

the Milliwatt



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

May, 2009

FCC Denies New York Ham's Request for PRB-1 Ruling

On March 27, the FCC notified Thomas Morrison, AB2PP, of Yonkers, New York, that it was denying his petition concerning an Amateur Radio antenna support structure Morrison had installed at his home. In his December 2008, petition, Morrison requested the Commission rule that the City of Yonkers did not provide "reasonable accommodation" in its building permit requirements per PRB-1 in regards to the installation of the support structure.

[Morrison filed letters with the FCC asking for a ruling in 2007 and 2008]

"We conclude that these intervening events do not affect our conclusion that, under the Commission's PRB-1 decision, you have not presented an appropriate matter for Commission involvement," the FCC told Morrison. "Because your dispute with the City fundamentally involves whether its building code complies with PRB-1, and PRB-1 recognizes that local tribunals have the authority to handle appeals of local decisions regarding antenna structures, we believe that the matter you inquire about is in the appropriate forum. We therefore decline to act upon your petition."

FCC Denies Michigan Ham's Request for Ruling

In October 2007, Christopher Kaczmarek, KB8MLC, of Saginaw, Michigan, petitioned the FCC for a ruling regarding the installation of his Amateur Radio antenna. Kaczmarek told the FCC that he received a notice from the manager of his mobile home community stating the antennas were not allowed and asked for "a ruling from the Commission recognizing [his] right to an Amateur Radio antenna structure." On April 6, 2009, the FCC denied Kaczmarek's request for a ruling in his favor, based on the fact that PRB-1 protections do not extend to private homeowner's agreements. The Commission agreed with Kaczmarek that Section 97.15 of the Commission's Rules provides that "state and local regulation of antenna structures must not preclude amateur service communications, must reasonably accommodate such communications, and must constitute the minimum practicable regulation to achieve the state or local authority's legitimate purpose." In its letter to Kaczmarek, the FCC pointed out that it has not, however, extended this policy to regulations promulgated by private parties.

Saying that it has considered this same question twice before, the FCC told Kaczmarek that it "chose not to preempt private land use regulations that restrict the installation of antennas and associated support structures used by Amateur Radio stations. As agreements between private parties are voluntarily established and freely entered into, the Commission is hesitant to interfere with them unless it is shown that private agreements will seriously disrupt the federal regulatory scheme."

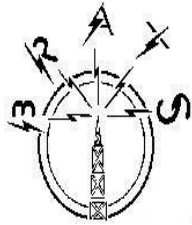
ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service Now Receiving EarthLink Messages

Information Technology Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, reports that as of Tuesday, April 21, EarthLink has stopped blocking mail to **arrl.net** addresses. Earlier this week, the ARRL discovered that EarthLink was blocking e-mail traffic routed to its subscribers (with **earthlink.net**, **peoplepc.net** or netcom.com addresses) via the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service (@**arrl.net** addresses), resulting in valid e-mail traffic bound for an ARRL member's EarthLink e-mail account to "bounce back." More than 1700 ARRL members were affected. ARRL apologizes for any inconvenience this situation may have caused.

SILENT KEYS

Carroll Van Ness, III K3HZU; February 26, 2009

Glenn Wetherall, W3GWW; April 4, 2009



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The award-winning monthly publication of The BRATS.

Items herein may be reprinted with credit.

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX, Editor

BRATS Maryland Hamfest

Sunday, July 19, 2009

Howard County Fairgrounds

Volunteer NOW to help

Call 410-461-1212

Leave a message!

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

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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, May 19, 7:15 PM

Pikesville Library

1301 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville

Please Plan to Join Us!

AMSAT NEWS

- Check out <http://echoesofapollo.com/> for information about the "World Moon Bounce Day" on June 27th 2009. This will feature several very large dish stations which may allow reception on your VHF and UHF Stations. An example of one of the large dishes can be seen at: <http://www.jamesburgdish.org/>
- The SwissCube Amateur Radio Cubesat planned to operate on a downlink frequency of 437.505 MHz is planned for launch on the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from India at the end of April 2009 along with BeeSat, UEW-2 and ITU-pSat. See the details in the article on-line at: http://www.southgatearc.org/news/march2009/swisscube_slideshow.htm

ARRL Releases 2009-2010 Repeater Directory

With more than 20,000 listings for VHF/UHF repeaters across the US and Canada, *The ARRL Repeater Directory 2009-2010* is a must have. Once again, the ARRL is offering two sizes of the *Repeater Directory* -- pocket size and desktop. The pocket-sized Repeater Directory boasts a larger font size, making for easier reading. Both editions feature handy indexing tabs on the cover, easier to read listings and a "Key to Repeater Notes" located right up front in the Directory. Along with these new features, both editions have the features you know and enjoy from prior years: Repeater operating practices, repeater lingo and hints for newly licensed hams; Frequency Coordinator contact information; listings for D-STAR and APCO 25 repeaters; a guide to using CTCSS tones and Digital Coded Squelch (DCS); VHF/UHF band plans and a 2 meter channel-spacing map; IRLP (Internet linked) nodes; tips for handling interference; listings for IRLP, WIRES-II and EchoLink (Internet linked) nodes; emergency message handling procedures, and a transceiver memory log. Order your copy of *The ARRL Repeater Directory 2009-2010* today at the [ARRL Online Store](#).

ARRL Comments on FCC's Proposed Establishment of Rural Broadband Plan

On March 10, 2009, the FCC invited comments via a Public Notice concerning the establishment of a comprehensive rural broadband strategy as part of the Department of Agriculture's Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, commonly known as the 2008 Farm Bill. Per the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), Congress required the FCC to develop a "comprehensive national broadband plan." According to the FCC, they, Congress, and the Secretary of Agriculture "have repeatedly recognized the importance of ensuring access to advanced telecommunications and information services to all Americans, with a special focus on rural and hard-to-serve areas." The proceeding provided an opportunity for the ARRL to express its concerns about broadband over power lines (BPL) that the FCC has yet to satisfactorily address.

New Videos Promoting Field Day, Amateur Radio Technology, Available from ARRL

Two new video Public Service Announcements (PSAs) -- one promoting ARRL Field Day and another showing the technical side of Amateur Radio -- are now available from the ARRL Web site. "These videos are great for PIOs, clubs and hams in general to use in promoting the fun side of Amateur Radio," said ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP.

We Get Mail

I just came across the very nice obituary note that you wrote about my father, Clarence Snyder, W3PYF. in the "milliwatt" below. Thanks, albeit belated. I applied to the FCC, and was granted his call so even though Dad is gone, a piece of him is still on the air.

Mel Snyder, W3PYF

Email: [melsnyder \(at\) earthlink.net](mailto:melsnyder@earthlink.net)

Web: www.melsnyder.com

Broadcasters moving away from the 7MHz amateur allocation

Sunday 29 March will go into the records as a landmark date for the amateur radio service in the greater part of the world. Following on from the decision made during the World Radio Conference in 2003, the amateur service becomes the primary user in the HF segment between 7100 and 7200kHz in ITU and IARU Regions 1 and 3. In layman's terms, this represents everywhere except the Americas, who have always enjoyed this segment as part of the 7 to 7.3MHz allocation in Region 2. Although this date also coincides with the start of the HF broadcasting schedule, it would be naïve to think the segment might be completely clear of broadcasting stations on the start date, however a number of international broadcasters have already moved nearer to 7.5MHz. In addition, a large number of countries have reserved their position in respect to fixed service stations by way of footnotes to the relevant Radio Regulation. It is not anticipated that these stations will cause any major problems. While in the UK we have been fortunate in having special permission to use this part of the band since the 31 October 2004, the recommended IARU Region 1 40m band plan from 29 March can be found in the February RadCom or on the internet at www.rsgb.org/spectrumforum/bandplans.

American to add Wi-Fi service to domestic flights

Being online while being airborne is fast becoming reality for U.S travelers. American Airlines (AMR) is announcing on Tuesday that it's joining rival Delta Air Lines (DAL) in making Wi-Fi Internet connections available to most domestic passengers American, No. 2 in the world in passenger traffic after Delta acquired Northwest Airlines last year, says it will equip more than 300 planes used primarily in the U.S. with high-speed Wi-Fi capability. Delta said in December that it would offer the service on its planes by the end of this year and on newly acquired Northwest planes by the end of next year. Virgin America expects to have its fleet of 28 planes outfitted for Wi-Fi by the end of June. American's service will cost laptop users \$12.95 on flights longer than three hours, and \$9.95 on shorter ones. Travelers using handheld devices, such as smartphones and PDAs, will pay \$7.95 no matter the length of the flight. The service will be available only after planes reach 10,000 feet so it doesn't interfere with communications between the cockpit and air traffic control. International flights aren't being equipped with American's Gogo in-flight Wi-Fi system developed by Aircell because it operates on ground-to-air signals from cellular towers. Southwest is experimenting with a satellite-based system that would allow access on international flights, though it flies only domestic routes. Despite the airlines' push to keep customers connected while flying, there's one service passengers shouldn't expect soon: cellphone service. Carriers are reluctant to make cellphone connections available during flights, partly for technical and bandwidth reasons and partly to avoid problems between passengers seeking quiet and those talking loudly to be heard above flight noise.

Looking at the Earth from the ISS

You can view live Space Station video that includes Earth views from external cameras on the International Space Station during crew off-duty periods. Also available from the NASA website are selected in-cabin views of crew activities during the crew on-duty periods and a graphical world map that depicts the station's location in orbit above the Earth using real-time telemetry sent to Mission Control from the station. The video stream is accompanied by audio of communications between Mission Control and the astronauts when available. During times when the shuttle is docked to the station, the stream will include video and audio of those activities. Since the station orbits the Earth once every 90 minutes, it sees a sunrise or a sunset every 45 minutes. When the station is in darkness, the external camera video may appear black, but also may provide spectacular views of city lights below. In addition, satellite coverage may be intermittent and result in a display of colour bars. Colour bars or a black screen do not necessarily indicate a problem with the video stream. The streaming video is being webcast as part of NASA's celebration of the 10th anniversary of the space station in orbit. See www.nasa.gov/station.

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

May 1
AGCW QRP Party

May 2-3
10-10 Spring Contest, CW
7th Call Area QSO Party
Indiana QSO Party
ARI Int'l DX Contest
New England QSO Party

May 9-10
CQ-M International Contest
Volta WW RTTY Contest

May 9
FISTS Spring Sprint

May 16-17
His Majesty King of Spain
Manchester All-America, CW

May 24-25
MI QRP Memorial Day CW

May 30-31
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW

June 6-7
SEANET Contest

(Thanks, Bruce, WA7BNM)

German AMSAT Team Transmits, Receives Signals from Venus

On March 25, a group from AMSAT-DL bounced radio signals off the surface of Venus, marking the first time Amateur Radio operators have bounced radio signals off another planet. According to AMSAT-DL President Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, the Earth-Venus-Earth (EVE) transmission is another step in preparing for a mission to Mars. According to an AMSAT-DL press release, the team's transmitter was generating about 6 kW CW on 2.4 GHz.

Deliberate interference to International Space Station

The RSGB are dismayed to learn that a small group of AM enthusiasts based in the Edinburgh area of Scotland continue to cause what appears to be deliberate interference to the ISS downlink frequency of 145.800MHz during ISS passes. The RSGB is concerned that despite several years of negotiation with this group and a change of band allocation to move them away from the internationally agreed ISS frequency, they continue to disrupt ISS operation by their selfish disregard of their fellow radio amateurs and the Band Plan. The RSGB intends to bring the matter up formally with Ofcom at a meeting of the RSGB/Ofcom Forum in early April.

Frank Bauer resignation

This week Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, announced his resignation from all of his duties with the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program, including work with NASA education office as ARISS program leader, support as the ARISS international chair, responsibilities as ARISS US delegate, and AMSAT VP of human space flight. Bauer said a number of factors entered into his decision including family health issues and increasing responsibilities in his job at NASA related to the ISS and space exploration. He announced that AMSAT's Will Marchant, KC6ROL, will succeed him as the new AMSAT vice president for human space flight. Marchant also will become the new AMSAT USA delegate for the ARISS International Working Group.

ARRL DX Bulletin

BANGLADESH, S2.

Ramon, DU1UGZ is QRV as S21UGZ from Dhaka City until June 20. He will be active on 80 to 10 meters using SSB and RTTY in his spare time. QSL to home call.

SEYCHELLES, S7.

Davide, IZ3EFL is QRV as S79DF for about one year. He is currently active on 20 meters but hopes to be QRV on other bands as well. He may also try to activate Aldabra Island, IOTAAF-025. QSL via IV3TDM.

KUWAIT, 9K.

Yaser, 9K2YM is QRV from Failaka Island, IOTA AS-118, and has been active on 40, 30, 20, and 15 meters using SSB and RTTY. His length of stay is unknown. QSL via EA5KB.

BRATS PUBLIC SERVICE

Sat/Sun June 13-14: Chesapeake Challenge bikems.org Contact Ed, N3GXH, or Ian, N3CVA at publicservice@bratsatv.org

Next BRATS Meeting

Tuesday, May 19, 7:15 PM

Pikesville Library

VE EXAMS

Hamfests

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

Sunday, June 14 Manassas Hamfest
Prince William County Fairgrounds, Route 324 146.97/R,
442.200+, kg4gvy@arrl.net

Sunday, June 21
Fathers Day Frederick 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, May 19, 7:15 PM at the Pikesville Library, 1301
Reisterstown Road.

DAYTON ANNOUNCES AWARDS
Amateur of the Year:
Wade Hampton, Jr., K4ITL
Technical Excellence Award:
Cophorne Macdonald, VY2CM
Special Achievement Award:
Richard Garriott, W5KWQ

UTAH ATV

Lots of projects and links:
http://www.ussc.com/~uarc/utah_atv/utah_atv.html
(Thanks, Scott, KB3JQQ)

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

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)

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)

How Do I Join the BRATS?

Just fill out the form on the back page and mail it with
your check.

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, W3GXK, 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

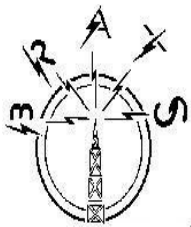
Eric, WA3TAD, Audio-Visual Service / Retro Radio, 3401 Chestnut Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21211. 410-467-3620; wa3tad@comcast.net

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

May 2009

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)

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