



the Milliwatt



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

December, 2009

George E. Smith, AA2EJ, Wins Nobel Prize

Around 5:30 on the morning of October 6, George E. Smith, AA2EJ, of Barnegat, New Jersey, got a phone call that changed his life: He had just found out he had won the Nobel Prize in Physics for 2009 "for the invention of an imaging semiconductor circuit -- the CCD sensor." Smith will share the prize money with two other recipients: Charles K. Kao, of Standard Telecommunication Laboratories in the United Kingdom and Chinese University of Hong Kong in Hong Kong, China, and Willard S. Boyle, of Bell Laboratories. Each recipient will receive a diploma, a medal and a document confirming their share of SEK 10 million (about 1.4 million US dollars); Kao will receive 50 percent, while Smith and Boyle will each receive 25 percent of the monetary award.

FCC Looks to Revise, Clarify Vanity Call Sign Rules

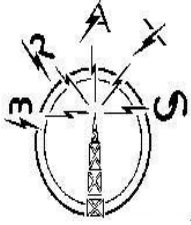
On Wednesday, November 25, the FCC issued a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* -- WT Docket No. 09-209 -- seeking to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules to clarify certain rules and codify existing procedures governing the vanity call sign system, as well as revise certain rules applicable to club stations.

GAREC Returns to Region 2 for 2010

The 2010 meeting of the Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference (GAREC) will take place October 11-12 on the Dutch island of Curacao in the Caribbean. The theme of the conference will be *Learning through Practicing*. According to GAREC 2010 Organizing Committee Chairman Seppo Sisatto, PhD, OH1VR, GAREC's mission is two-fold: To help Amateur Radio operators be better prepared for emergency communications and to create emergency communications exercises at both the national and international levels. Exchanging information and experiences among all Amateur Radio operators and groups that are interested in emergency communications helps to promote GAREC's vision of having regular worldwide cooperation and understanding between governments and the Amateur Radio Service in the field of emergency communications. GAREC 2010 is organized in cooperation with the Dutch Amateur Radio Emergency Service (DARES) and Club for Experimental Radio Examination Netherland Antilles (VERONA). Sisatto said that details on the upcoming conference will be announced as they become available.

Happy Holiday Season to All, from the BRATS!

For email notifications of BRATS meetings and new issues of The Milliwatt, [join theMilliwatt Yahoo! group](#)



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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

This month we will try something new again. We have included a number of items of international news on page 4. There are items re: Norway, Finland, Canada, Ireland and Sweden. Elsewhere is an item about permission from Ofcom, Great Britain's FCC, to erect a cross-band repeater. I include this item because you may want to listen for it- on 6 meters or 10 meters or both! It is always fascinating to see what other countries are doing regarding ham radio. Enjoy! 73, Mayer, W3GXX

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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

InfoLine: 410- 461-1212

Meetings: Irregular dates, 7:15 PM, Pikesville Library, 1301 Reisterstown Rd., Pikesville, MD.

(Please see list of meeting dates on this page)

President: Ed Rosen, N3GXH

Vice Pres: Edward Koritzer, N3DGY

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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

7:15 PM at the Pikesville Library,

1301 Reisterstown Rd, Pikesville

On irregular dates as follows:

2009: December 15. 2010: January 14, February 18,

March 15, April 15, May 13, June 17

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, December 15, 7:15 PM

Holiday Party!

Worm turns iPhones into bots

A malicious Apple iPhone worm was released this weekend. It targets iPhone users who remove Apple's protection mechanisms to allow their phones to run any software -- a process called jailbreaking. The worm installs a botnet management program that gives the intruder the ability to use the iPhone just like they would a botted Windows PC. Bad guys use botnets to spread spam, steal data and hijack online accounts. The worm also changes the default password to make it harder for users to regain control, says Sophos researcher Paul Ducklin. This comes less than two weeks after a 21-year-old Australian researcher, Ashley Towns, released the Ikee worm -- the prototype for this new type of attack. Towns cleverly changed the wall paper of iPhones he hacked to a picture of 80s singer Rick Astley. This weekend's attack proves, yet again, that cyber criminals are predictable as rain in Seattle. As soon as someone -- even a braggart hacker -- comes up with a useful new method to exploit a popular system, profit-minded bad guys inevitably will pounce. People crack open the locks on their iPhone operating system to subvert Apple's strictness about permitting only AT&T phone service and corporate-approved apps. Security firm Intego estimates that 6% to 8% of iPhones are jailbroken. Towns, the young Australian hacker, said he launched Ikee to underscore how most iPhone jailbreakers were too lazy to change the default system password, making their iPhones trivial to hack. Graham Cluley, Sophos senior analyst, notes that there has been a long history of "proof of concept" hacks evolving quickly into more malicious attacks. "The earlier Ikee worm wasn't written with an obvious financial motivation," says Cluley. "However, there is no doubt that the author of Ikee helped the creators of this worm by releasing his source code, giving them a template upon which to create their own more malicious attack." Owners of jailbroken iPhones would be wise to also change their default root password -- if the worm hasn't already done it for them. "Leaving it in its default state is playing Russian Roulette with your data," says Cluley. "There will undoubtedly more attacks attempting to take advantage of hackers gambling with the security of their jailbroken iPhone."

ARISS Antennas Installed on Columbus Module

On Saturday, November 21, the new ARISS VHF/UHF antenna as well as the Automatic Identification System, or AIS, VHF antenna was installed on the ISS Columbus module during the second extravehicular activity of the STS-129 mission. ARISS plans to move an onboard radio to the Columbus module to make use of its new antenna. The other antenna will be used to support the AIS maritime experiment to help track the passage of ships across the world's oceans.

FCC Issues First Waiver for Government-Sponsored Disaster Drill

On Tuesday October 27, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) granted the first waiver that allows amateurs who participate in a government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster drill to communicate on behalf of their employers during the drill. The waiver request was made on behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. That state conducted a full-scale exercise on Wednesday, October 28, 2009 from 8 AM-5 PM (EDT) to test their emergency response to the possible release of chemical agents at Blue Grass Army Depot, located near Richmond, Kentucky.

Next BRATS Meeting: Tuesday, December 15 at
7:15 PM, Pikesville Library, HOLIDAY PARTY, ELECTIONS!

FINLAND ALLOWS LIMITED 4 METER ACCESS

Amateurs in Finland, as well as the separate DXCC entities of Aaland Island and Market Reef, can now operate in 70.000 to 70.175 MHz and 70.225 to 70.300 MHz. But a report on the Four Meters web site by OZ2M says that 4 meter operation is not permitted within the 13 border municipalities. Also, that transmissions within 50 km of the Russian border are only permitted with the antenna's main lobe pointed away from that nation. A maximum transmission power is limited to 25 watts within 50 km of the Norwegian border will also be enforced. But there is some good news on the 6 meter front. This as hams residing in Finnish coastal areas are now free for 50 MHz operations which were previously forbidden due to former Swedish Channel 2 television broadcasting.

Two Canadian stations on 500 kHz

On 30 October, Canada issued two licences in the Developmental Service in the range 504 to 509kHz. VE1ZZ has been assigned VX9PSO and is reported to be on 504.6kHz. VO1NA has been assigned VX9MRC and is reported to be on 507.77 and 508.5 kHz. Two more stations, VE3OHH and VE7BDQ, are expected to become active soon.

New technical website launched in Ireland

A new technical website has been launched in Ireland, www.techtir.ie. It contains discussions, tutorials and articles on a wide range of technology subjects. There is an anti-spammer signup filter as well as Captcha and strict Moderation, so the site should be suitable for youngsters too.

Sweden bans polluting PLT equipment

A CEPT Electronic Communications Committee report notes that Sweden has removed from the market some of the Powerline Networking equipment that pollutes the radio spectrum. The 54th meeting of the CEPT Working Group Spectrum Engineering in Bordeaux covered recent developments of the harmonised emission standard for IT equipment EN55022. Mention of the Swedish action in withdrawing polluting PLT equipment appears under '13 EMC' in the Working Group report. If you wish to read this in full, just type 'Working Group Spectrum Engineering Bordeaux' into your favourite search engine and go to the www.ero.dk reference you will see listed.

Norwegian Amateurs Receive New Privileges

As of November 6, radio amateurs in Norway were granted privileges on three new bands, as well as primary status on the extended 40 meter band and a frequency extension on 12 meters. According to IARU Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, Norwegian amateurs received new secondary user privileges on 60 meters (5.260-5.410 MHz), the 600 meter band (493-510 kHz) and in five blocks in the 4 meter (70 MHz) band. Amateur Radio operators in Norway will also enjoy upgraded privileges on 40 meters, moving from secondary to primary users between 7.100-7.200 MHz and 1000 W output. They have also received a new secondary allocation from 24.740-24.890 MHz in the 12 meter band, expanding upon Norway's existing primary allocation of 24.890-24.990 MHz. Garpestad said that minor adjustments were also made in the SHF (3-30 GHz) and EHF (30-300 GHz) portions of the band. Congratulations to our Norwegian colleagues, said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. The new domestic allocations in Norway are consistent with the present and future spectrum requirements for the Amateur Service as determined by the IARU Administrative Council. We hope that other administrations will consider taking similar steps.

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

- Dec. 4-6
ARRL 160-Meter Contest
- Dec. 5
TARA RTTY Melee
Wake Up QRP Sprint
- Dec. 12-13
ARRL 10-Meter Contest
- Dec. 19
OK DX RTTY Contest
- Dec. 19-20
Croatian CW Contest
- Dec. 26
RAC Winter Contest
DARC Christmas Contest

(Thanks, Bruce, WA7BNM)

ARRL DX Bulletin**CANARY ISLANDS, EA8.**

Jean, ON5JV and Georgette, ON6AK are QRV as EA8/ home calls from Tijoco Bajo on Tenerife, IOTA AF-004, until February 10. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters mainly during their evening hours. QSL to home calls.

INDIA, VU.

Amateur Radio operators in India have recently been authorized to transmit between 7100 and 7200 kHz, now giving them use from 7000 to 7200 kHz.

WAKE ISLAND, KH9.

Colin, KH9/WA2YUN is usually QRV on the ANZA Net around 0600z. QSL via K2PF.

CAMBODIA, XU.

Peter, NO2R is QRV as XU7ACY from Sihanoukville and is here for another year. Activity is on all bands using CW and SSB. He will also be active as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry in the CQ WW DX CW contest. QSL via W2EN.

VIRGIN ISLANDS, KP2.

Sharon, K7WZB and Garry, K9WZB will be QRV as K2V from Saint Croix Island, IOTA NA 106, from December 2 to 14. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. They will monitor 6 meters most of the time for any band openings. QSL direct via K9WZB.

ARRL DX Bulletin**LIBERIA, EL.**

Chris, ZS6RI plans to be QRV as EL8RI for about one to two months. Activity will be mainly on 40, 30 and 20 meters running QRP power. QSL to home call.

THAILAND, HS.

Thailand's National Telecommunications Commission has approved a request by the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand to expand 40 meters. Effective November 6, E2 and HS stations will have primary use of 7.0 to 7.2 MHz.

OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT.

The following operations are approved for DXCC credit: Chagos Island, VQ9JC, current operation. This operation was previously rejected as a shipboard operation. DXCC exchanged correspondence with the operator and determined that this operation was actually land-based thereby satisfying the conditions of DXCC Rule 8; Timor-Leste, 4W6AL, 2009 operation; Afghanistan, T6AG, current operation.

TUNISIA, 3V.

Alex, GM0DHZ will be here beginning November 16 for five weeks. He plans to operate using CW from the 3V8SS club station during the weekends. QSL via operator's instructions.

MADAGASCAR, 5R.

Eric, F6ICX will be QRV as 5R8IC from St. Marie Island, IOTA AF-090, from November 17 to December 15. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters. QSL to home call.

ANTARCTICA.

Bill, K7MT will be QRV as KC4USV from McMurdo Base, IOTA AN-011, from November 15 to February 20. Activity is mainly on 20 meters using CW, SSB and PSK31. QSL via K1IED.

OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT.

The following operation is approved for DXCC credit: Iraq, YI9TM, current operation.

Winter Olympics to be celebrated on amateur bands

The forthcoming Winter Olympic Games in Canada will be celebrated on the amateur bands. The Vancouver Olympics Amateur Radio Group will be activating three special event stations until March 2010. VG7V is on the air until 30 November, then VG7W will be on the air from 1 December until 31 January. VG7G will be on air from 1 February until 31 March 2010. Commemorative QSL cards will be available

Next BRATS Meeting

Tuesday, December 15, 7:15 PM
Pikesville Library
Holiday Party

ATV Ham Radio News: www.ac6rb.com

NCVEC to Release New Technician Question Pool to Public in January 2010

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) is due to release the new Technician class (Element 2) question pool to the 14 VECs on December 1, 2009; it will be released to the public in January 2010. Each question pool for the three Amateur Radio license classes -- Technician, General and Amateur Extra -- is reviewed on a four-year rotation. This new Technician class pool will become effective on July 1, 2010.

ARRL, McSnyder Software Team Up to Provide iTunes Apps

ARRL is pleased to announce the availability of a new suite of Amateur Radio mobile software -- designed specifically for use with the Apple's iPhone and iPod Touch. The applications -- or "apps" -- are named ARRL Technician, ARRL General and ARRL Extra and function as an electronic version of practice exam flash cards

Notice of Variation for GB3WX

A Notice of variation for GB3WX, the 6m and 10m cross-band repeater, was issued on 3 November. The Wessex Repeater Group would like to express their thanks to at the ETCC and Ofcom for their support with this project.

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)

VE EXAMS

BARC VE EXAMS for 2010

at BARC Clubhouse 12360 Owings Mills Blvd. Owings Mills
Register: 1 PM, Exams begin 2 PM. Free (Laurel VEC)
Sunday, Jan 3; Saturday, Feb 6; Saturday, Mar 6; Sunday, Apr 12;
Saturday, May 1; Saturday, Jun 5; Sunday, Jul 11; Saturday, Aug 7;
Saturday, Sep 4; Sunday, Oct 3; Saturday, Nov 6; Saturday, Dec 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)

Complimentary Wi-Fi Service

now available at all Barnes & Noble stores. No fees. No charges. Just log on.

UTAH ATV

Lots of projects and links:

http://www.ussc.com/~uarc/utah_atv/utah_atv.html

(Thanks, Scott, KB3JQQ)

Free IARU Locator Maps

Free IARU locator maps are available in PDF format for downloading. Maps are available for many nations on all continents. The US map include Hawaii and Alaska. You can find them at <http://iarumapsrussia.webs.com>

NEXT BRATS MEETING

Tuesday, December 15, 7:15 PM
at the Pikesville Library.
Holiday Party

NEW LED HAM RADIO LIGHT COMMUNICATIONS RECORD SET DOWN-UNDER

A new, non line-of-sight optical communications distance record of 288 km has been set down-under with a one-way transmission between two hams transmitting with Light Emitting Diodes. On the night of October 27th, Rex Moncur, VK7MO, and Joe Gelston, VK7JG, assisted by Paul Godden, VK7KPG, set a new one way non line-of-sight optical record of 288 km across Australia's Bass Strait. And they did this using red light scattered off the clouds. VK7MO was on Mt. Liptrap in South Gippsland listening on his A-P-D based receiver. This while VK7JG and VK7KPG were on Mt. Horror in North-East V-K-7 transmitting with a 3 watt Luxeon LED transmitter. The signals from Mt. Horror were bounced off of some high altitude cirrus clouds estimated to have been at about 20,000 feet. On the receiving end, the callsigns from Mt. Horror were decoded by VK7MO using a new program called Weak Signal Communicator. Weak Signal Communicator is actually a new front end for the Spectrum Lab audio analyzing application that has been recently created by David Smith, VK3HZ.

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

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

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Holiday Party

JADE COMPUTERS

1009 Ingleside Ave., Baltimore, MD 21228
443-677-4187; joe@jadecomputers.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

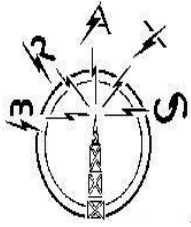
8411 Harford Rd. Parkville; 410-665-3622 fine trains, model kits, x-acto, cars, planes, ships, many radios: Yaesu FT-101ZD, Kenwood TS 820S, 930S, Heath SB-102, National NC 183, more. Dick, N3JWN, 410-488-2806

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

WANTED to BORROW: Shipping container for Kenwood TS-850S. Will pick up, or ship it to me. Will return it after I get my rig back from Kenwood. 410-668-5580. If not there, leave a message. Ted, W3OWN

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

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



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More BRATS meetings on the following dates: 2010: Thursday, January 14; Thursday, February 18; Monday, March 15; Thursday, April 15; Thursday, May 14; Thursday, June 17.

Other Radio Club Meetings

AMRAD

2nd Thursday, 7:30 PM,
Dolley Madison Library; 1244 Oak Ridge
Ave. McLean, VA (147.21/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

BARC

1st and 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 PM
12360 Owings Mills Blvd (near warehouse)
Owings Mills, MD (146.67R)

AARC

1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7:30 PM
Davidsonville Family Rec. Center, Queen Anne
Bridge Rd, Wayson Rd (147.105R)

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