

# the Milliwatt



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

**June, 2008**

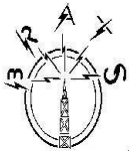
## **Court Finds FCC Violated Administrative Procedure Act in BPL Decision**

The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit today released its decision on the ARRL's Petition for Review of the FCC's Orders adopting rules governing broadband over power line (BPL) systems. The Court agreed with the ARRL on two major points and remanded the rules to the Commission. Writing for the three-judge panel of Circuit Judges Rogers, Tatel and Kavanaugh, Judge Rogers summarized: "The Commission failed to satisfy the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act ('APA') by redacting studies on which it relied in promulgating the rule and failed to provide a reasoned explanation for its choice of the extrapolation factor for measuring Access BPL emissions."

[\[Full Story\]](#)

## **MARYLAND HAMFEST AND COMPUTER FEST**

SPONSORED BY  
THE BALTIMORE RADIO AMATEUR TELEVISION SOCIETY



**SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2008**  
HOWARD COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, OFF I-70 at RT. 32

Grounds open for Tailgating at 6:00am

ACCESSIBLE TO THE HANDICAPPED  
KIDS UNDER 12 FREE

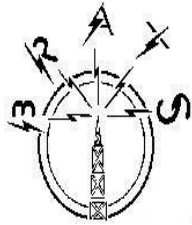
**FREE VE EXAMS** at 9:00 AM ONLY, CHECK IN at 8:30 AM  
**PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

To register call 301-572-5124 between 6 PM and 9 PM, or email [crewb3gxw@aol.com](mailto:crewb3gxw@aol.com)

For information contact:  
BRATS / PO Box 5915 / Baltimore, MD 21282 -- 410-461-1212 voice or fax  
<http://www.bratsatv.org> -- email [brats@bratsatv.org](mailto:brats@bratsatv.org)

## **Chinese Olympic Special Event Stations Getting Ready to Go On-the-Air**

Special Event stations for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games will begin operating on Sunday, May 18 through September 17. Five special calls, representing the five rings of the Olympic flag, will be on the air: BT1OB, BT1OJ, BT1OH, BT1OY and BT1ON. The last letter of the call sign corresponds to the color of each of the rings of the Olympic flag -- Beibei (Blue), Jingjing (Black), Huanhuan (Red), Yingying (Yellow) and Nini (Green). Zheng Feng, BA4EG, will be the QSL manager for all stations. QSLs can be sent either direct or via the bureau and will begin to be answered in October. A [Web site](#) supporting the Special Event stations will include an on line log search, QSL card received and sent status, as well as other information; award criteria will soon be posted on the site. -- Thanks to [The Daily DX](#) for this



# the Milliwatt

The award-winning monthly publication of The BRATS.  
Items herein may be reprinted with credit.

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX, Editor

## HELP WITH THE BRATS HAMFEST! Sunday, July 20, 2008 Howard County Fairgrounds

Call: 410-461-1212, leave a message; or visit our website:  
<http://www.bratsatv.org> We need your help NOW, on the day of the hamfest, the day before and the day after .  
Thanks!

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### 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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Chairman of the Board: Heru Walmsley, W3WVV

Vice Chairman, Technical: Mike Dees, N3EZD

Vice Chairman, Operations: Ian Millet, N3CVA

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### BRATS Repeaters

#### BRATS Linked Repeater System:

WB3DZO: 147.03+, 224.96-, 448.325-

#### BRATS Stand-alone repeaters:

443.350+

#### BRATS Packet Network Nodes

W3GXT-5 145.05

W3GXT-10 224.52

#### BRATS ATV Repeater System:

W3WCQ: inputs: 426.25, 1253.25

outputs: 439.25, 911.25

### BRATS Weekly Nets

Mon 9 pm Traffic and Info Net, W3GXX

Tues 11:45 Informal ATV Net, W3WVV

Tues 9 pm BRATS Horsetraders Net, Grant, KA3CEA

Wed 9 pm CATS ATV Net

Thurs 9 pm BRATS ATV Net

Sat 1 pm Weekly News Bulletin, W3GXX

Sat 1:20 The BRATS Answer Men: KB3JQQ

Sun 8 pm MATS ATV Net

As needed Weather/Emergency Net, Skywarn

### BRATS Board of Directors

#### Through 12/09:

KA3IDB, KB3FIF, K0RYX

#### Through 12/08:

W3ZQI, KB3LJM, K2GZY

### Regular BRATS Meetings

3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:15 PM

Pikesville Library, 1301 Reisterstown Rd

### Next BRATS Meeting

Tuesday, June 17, Pikesville Library

1301 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville

**We Get Mail: Thank you from the NMSS****Dear Ian Millett, Ed Rosen, and BRATS:**

On behalf of The National Multiple Sclerosis Society- Maryland Chapter and the staff of Crane Communications Inc., we would like to offer our sincerest thanks for your generosity and support of the 2008 Walk MS event in Towson. Thanks to your outstanding support, an overwhelming number of our walkers reported that they had one of the best experiences ever and they, too, are grateful to our sponsors and supporters. Multiple Sclerosis stops people from moving. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society exists to make sure it doesn't. Events like Walk MS enable the National MS Society- Maryland Chapter to continue to make strides towards our mission of ending the devastating disease of MS by generating funds for local programs & services and ongoing research. The National MS Society- Maryland Chapter supports more than 6,500 Marylanders and their families living with MS. It is nice to know that we, in turn, can depend on giving members of the community, like yourself, to help support initiatives like Walk MS. Thanks again for your support and we look forward to speaking with you and seeing you again next year!

Sincerely,

Lisa Dietrich & Stefanie Spatola  
Site Coordinators  
Crane Communications Inc.

Mark Roeder  
Chapter President  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Maryland Chapter

**Video Demonstration of ATV at 10 GHz:**

From Peter Berrett, VK3PB on April 27, 2008 Hi all In April last year I filmed Peter Cossins VK3BFG doing a talk about Amateur Television at the Central Victorian Hamfest in Kyneton, Victoria, Australia. In the talk he provides a demonstration of ATV at 10 GHz. I have uploaded this to Google Video. The video runs about half an hour. Apologies for the shoddy camerawork. I think ATV enthusiasts and those interested in getting into ATV will find this talk interesting. <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=4822772921869150810&hl=en>

Regards

Peter Berrett, VK3PB

**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER AT JUNE BRATS MEETING**

Jim Cross, W13N, ARRL MD/DC Section Manager to speak on "Using ATV for Emergency Communications" Tuesday, June 17, 7:15 PM at the Pikesville Library

**New York: Fliers can charge up their gadgets**

Passengers at New York LaGuardia can now charge their electronic gadgets and laptops at its free charging stations. LaGuardia's 12 "Power Poles" are located beyond the security checkpoints throughout the Central Terminal building, which serves about half of the airport's passengers. The poles are 8½-foot-tall stations wired with four outlets and have counters to place laptop computers. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey installed the poles at New York JFK in 2006 and plans to introduce them at Newark Liberty, possibly later in the year. Samsung Electronics, whose ads are prominently featured on the poles, paid for the program.

*Caption: Travelers at LaGuardia prepare to charge a laptop at a free charging station paid for by Samsung.*



### BWI monitors display weather and flights in real time

"Baltimore/Washington has installed new flight-tracker and weather-display monitors throughout its main terminal. The monitors, located alongside other flight-information displays, provide a real-time, visual image of air traffic and weather conditions. Flights are represented on the map by plane icons with their flight number. Arriving flights are shown in red, and departures are in blue."

### Flier cited for disorderly conduct for talking on cellphone

An airline passenger was cited for disorderly conduct by Dallas police after he refused "multiple requests" to turn off his cellphone during an airline flight, *The Dallas Morning News* (*free registration*) reports. The incident happened on a Southwest flight from Austin to Dallas Love Field. "After multiple requests, the flight attendants were not successful in getting the passenger to get off the phone," Southwest spokeswoman Brandy King tells the *Morning News*. She points out that the airline could have faced a \$25,000 fine from federal authorities if it allowed a cellphone to be used during flight. "Our flight attendants asked for local authorities to meet the aircraft" when it landed in Dallas, King adds to the *Morning News*. "At that point, we stepped out of the way and left the matter to the local authorities."

### New NASA Tool Allows Amateurs to Explore the Ionosphere from the Inside

Last week at the Space Weather Workshop in Boulder, Colorado, NASA released a 4D live model of the Earth's ionosphere. Without leaving home, anyone can fly through the layer of ionized gas that encircles Earth at the edge of space itself. All that is required is an Internet connection and a free copy of Google Earth. NASA calls the ionosphere the "last wisp of Earth's atmosphere that astronauts leave behind when they enter space. The realm of the ionosphere stretches from 50 to 500 miles above Earth's surface where the atmosphere thins to near-vacuum and exposes itself to the fury of the sun. Solar ultraviolet radiation breaks apart molecules and atoms creating a globe-straddling haze of electrons and ions."

### ARISS Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO announces a new Ionosphere modeling tool

Frank Bauer, KA3HDO tells us that NASA has just released a new 4D ionosphere tool that can benefit the ham radio community. The tool is based on Google Earth. To explore the ionosphere and for more information on this outstanding modeling system, please go to the following web sites: The vodcast on the 4D ionosphere [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov). [http://www.nasa.gov/topics/solarsystem/features/4dions\\_feature.html](http://www.nasa.gov/topics/solarsystem/features/4dions_feature.html) A downloadable version that includes a sound bite on how ham radio operators will benefit from this model: <http://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/vis/a010000/a010200/a010208/>

### Cuba puts first computers on sale to the public

Cubans look at computers through a store window in Havana, Friday, May 2, 2008. Computers went on sale Friday to the general public in communist Cuba, with several dozen people lining up outside a major store to buy or just gawk at them as the latest small change under the new administration of President Raul Castro took effect. A tower-style QTECH PC and monitor costs nearly US\$780 (euro505). While few Cubans can afford that, dozens still gawked outside a tiny Havana electronics store, crowding every inch of its large glass windows and leaving finger and nose prints behind. Inside, four clerks tore open boxes, hastily assembling display computers.

### Sea-Tac Airport offers flight information through cellphones

Want to know if your Sea-Tac Airport flight is on time? Now you can find out on your cellphone. The Port of Seattle has a new service where passengers can receive flight information by sending a text message to FLYSEA, or 359732. Passengers text the name of the airline and the flight number and, within seconds, they will receive a message back with real-time departure or arrival information, gate number and flight status. Cellphone updates are a one-time, passenger-activated service. In order to receive another update you must text the address again. Your cellphone carrier's standard rates apply. Get more information on flight notifications at <http://hosting.portseattle.org/fids>

### Man gets prison for sending spam e-mails

A Colorado man accused of sending hundreds of thousands of spam e-mails has been sentenced to 21 months in prison after pleading guilty to tax evasion and falsifying e-mail headers. Thirty-five-year-old Edward "Eddie" Davidson of Louisville was also ordered to pay nearly \$715,000 to the Internal Revenue Service. He was sentenced Monday and ordered to report to prison authorities in May. Federal prosecutors say Davidson's operation used false e-mail headers to disguise the sender. Prosecutors say some of the spam was meant to dupe stock investors and manipulate markets. Authorities say Davidson made at least \$3.5 million sending e-mails for nearly 20 companies.

## Ten New Satellites in Orbit

Ten satellites reached orbit April 28 aboard an Indian PSLV-C9 rocket launched from the [Satish Dhawan Space Center](#). The primary payloads were India's CARTOSAT-2A and IMS-1 satellites. In addition to the NLS-5 and RUBIN-8 satellites, the rocket carried six [CubeSat](#) research satellites, all of which communicate using Amateur Radio frequencies. All spacecraft deployed normally and appear to be functional at this time.

The SEEDS satellite is designed and built by students at Japan's Nihon University. When fully operational, SEEDS will download telemetry in Morse code and 1200-baud FM AFSK packet radio at 437.485 MHz. The satellite also has Slow-Scan TV ([SSTV](#)) capability. Several stations have reported receiving SEEDS CW telemetry and the team would appreciate receiving more reports from amateurs [at their ground station Web page](#).

[AAUSAT-II](#) is the creation of a student team at Aalborg University in Denmark. It will downlink scientific telemetry at 437.425 MHz using 1200 or 9600-baud packet.

[Can-X2](#) is a product of students at the University of Toronto Institute for Aerospace Studies, Space Flight Laboratory (UTIAS/SFL). Can-X2 will downlink telemetry at 437.478 MHz using 4 kbps GFSK, but the downlink will be active only when the satellite is within range of the Toronto ground station.

[Compass-One](#) was designed and built by students at Aachen University of Applied Sciences in Germany. The satellite features a Morse code telemetry beacon at 437.275 MHz. Compass-1 will also provide a packet radio data downlink, which will include image data, at 437.405 MHz.

[Cute 1.7 + APDII](#) is a satellite created by students at the Tokyo Institute of Technology. This satellite will not only provide telemetry, it will also offer a 9600-baud packet store-and-forward message relay with an uplink at 1267.6 MHz and a downlink at 437.475 MHz.

[Delfi-C3](#) was designed and built by students at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. It includes an SSB/CW linear transponder. The satellite will be in telemetry-only mode for the first three months of the mission, after which it will be switched to transponder mode. Delfi-C3 downlinks 1200-baud packet telemetry at 145.870 MHz. The linear transponder, when activated, will have an uplink passband from 435.530 to 435.570 MHz and a corresponding downlink passband from 145.880 to 145.920 MHz.

## Call for Papers

Technical papers are solicited for presentation at the 27th Annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference to be held September 26-28, 2008 in Chicago, Illinois. 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, 2008. 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](mailto:maty@arrl.org) Papers will be published exactly as submitted and authors will retain all rights.

73 . . . Steve, WB8IMY, ARRL

## Nationwide WiMax Wireless Network

Sprint ([S](#)) and Clearwire ([CLWR](#)) are forming a new company to build a nationwide "WiMax" wireless network, with the goal of offering advanced wireless Internet services to millions beginning next year, the companies said Wednesday.

Google ([GOOG](#)), Intel ([INTC](#)), Comcast ([CMCSA](#)) and Time Warner ([TWX](#)) are major investors. Under terms of the \$3.2 billion collaboration, Sprint and Clearwire will form a separate, publicly traded company called Clearwire to oversee the nationwide buildout.

WiMax is akin to Wi-Fi in that it offers speedy surfing. But WiMax covers a much larger area. Sprint and its partners plan to blanket the USA with WiMax, turning the core of North America into one, big hot spot.

WiMax is one of several technologies vying to be the next way to connect to the Internet on the go. A WiMax transmitter, typically located on a cellphone tower, can provide a relatively fast Internet connection over more than a square mile.

Sprint and Clearwire will contribute WiMax spectrum, the others cash. Comcast will contribute \$1.05 billion; Intel, \$1 billion; Time Warner Cable, \$550 million; Google, \$500 million. Two other investors, Bright House Networks and Trilogy Equity Partners, will contribute \$100 million and \$10 million, respectively, people with direct knowledge of the situation said.

The advent of a nationwide WiMax network is sure to rattle the status quo in the U.S. wireless industry, now dominated by AT&T and Verizon Wireless. According to people with direct knowledge of the plans, "open access" meaning you can use any compatible device will be a bedrock of the new network. Likewise, all Web applications from e-mail to video streaming and gaming also will be supported.

As envisioned by the companies, WiMax construction will be fast. By 2010, the group hopes to have WiMax services available to about half the U.S. population. For Sprint, which has struggled with customer losses, the deal underscores its commitment to WiMax. CEO Dan Hesse spearheaded the effort for this industrywide collaboration. WiMax raises the game of Comcast and Time Warner Cable. Neither has had a credible wireless strategy. Under the terms of the deal, they will buy WiMax services wholesale from Sprint. Intel, the No. 1 chipmaker, is a big backer of WiMax. It previously invested \$600 million in Clearwire. Google is pushing hard into wireless via its new wireless operating system, Android.

## New Russian Satellite in Orbit

A Russian rocket launched from Plesetsk on May 23 carried a number of payloads to orbit, including a new Amateur Radio satellite named Yubileiny -- Russian for jubilee -- since christened Radio Sputnik 30 (RS-30). Operational details are vague at this time. Amateurs throughout the world report receiving signals at 435.315 and 435.215 MHz; some report reception of CW telemetry while others report what appear to be image transmissions from the satellite. RS-30 is orbiting at a maximum altitude of 1500 km, creating a substantial communications footprint below. The satellite will broadcast audio and video about the history of the Soviet and Russian space programs, as well as signals imitating those broadcast by Sputnik in 1957. According to the satellite's launch team, "The motive for development of the Yubileiny small spacecraft was the 50th anniversary of the first space satellite. With the help of that satellite, the new space systems and equipment are expected to get flight qualification, and radio-amateurs all over the world will be able to receive information on the history of space development and domestic cosmonautics achievements."

### New Apparel Items Now Available from ARRL

Show off your ham radio pride with ARRL's new line of HAM apparel. The new shirt, sweatshirt and ball cap feature the very popular oval Euro design with "HAM" emblazoned in the center and the ARRL Web site address centered underneath it. The T shirt is a pre-shrunk black Hanes beefy-T with white contrast stitching. The HAM oval is screenprinted on the left chest. This trendy T shirt comes in unisex sizes from small to 3X for only \$12.95 each. The heavyweight black sweatshirt features a quarter-zip neckline with a brass metal zipper and leather pull. The HAM oval is embroidered on the left chest. This sweatshirt is perfect for the still chilly nights of spring and comes in unisex sizes from small to 3X for only \$34.95 each. The black ballcap features the HAM oval embroidered in the center of the cap. With an adjustable Velcro tab closure, this cap is sure to fit just about anyone. Get yours for only \$12.95. Receive a free HAM Euro sticker (a \$2 value) when you order one of these three HAM items before May 31, 2008.

### FCC Looks to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees

The FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM)* on May 8 seeking to raise fees for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$11.70 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to \$12.30 for 10 years, an increase of \$.60. The FCC is authorized by the *Communications Act of 1934 (as amended)* to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. Instructions on how to comment on this NPRM are available on the FCC Web site.

### Satellite Shorts from All Over

- Yuta Araki, JQ1YGV at Nihon University says an updated version of the SEEDS cubesat telemetry analysis software is available from [http://cubesat.aero.cst.nihon-u.ac.jp/english/download\\_e.html](http://cubesat.aero.cst.nihon-u.ac.jp/english/download_e.html). This will be Ver.2.0.2 of Downlink Code for Distribution.
- Spaceweather.com's simple Satellite Tracker has gone global. The tool now works not only for US and Canadian readers, but also for sky watchers in countries around the world. This development comes as the International Space Station is making bright and frequent nightly apparitions over Europe, Africa, the Middle East, parts of Asia and Australia. If you live in those areas, give it a try: <http://spaceweather.com/flybys> [via SpaceWeather.com]
- Art Feller, W4ART has posted photos from AMSAT/ARISS participation at Space Day at the National Air and Space Museum to: <http://picasaweb.google.com/ojimo/2008SpaceDayNASM>
- The AO-27 Satellite Scheduler program which has been available from <http://www.cs.rit.edu/~cjh9783/programs/satsched.php> is now also available from <http://home.earthlink.net/~ka3hsw/ao27/> as well.
- The W3HZU Beacons located on Grid FM19qv on 2.4GHZ and 1.2GHZ have been temporarily taken off the air in preparation to add a third beacon on 5.76GHZ. A message on the amsat-bb will advise when the beacons are back on the air. (via Charlie, K3VDB)
- The Houston AMSAT Net Podcast has now been picked up by iTunes. You can do a search on iTunes for "Houston AMSAT Net", "KK5DO", or "Bruce Paige" and will be offered the opportunity to subscribe to the Podcast.
- Google Earth now offers tools to Visualize the Ionosphere in 4D. See: [http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/30apr\\_4dionosphere.htm?list958901](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/30apr_4dionosphere.htm?list958901)  
<http://terra1.spacenvironment.net/%7eionops/es4dintro.html> You will be able to use Google Earth © applications such as:
  - ◆ Radio Availability
  - ◆ Total Electron Content
  - ◆ Maximum Useable Frequency
  - ◆ foF2
  - ◆ Past 24 hours TEC movie
  - ◆ Past 24 hours MUF movie

### **FCC Denies Utah Motorsport Park Use of Amateur Radio Frequencies**

On Thursday, April 24, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, filed an Informal Objection with the FCC regarding a pending application for a Special Temporary Authority (STA) filed by Miller Motorsports Park in Tooele, Utah. One day after filing the Objection, the FCC agreed with the ARRL, saying, "Due to the possibility of interference to Amateur operators and also the race teams utilizing the proposed frequencies, we feel that it is not in the public interest to grant [Miller Motorsports Park's] request."

### **FCC Denies Two Amateur Radio *Petitions for Rulemaking***

In two separate decisions released today, the Federal Communications Commission denied two *Petitions for Rulemaking (PRM)* having to do with Amateur Radio. These two *PRMs*, one filed by Mark Miller, N5RFX, of Arlington, Texas, concerning digital spectrum issues, and the other filed jointly by Ken Chafin, W6CPA, of La Crescenta, California, and Leon Brown, KC6JAR, of Los Angeles, California, concerning additional spectrum for more repeaters, including digital systems. Miller's *PRM* was assigned RM-11392, while the Chafin and Brown petition was not afforded an RM number by the FCC. According to ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, the ARRL filed no comments on either petition in accordance with the League's standard policy on bare petitions for rule making that do not deal with spectrum allocations.

### **Wilmington, N.C., to test TV change over to digital**

Residents of Wilmington, N.C., will soon become laboratory rats in the nation's transition to digital TV. The Federal Communications Commission plans to make the greater Wilmington area a digital-TV test market to work out any bugs before the entire nation goes all digital on Feb. 17. All four commercial broadcasters in the Wilmington region with a population of about 400,000 have agreed to turn off their analog signals and broadcast in digital only starting Sept. 8. The switch will be preceded by an intensive consumer-education campaign, including TV and radio ads. This will help us understand what we need to do to prepare the rest of the country, FCC Chairman Kevin Martin says. The biggest concern is the roughly 60 million analog sets that aren't hooked to cable or satellite. Those include about 18 million homes that don't have pay TV as well as second or third TVs in cable and satellite homes. They won't work without a box to convert digital signals to analog. Households may request from the U.S. government up to two \$40 coupons to help pay for the boxes, which cost about \$50 each. Cable and satellite providers plan to translate digital signals to analog for the 85% of U.S. homes that subscribe to the services. A Consumers Union survey early this year found that 60% of households with at least one antenna-based analog TV don't know they're affected.

### **NASA Breaking News**

#### NASA Satellite Finds Interior of Mars Is Colder

New observations from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter indicate that the crust and upper mantle of Mars are stiffer and colder than previously thought.

#### Discovery of Most Recent Supernova in Our Galaxy

The most recent supernova in our galaxy has been discovered by tracking the rapid expansion of its remains, using NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory's Very Large Array.

#### NASA Study Links Earth Impacts to Human-Caused Climate Change

A new NASA-led study shows human-caused climate change has made an impact on a wide range of Earth's natural systems, including permafrost thawing, plants blooming earlier across Europe and lakes declining in productivity in Africa.

**Japanese Amateurs Receive More Privileges on 75/80 Meters**

Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) announced that Japan's Table of Frequency Allocations and the Japanese Amateur Bandplan have been amended, giving amateurs in that country more privileges on certain frequency blocks in the 75/80 meter band. Japanese amateurs are now allowed to operate the following additional frequencies on the 75/80 meters: 3.599-3.612 MHz, 3.680 to 3.687 MHz, 3.702-3.716 MHz, 3.745-3.747 MHz and 3.754-3.770 MHz.

Italy gets 4m band Italy's Ministry of Communications has authorised Italian amateurs to use three spot frequencies on the 70MHz band. This experimental allocation runs until 31 December 2008. All modes are authorised at a maximum of 25W EIRP on 70.100, 70.200 and 70.300MHz, plus or minus 25kHz. Further information can be found at [www.space.it/70MHz](http://www.space.it/70MHz). [RSGB]

**New DXpedition to Christmas Island**

A major DXpedition to Christmas Island has been announced for 8 to 20 July 2008. The team includes CT1BWW, EA3GHZ, EA5EOR and EC5BME. Three stations will be active on 160 to 6 metres, using CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV. Callsigns will be VK9XWW, VK9XHZ, VK9XOR and VK9XME. More information can be found on the web at [www.dxciting.com/vk9x](http://www.dxciting.com/vk9x) [RSGB]

**Send your name to the moon**

NASA is inviting people of all ages to join the lunar exploration journey with an opportunity to send their names to the moon aboard the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter. There appears to be nothing to stop you putting your amateur radio callsign in as well. Participants can submit their information at <http://lro.jhuapl.edu/NameToMoon>, print a certificate and have their name entered into a database. The database will be placed on a microchip that will be integrated onto the spacecraft. The deadline for submitting names is 27 June. [RSGB]

**First ARRL Book Published in China**

The first of several ARRL books has been translated and published by Posts and Telecommunications Press (PTPress) of Beijing, People's Republic of China. Getting Started with Ham Radio by QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, will be available for purchase in China next month. Other ARRL books to be translated and published in the PRC include The ARRL Handbook, ARRL Antenna Book, Experimental Methods in RF Design, Understanding Basic Electronics and Ham Radio on the Move.

**Newspaper Reports "BPL plan is dead in Dallas"**

The Dallas Morning News has reported that "an ambitious plan for using power lines to deliver fast Internet service to 2 million Dallas-area homes collapsed Thursday." Current Group, LLC has announced plans to sell its Dallas BPL network to Oncor, a regulated electric distribution and transmission business, for \$90 million. Oncor reportedly has no plans to offer Internet service but will use the network to detect distribution network issues. While Current originally touted the network as a way to offer Internet service to consumers and had entered into a marketing arrangement with DirecTV, the Houston Chronicle quotes Oncor spokesman Chris Schein as confirming that Oncor will use the network only for monitoring the power grid: "Our business is delivering electricity, not being an Internet provider or a television provider. [ARRL Web Extra]

**The K7RA Solar Update**

Again this week, we saw a new, but brief sunspot, sunspot 993. Judging from the polarity of the spot, it looks to be from new Solar Cycle 24; this spot was south of the solar equator, so it has the same polarity as any Cycle 23 spot that was north of the equator. After two days it was gone, not from drifting over the edge of the visible solar disk -- it just disappeared. (K7RA via ARRL Web Extra)

**WA7BNM Contest Calendar**

May 24-25

CQ WW WPX Contest, CW

May 25-26

MI QRP Memorial Day Sprint, CW

June 7-8

10-10 Int. Open Season PSK Contest  
SEANET Contest  
Alabama QSO Party

June 14

Portugal day Contest  
Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB

June 14-15

GACW WWSA CW DX Contest  
West Virginia QSO Party

June 14-16

ARRL June VHF QSO Party

June 16

SARL Youth for Amateur Radio

June 21-22

All Asian DX Contest, CW  
SMIRK Contest

June 28-29

Ukrainian DX Digi Contest  
His Maj. King of Spain Contest  
Marconi Memorial HF Contest  
**ARRL FIELD DAY**  
ARCI Milliwatt Field Day

(Thanks, WA7BNM)

**ARRL DX Bulletin****OMAN, A4.**

Alex, A45WD has been active on 30 meters using CW and PSK31 at various times throughout the day. QSL via YO9HP.

**MOZAMBIQUE, C9.**

Rodrigo, C91R is QRV until August 1. QSL via CT1BXT.

**MONGOLIA, JT.**

Nicola, I0SNY is QRV as JT1SNY/8 and has been active on 20 meters using PSK31 at various times. QSL to home call.

**CHAD, TT.**

Duarte, CT1CPP is QRV as TT9/home call for about one year. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL to home call.

**CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF.**

Jim, W6NRJ will be QRV as ZF2LJ from Grand Cayman, IOTA NA-016, from May 17 to 22. Activity is on all bands, with an emphasis on the newer bands. QSL to home call.

**EAST MALAYSIA, 9M6.**

Lee, DS4NMJ is QRV as 9M6/KE5CNK from Kota Kinabalu, IOTA OC-088, for three months while on a short business trip. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters during his spare time. QSL to home call.

**ARRL DX Bulletin****UGANDA, 5X.**

Michael, PA5M is QRV as 5X1DX while working for the UN World Food Programme. He is active in his spare time mainly in the evenings or on the weekends. QSL via PA7FM.

**CROATIA, 9A.**

Special event station 9A08P is QRV until December 31 in celebration of the city of Djurdjevac. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL via bureau.

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, 9Q.**

Georges, 9Q1EK and Philippe, 9Q1TB are active at various times. QSL both calls via SM5DJZ.

**PORTUGAL, CT.**

In celebration of the 4th International Polar Year, special event station CQ4IPY is QRV at various times throughout the year. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, SSTV and PSK31. QSL via CT1BWW.

**PHILIPPINES, DU.**

Ram, DV8AIK is QRV as 4D75D from Mindanao Island, IOTA OC-130, until the end of 2008 in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Philippine Amateur Radio Association. Activity is on 20 and 15 meters using SSB. QSL via bureau.

**TAJIKISTAN, EY.**

Jean is QRV as EY8/F4EOH from Dushanbe until the end of August. Activity is on 20 meters using SSB. QSL via operator's instructions.

**BRAZIL, PY.**

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the first Japanese immigration to Brazil, special event station PY100JA is active until December, 2008. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using all modes. QSL via PY2PA.

**CHRISTMAS ISLAND, VK9X.**

James, N1YC and Bert, PE7T are QRV as homecalls/VK9X. Activity is mostly on 40 to 15 meters using CW and SSB. Their length of stay is unknown. QSL N1YC/VK9X via N5ID and PE7T/VK9X to home call.

**KENYA, 5Z.**

Enrico, 5Z4ES is usually active on 20 meters using SSB between 1900 and 2100z. QSL via K3IRV.

**ZAMBIA, 9J.**

Ryuji, 9J2QQV has been active using RTTY on 20 meters around 1830z. QSL direct.

**OMAN, A4.**

Alex, A45WD is usually QRV on 30 meters between 2000 and 2300z. QSL via YO9HP.

**BANGLADESH, S2.**

Tutul, S21RC has been active on 20 meters using SSB between 1300 and 1430z.

**MOUNT ATHOS, SV/A.**

Monk Apollo, SV2ASP/A has been QRV on 160 meters around 1800z and on 80 meters around 1930z. QSL direct.

**BRUNEI, V8.**

Ambran, V85SS has been active on 20 meters between 1330 and 1400z.

**PRINCE EDWARD AND MARION ISLAND, ZS8.**

Petrus, ZS6GCM will be QRV as ZS8T from Marion Island, IOTA AS-021, until the end of March 2009. QSL via LZ3HI.

**ETHIOPIA, ET.**

Josef, ET3JA has been active on 20 meters from 1600 to 1730z and then on 17 meters around 1200 to 1300z. QSL via OK3AA.

**SAN MARINO, T7.**

Matteo, T77NM has been active using RTTY on 40 meters around 2300z. QSL to home call.

**CORSICA, TK.**

TK7C has been active using RTTY on 40 meters around 2350z. QSL via F9IE.

**ASCENSION ISLAND, ZD8.**

Steve, G3ZVW is QRV as ZD8N and has been active using RTTY on 20 meters from around 1300 to 1600z. QSL to home call.

## Hamfests and Events

### 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

### FIELD DAY 2008

#### Saturday/Sunday, June 28-29

#### BRATS with AERO ARC at Camp Genyara

Contact WA3SWA at [WA3SWA@cavtel.net](mailto:WA3SWA@cavtel.net)

### 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

### Robert Beasley, K6BJH, SK

Amateur radio cartoonist Robert Beasley, K6BJH, whose deft drawings sparked many a grin, died February 16, 2008; he was 82. His wife, Helen, survives Bob. According to his autobiography, he was first licensed in southern California in 1953. Following retirement, Bob fulfilled his lifelong desire to become a cartoonist. His work was featured in QST, Worldradio, Electric Radio, Spec-Com Journal, Radioscan and Badger State Smoke Signals. Collections of his cartoons were published as: *The Best of Beasley* and *The Best of Beasley: K6BJH on Amateur Television*.  
*Source: K9YA Telegraph, 5/2008*

### OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT.

The following operation is approved for DXCC credit: Afghanistan, YA/LY1Y, operations in 2006 and 2007.

The following operation is approved for DXCC credit: Cocos Island, TI9KK, 2008 operation.

## 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:** Jun 7, Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Nov 2, Dec 1.  
**Sundays:** 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; 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)



### Ronald A Parise, WA4SIR (SK)

Dr Ronald A. Parise, PhD, WA4SIR, passed away Friday May 9, 2008 after a very long and courageous battle with cancer. He was 57. Parise flew as a payload specialist on two space shuttle missions: STS-35 on Columbia in December 1990 and STS-67 on the

Endeavour in March 1995. These two missions, ASTRO-1 and ASTRO-2 respectively, carried out ultraviolet and x-ray astronomical observations, logging more than 614 hours and 10.6 million miles in space. Parise was one of the first astronomers to operate a telescope from space, making hundreds of observations during the mission

## milliwatt swap shop

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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, W3GXX, 410-786-6839 or [w3gxk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gxk@verizon.net)

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

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

### VTS - VIDEOTAPING SERVICE

Video/DVD duplications, video tape transferred to DVD. One source up to 2 hours, \$30. Standards, conversions. Call VTS toll free at 1-877-891-1002. BRATS member Bob Shapiro, K2MYS <http://www.videotapingservice.com>

### JADE COMPUTERS, LLC

1009 Ingleside Ave, Baltimore, MD 21228. Phone 410-719-1246 ; Fax 410-719-9494. Your answer to custom built PC, office and home networking. Reseller for Net Integrity server, cable modem, DSL, webpage design and hosting POS and networking. We do CPR to your CPU. Kid tested, mother approved. Order PC on line: <http://www.jadecomputers.us> email: [joed@jadecomputers.us](mailto:joed@jadecomputers.us)

### Antique Radio Repair, Restoration

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

### Radio Consignment Shop at Overlea Hobbies

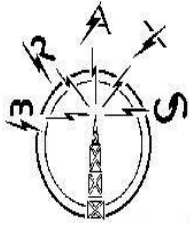
8411 Harford Road, Parkville, 410-665-3622. Home of fine trains, model kits, x-acto, cars, planes, ships, many radios. Yaesu FT101ZD, Kenwood TS 820S, 930S, Heathkit SB-102, National NC-183, more ... Dick, N3JWN, 410-488-2806

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

**WANTED:** Your ad for this space. Send copy to [w3gxk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gxk@verizon.net)

### How To Protect Your House and Its Contents From Lightning

IEEE Guide for Surge Protection of Equipment Connected to AC Power and Communication Circuits  
[http://www.lightningsafety.com/nlsi\\_lhm/IEEE\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.lightningsafety.com/nlsi_lhm/IEEE_Guide.pdf)



# the Milliwatt



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

## June 2008

### BRATS PUBLIC SERVICE

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, June 17, 7:15 PM**  
Pikesville Library  
*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

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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