 (ARRL VEC); All exams at White Marsh Library, 8133
Sandpiper Circle;

May 30, 2009

Pat Stone, 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)

milliwatt swap shop

ads are free and get results!

Send ad to: BRATS, P.O. Box 5915
Baltimore, MD 21282-5915, or email
to w3gxxk@verizon.net

ATTENTION: if you do NOT want your ad to run again,
please send me an email to that effect.
Thanks! w3gxxk@verizon.net

FOR SALE: Icom 144 MHZ transceiver W/charger (ICOM T2H walky), belt clip and rubber ducky, & instruction book. Asking \$80.00. K3BCD, e-mail vwm07@comcast.net or 410-866-5441.

WANTED: I need an AT-930 for a TS-930s . Please send condition and price . Want complete and good unit . Jerry jerrymcf@sbcglobal.net

WANTED: Narrow filter for Kenwood TS-570SG, e.g. 250 hz. such as Kenwood P/N YK-88CN-1 Neil, W3ZQI, 410-765-8439, days, or neilatv@yahoo.com

FOR SALE: mtrs mkd +-10kHz, 0-100 microamps in cabinet, \$10, mtrs and cabinet. 0-50 milliamps & 0-150 VAC \$56 each. 2-80 mtr. Dipole w/insulators and nylon line, \$10. Homebrew VSWR bridge, %5 .Regal RSDP-com duplexer spillter combiner, 2 Mtr./440 \$10. Panoramic adapter BC-1031C \$40, Millen antenna matching pre-amp with 27-32 MHz plug-in \$5. Call Ted, W3OWN. 410-668-5580, if I am out, leave message, I will call back...

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, W3GXX, 410-786-6839 or w3gxxk@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

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

Antique Radio Repair, Restoration

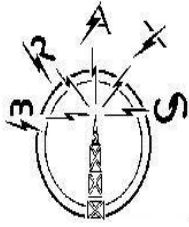
Eric, WA3TAD, Audio-Visual Service / Retro Radio, 3401 Chestnut Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21211. 410-467-3620; wa3tad@comcast.net

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

WANTED: Your ad for this space. Send copy to w3gxxk@verizon.net



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P.O.Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

April 2009

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
147.345+

Thursday, 9 PM

BRATS Net Rotating Net Control, Audio on
147.03/R

Saturday- 8 PM

MATS Net - KB3LNN (BRATS ATV and linked
FM Repeaters)

UTAH ATV

Lots of projects and links:

http://www.ussc.com/~uarc/utah_atv/utah_atv.html
(Thanks, Scott, KB3JQQ)

Interesting Web Site

British Amateur Television Club (BATC)

<http://www.batc.org.uk>

Next BRATS Meeting

Tuesday, April 21, 7:15 PM

Pikesville Library
1301 Reisterstown Road

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

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
