



the Milliwatt



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

July, 2009

Two New Co-sponsors Pledge Support for HR 2160

Earlier this week, HR 2160 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 -- gained two new Congressional co-sponsors: Republican Roscoe Bartlett (MD-6) and Democrat Bart Gordon (TN-6). Originally sponsored by Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee, a Democrat representing Texas' 18th District, HR 2160 is also sponsored by Madeleine Bordallo (Guam), Brett Guthrie (KY-02), Mary Jo Kilroy (OH-15), Zoe Lofgren (CA-16), Blaine Luetkemeyer, (MO-9) and Bennie Thompson (MS-02).

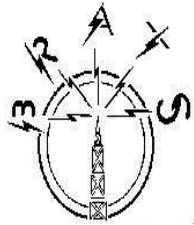
The AMSAT-UK International Space Colloquium has changed venue

The AMSAT-UK International Space Colloquium has changed venue. It will now be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Guildford on 25 and 26 July. The event attracts satellite builders and users from around the world. The new RSGB GB4FUN radio communications module, which has a fully equipped satellite station, will be available during the event for visitors to work the satellites. Details at www.uk.amsat.org/colloquium.

6 METER NOISE FLOOR DROPS AS DTV REPLACES ANALOG

A present to the United States VHF and UHF ham community.

This from both the broadcasters and the FCC as many of the nations VHF television stations vacate many of the low VHF channels, go digital and lower the overall noise floor on 6 meters. The big digital television change out began at 00:01 EST on Friday, June 12th. Stations across the nation chose their own time to turn off their analog transmitters and move their operations to their permanent digital channels. Many of the low-band stations opted to move to the UHF band. A lot of them operated on Channel 2 just above the 6 meter ham band. And when those analog channel 2 transmitters went QRT, the noise level on 6 meters dropped in many locations. Places like Chicago, where Keith Morehouse, W9RM, reported over the VHF Reflector that this is a big plus in Chicago where the long known Channel 2 audio spur is gone. That spur used to trash the WSJT meteor scatter calling frequency 50.260 MHz. In Milwaukee Ray Greiner, K9KHW, reports on the analog shutdown on VHF channels 4, 6 and 12. He reports that he found most of the VHF and UHF ham bands so quiet that he actually checked and see if his antennas were connected. He says that on 6 meters where the normal noise level was S-3 to S-4, its now zero. But 6 meters is not the only band seeing a noise floor improvement. Steve Rutledge, N4JQQ, is in Memphis Tennessee/ He says that when VHF channel 3 went to UHF and channels 5 and 13 went digital on their current assignments, that the noise he heard on the 222 MHz ham band when pointing his beam East is now completely gone. He says that in the past, that the noise level was so high that it wiped out any signal from the east, even with a bandpass filter before his tower mounted preamp. Even some of those living North of the United States and Canadian border are happy about the change. Jordan Arndt, VE6ZT, in Calgary, Ontario says that he can hear the difference up in Grid Square DO-21. This is especially true when the band is open. Its going to take a few weeks to really assess the impact that the digital television conversion will have on most of the VHF and UHF ham bands, but so far the results seem very good indeed. (ARNewsline™, VHF Reflector)



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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!

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, July 21, 7:15 PM

Pikesville Library

1301 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville

Please Plan to Join Us!

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, N3EZD

Vice Chairman, Operations: Ian Millet, N3CVA

From the FCC:

Recall: 'Jitterbug' cell phones might not call 911 Samsung is voluntarily recalling thousands of "Jitterbug" cell phones because they may fail to connect to emergency 911 service when out of range, according to federal regulators. The Consumer Product Safety Commission says the recall involves about 160,000 Samsung phones. When the phones are in a no-service area and display an "out of range" message, they could fail to connect to 911, the agency said. A Federal Communications Commission rule requires that a wireless phone have the capability to reach a 911 center even when out of service range. The phone should be able to piggyback off another service provider in the area to get to 911. The company is contacting consumers directly to schedule a free software upgrade.

FCC Turns 75

On June 19, 1934, 75 years ago, President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) -- replacing the Federal Radio Commission -- by signing Public Law 73-416, the Communications Act of 1934. Happy birthday FCC!

When the FCC Visits, It Doesn't Bother to Knock

If you have a wireless router, a cellphone or a cordless phone in your office or home, the Federal Communications Commission says it has the right to walk right in without a warrant at any time of the day or night in order to inspect it.

Bill Introduced in Senate Recommending US Coast Guard Maintain LORAN-C Navigation System

Members of the Senate's Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee have introduced a bill, S 1194 -- *Coast Guard Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011* -- that, if passed, would require that the US Coast Guard "maintain the LORAN-C navigation system until such time as the Secretary is authorized by statute, explicitly referencing this section, to cease operating the system but expedite modernization projects necessary for transition to eLORAN technology."

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: 28 TO 24 MHz HAMSAT PROPOSED

A satellite with a 29 to 24 MHz linear transponder is being proposed by the ham who brought the world A-P-R-S. Bob Bruninga, WB4APR., who helped in the development of a number of successful amateur radio satellites has floated a proposal for a satellite with the odd combination of frequencies for the on-orbit linear transponder. In an e-mail to the AMSAT Bulletin Board WB4APR says that consideration is being given to a an HF transponder for the next long range CUBESAT mission planning. It can have three modes, These are APRS at 1200 baud for command and control and APRS on 145.825; a PSK-31 multi-user SSB uplink on 29 MHz and FM down link on 145.825 and lastly the already mentioned 29 MHz uplink and 24 MHz downlink SSB transponder

BBC Radio Devon completes medium wave digital trials

BBC Radio Devon has completed its trials with medium wave digital radio and the results have now been published. Overall the experiment was judged to be a success. The daytime service area increased over the former AM service, although some fringe listeners had difficulties with digital cliff dropout during the hours of darkness. However, as DRM permits multiple transmitters on the same frequency it might be possible to use fill-in transmitters without requiring additional bandwidth. [RSGB]

FCC gets 317,450 calls the day analog signals are cut

The Federal Communications Commission received about 317,450 calls to its help line, 888-CALL-FCC, on Friday, the day analog signals were cut off. In all, almost 700,000 calls came into the federal hotline last week, the FCC said, from people confused about the nationwide move to drop analog TV signals and broadcast only in digital. The move to digital-only TV was delayed from Feb. 17, and ramped-up efforts at spreading the word is credited with roughly halving the number of unprepared households since then. Nielsen Co. put the number of unready homes at 2.8 million (2.5 percent of the total television market) as of last Sunday. About a third of Friday's calls to the FCC were still about federal coupons to pay for digital converter boxes, an indication at least 100,000 people didn't have the right equipment to receive digital signals.

Microsoft to launch Windows 7 on Oct. 22

Hot off the presses: Microsoft will officially launch Windows 7 on October 22. Details to follow. Update: The Associated Press is reporting that upgrades will be free for people who buy a new Windows Vista PC shortly before Windows 7 arrives, though Microsoft didn't say when the upgrade program begins. Microsoft also didn't say how much Windows 7 will cost.

Delta to install Wi-Fi in first wide-body jet

Delta says it will complete installing in-flight Wi-Fi on its first wide-body jet later this month. The first test flight of the 767-300 prototype, which flies transcontinental routes, is scheduled for July 13. Since its introduction of Wi-Fi last year, the Atlanta-based carrier has been aggressively expanding the service throughout its fleet. Delta, which merged with Northwest last year, has completed nearly 60% of the pre-merger Delta domestic mainline fleet with 183 aircraft now equipped. The pre-merger Northwest aircraft don't offer Wi-Fi. But Delta's engineers have been "establishing the scope of work" for Northwest's 757-200 fleet, and the final design review for its A319 and A320, which fly domestically, will occur later this month, according to Delta. The following Delta aircraft now has Wi-Fi: MD88 (all 117 aircraft); MD90 (all 16 aircraft); B737-800 (1 aircraft); and B757-200 (49 aircraft).

Ryanair CEO: 'We are serious' about a toilet fee

It may not have been a publicity stunt after all. Ryanair CEO Michael O'Leary says the European low-cost giant will indeed start charging customers one pound (about \$1.65) to use the toilets on its flights, according to *The Guardian* of London. There may still be some room to question his seriousness on the issue, as O'Leary did not announce a firm start date or other concrete plans.

Still, he did tell reporters the toilet charge is expected to be in place on Ryanair planes within two years. O'Leary adds that he's asking Boeing to look into putting credit-card readers on toilet locks for new jets. "We are serious about it," O'Leary is quoted as saying by the *Guardian*. O'Leary made the comments following the carrier's first full-year loss in nearly two decades.

O'Leary didn't stop there, taking the toilet idea one step farther. "He's now proposing ripping out two of the three loos on a Boeing 737 to make way for a further six seats, claiming passengers can learn to cross their legs on flights of only an hour or so," writes Alistair Osborne of the London *Telegraph*. The London *Daily Mail* quotes O'Leary as saying: "We are flying aircraft on an average flight time of one hour around Europe. What the hell do we need three toilets for?"

That's not all. Ryanair says it may also begin charging customers for sick bags, if they're needed. There's still more. The *Daily Mail* says "one of (Ryanair's) more controversial plans (now) under discussion is (to) introduce new baggage measures, which would see passengers replace baggage handlers to load luggage onto aircraft." That, of course, would help cut costs by eliminating baggage handlers.

As you might expect, the latter proposal hasn't gone over well with some airport officials. "I am struggling to understand this. They have not discussed this with us," a spokesman for London Stansted tells the *Telegraph*. "There are security and practical considerations to be taken into account," the spokesman adds.

But, O'Leary did stand firm against the possibility of one new fee. The *Telegraph* says he "has ruled out proposals to charge obese passengers more for their flights because he regards the idea as impractical."

ARRL DX Bulletin

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

July 1 -
 RAC Canada Day Contest
 July 4-5
 Venez. Ind. Day Contest
 DL-DX RTTY Contest
 MI QRP CW Sprint
 July 5
 DARC 10M Digital Contest
 July 11
 FISTS Summer Sprint
 July 11-12
 IARU HF World Champ.
 July 18-19
 DMC RTTY Contest
 CQ WW VHF Contest
 NA QSO Party, RTTY
 July 20
 Run for Bacon QRP Contest
 July 25-26
 RSGB IOTA Contest
 August 1
 European HF Champion.
 TARA Grid Dip Shindig

(Thanks, Bruce, WA7BNM)

Next BRATS Meeting
 Tuesday, July 21, 7:15 PM
 Pikesville Library

ANGOLA, D2.

Vasilij is QRV as D2QMN and has been active using RTTY on 20 meters around 2000z. QSL via RZ3EC.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5.

Nigel, G4KIU now lives in Rarotonga, IOTA OC-013, and is QRV as E51SC. He is active on 80 to 10 meters using SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and some CW. QSL to home call.

ASCENSION ISLAND, ZD8.

Dean, KJ4GNB is QRV as ZD8DC and has been active on 20 meter using SSB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

AZERBAIJAN, 4J.

Rashad, 4J9M has been active using RTTY on 17 and 15 meters around 2200z, as well as 10 meters around 1000z. QSL via DL7EDH.

HUNGARY, HA.

Sanyi, HA0HV is QRV as HG400HV until the end of 2009. Activity is on all HF bands and 6 and 2 meters using CW, SSB and digital modes. QSL to home call.

ST. BARTHELEMY, FJ.

Conny is QRV as FJ/DL1DA and has been active on 20 and 17 meters using CW around 1900 to 2000z. QSL via DL1DA.

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, TN.

Nicolas is QRV as TN5SN and has been active on 6 meters and on RTTY on 20 meters around 2100z. QSL via IZ1BZV and LoTW.

SILENT KEY

Jay Leikin, N3AMT
 May 27, 2009

SOUTH AFRICA GIVES NEW PRIVILEGES ON 40 AND 20

South African radio amateurs will now have full access to the spectrum 7.000 to 7.200 MHz. In a government notice issued on Wednesday, June 10th, changes to both 40 and 20 meters were made final. In addition to the modification on 40, ZR licensees will now also have access from 14.225 to 14.350 MHz. The expanded privileges for South African hams is a direct result of negotiations begun in February of 2008 between the South African Radio League and that nations telecommunications regulation authority. (SARL)**

Ireland issues 500kHz Permits

Eight permits have been issued by the Irish regulator ComReg for operation in the 501 to 504kHz segment. CW activity within Ireland has been good with excellent signal strengths reported. Those with permits are now looking forward to increased activity from the west.

Southwest to test prices for Internet

Southwest Airlines Co. will start charging for Internet access on board four of its planes beginning Wednesday. The airline said Monday it will charge \$2 to \$12 depending on the length of the flight and the type of device passengers use to connect to the Internet.

Hamfests

Sunday, July 19: West Friendship, MD
BRATS Hamfest, Howard County Fairgrounds, Rtes 144 & 32, at I-70 410-461-1212; <http://www.bratsatv.org> Howard County Fairgrounds

Sunday, August 2 - Berryville, VA
Berryville (Winchester) Hamfest, Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds, Berryville (146.82/R)

Sunday, August 16: Westminster, MD
Carroll County Tailgate Fest, Carroll County Agricultural Center, Route 32, Steve, N3SB, n3sb@qis.net, (145.41/R)

Watch the RSGB News Online on ATV:

Website: <http://www.batc.tv/>
Roy, G8CKN reads the rsgb news every Sunday at 0830 GMT on amateur television. It can be watched live by anyone in the world on the batc streamer under the members stream callsign: g8ckn.

<http://www.batc.tv/>

A recording is also available at:

<http://www.superiorsignals.co.uk/gb3hv.com/gb2rs.html>

It will also be available soon on the batc web site tv streamer under film archive:

<http://www.batc.tv/>

73 Ian G3ZHI

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.uscc.com/~uarc/utah_atv/utah_atv.html

(Thanks, Scott, KB3JQQ)

VE EXAMS

BARC VE EXAMS for 2009

at BARC Clubhouse 12360 Owings Mills Blvd. Owings Mills
Register: 1 PM, Exams begin 2 PM. Free (Laurel VEC)
Saturdays: 9/5, 11/7; Sundays: 7/5, 10/4 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;

TBD

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)

AUGUST BARC VE EXAM MOVES!

Note NEW DATE, NEW TIME

August 1 exam moved to
Saturday, August 8 at 9 AM!
Same place...

ATV: Streaming Media

<http://www.batc.tv>

WE GET MAIL:

REAL TIME LOGGING

Fellow Amateur Radio Operators,
Hello this is ai3tx.? I created a website to facilitate the real time logging and mapping of QSL's and active stations around the country and around the world. ai3tx.com offers an innovative way of using online maps to enhance your radio operating experience. There are many features available and more that are planned.? Please stop by and see what it is all about.? I hope you are impressed and can see the possibilities this software brings to our hobby.

73, ai3tx Scott Jacovidis

milliwatt swap shop

ads are free and get results!

Send ad to: BRATS, P.O. Box 5915
Baltimore, MD 21282-5915, or email
to w3gzk@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: 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

FOR SALE: ICOM T2H 2 mtr HT with charger, belt clip, rubber ducky, manual, asking \$80. K3BCD, 410-866-5441 or ywm@comcast.net

FOR SALE: A bunch of meters. \$10; Dipole with insulators, and nylong line, \$10; Homebrew SWR bridge 2mtrs/440, \$10; Panoramic adaptor BC 1031C, \$40; Millen antenna matching pre-amp with 27-32 MHz plug-in, \$5; Call Ted, W3OWN, 410-668-5580, leave message, I will call back.

SPECIAL DEAL: ICOM BC-110 battery charger, 12vDC, 200 mA, for ICOM T8A or similar misplaced it, ordered a new one, then found it. Almost new, cost \$46, make me a reasonable offer. Mayer, W3GXX w3gzk@verizon.net

JADE COMPUTERS

1009 Ingleside Ave., Baltimore, MD 21228
443-677-4187; joe@jadecomptuers.us webpage design, hosting, order PC on-line <http://www.jadecomputers.us>

VTS - Videotaping Service

Video, DVD duplications, video tape transferred to DVD; standards, conversions, call VTS toll free: 1-877-891-1002. BRATS member Bob Shapiro, K2MYS.
<http://www.videotapingservice.com>

Antique Radio Repair, Restoration!

Eric, WA3TAD, audio-visual service, retro radio, 3401 Chestnut Ave. Balto. 21211. 410-467-3620;
wa3tad@comcast.net

Overlea Hobbies; Radio Consignments

8411 Harford Rd. Parkville; 410-665-3622 fine trains, model kits, x-acto, cars, planes, ships, many radios: Yaesu FT-101ZD, Kenwood TS 820S, 930S, Heath 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

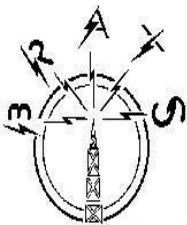
WANTED: AT-930 for a TS930S. Please send condition and price. Jerry. jerrymcf@sbcglobal.net

<p>ATTENTION: if you do NOT want your ad to run again, please send me an email let me know. Thanks! w3gzk@verizon.net</p>

WANTED: Your ad for this space. Send copy to w3gzk@verizon.net

HZ1EA Approved

HZ1EA Saudi Arabia has been approved for DXCC credit per Bill Moore, NC1L



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The Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society
P.O.Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

July 2009

BRATS HAMFEST: Sunday, July 19th, Howard County Fairgrounds

Other Radio Club Meetings

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)

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)

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