

the milliwatt



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

July, 2015

FCC Chairman, Lawmakers Agree to Scale Back Field Office Shutdowns:

Leaders of the US House Energy and Commerce Committee have reached agreement with FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler to amend the Commission's plans -- announced in March -- to close a number of FCC field offices. Under the revised plan, the FCC will keep 15 of its 24 field offices open. According to a Committee media release, the plan would "ensure better rapid response capabilities for the West, provide a mechanism for escalating interference complaints, improve enforcement of the FCC's rules against pirate radio operators, and prevent the Commission from transferring field office jobs to FCC Headquarters." The FCC had been under pressure from lawmakers and others to step back from its plan to shutter the field offices.

"We found a good solution that makes sense. These changes will keep field offices open in strategic locations and help ensure that the commission can fulfill its responsibilities to the public and public safety communities," said Communications and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Greg Walden, W7EQI. "This agreement strikes a balance between the important work of FCC field agents and streamlining field operations to ensure the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. Positive outcomes often result from collaborative work. This agreement represents just such an effort."

As a result of the announced agreement, a June 11 hearing of Walden's subcommittee to address the proposed closings was cancelled. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, was among those prepared to testify at the session.

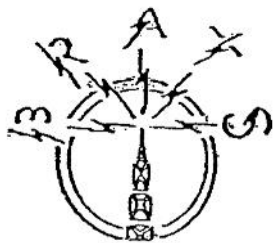
Under the proposals, initiated last fall, the field office geographic footprint would have been reduced from 24 sites to 8 sites, with the EB set to "pre-position" equipment in several other strategic locations. Offices already slated to remain open are New York City; Columbia, Maryland -- the site of the Bureau's HF Direction-Finding Center; Chicago; Atlanta; Miami; Dallas; Los Angeles, and San Francisco. The other offices the FCC plans to keep open have not yet been announced. Read more <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-chairman-lawmakers-announce-agreement-to-scale-back-field-office-shutdowns>.

Source:

The ARRL Letter

Ham Video Transmitter Now Transmitting

On Friday May 1, 2015, the Ham Video transmitter on board the Columbus module of the International Space Station was powered on and started transmitting in "Blank Transmission" (BT) mode. When the ground stations are determined to operate reliably, the Ham Video transmitter will be used to enhance ARISS school contacts. Uplink will remain VHF audio only. This operational mode is dubbed ARISS Ham TV.



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

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX, Editor

Some Thoughts

We continue to bring you some pictures along with
what, we hope, are interesting stories.

If you have any items that you think our readers
Would find of interest, please send them along
to me (w3gxx@verizon.net) We also accept
want ads, and they are free..

Thanks and 73,
Mayer, W3GXX

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The Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282

A non-profit organization under section 501 (c) (3)
of the internal Revenue Code and a non-profit
corporation in the State of Maryland

Member: ARRL, Foundation for Amateur Radio

Home Page: <http://www.bratsatv.org>

Email: brats@bratsatv.org

Meetings: 2nd Monday, 7 PM at the
Greene Turtle, Owings Mills, MD or
The Pikesville Library; 1301 Reisterstown Rd.

President: Oryx Gazaella, K0RYX

Vice Pres.: Kevin Sherwood, KB3PLX

Secretary: Ted Bauer, WA3AER

Treasurer: Jim Sherwood, KB3SKN

Chairman of the Board:

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX

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BRATS REPEATERS

Linked, WB3DZO

147.03+, 224.96-, 448.325-

Stand alone:

443.350+, 224.8-

Packet Nodes:

W3GXT=5 145.05

W3GXT-10 224.52

ATV repeaters W3WCQ

inputs: 426.25, 1253.25

Outputs: 439.25, 911.25

BRATS WEEKLY NETS

Monday 9 PM Traffic and Info

Tues. 11:45 Informal ATV

Wednes. 9 PM CATS ATV

Thurs 9 PM BRATS ATV

Sat. 1 PM Weekly News Bulletin

Sun 8 PM BRATS ATV net

AS Needed: Skywarn

BRATS Board of Directors

Through December, 2015

K2GZL, N3GXH

Through December, 2016

W3MSR, K9FXV

BRATS MEETINGS

Monday, July 13, August 10:

at the Pikesville Library

1301 Reisterstown Road

All meetings start at 7:00 PM

Please plan to join us

BRATS

Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society

MINUTES of the 8 June 2015

Monthly Meeting

OryxG, K0RYX, chaired the meeting at Greene Turtle, Owings Mills, MD. Due to inclement weather on the patio, the meeting was informal. Actions to accept and approve Minutes and Treasurer Report deferred to July meeting.

/REPORTS

- Minutes: Secretary's Minutes from the May meeting were submitted.
- Treasurer: Treasurer's report for May was submitted.
- Repeater/Equipment: The plan remains to set up one reliable 220MHz repeater with 2 receive sites. CATS declined to accept the surplus 220MHz repeater gear. KevinS, KB3PLX, presented BGE Grant Equipment Upgrade equipment list for consideration.
- Events: Field Day, June 27, 28. See below

/OLD BUSINESS

- Field Day at Aero: see our Web site for details.
- Field Day at KA3ZMN: Steve has offered use of his location in Randallstown for club members. If interested, please email Steve, ka3zmn@arri.net. Don't delay with your response; Steve needs to get a head count.
- Work Party / Barbecue: KevinS plans a work party / barbecue on June 21 at 1300 at his QTH. We can work on new repeaters' set up and/or the balloon project.
- GSH Space: We have no response to our email request. OryxG will phone the contact to discuss.

/NEW BUSINESS

- Meeting Venue: BCPL has changed its room reservation rules to the extent we cannot guarantee having our meetings at our usual time and location. Suggestions are sought for a regular meeting venue that would accommodate our legacy schedule.

Ted, WA3AER, Secretary

July, 2015

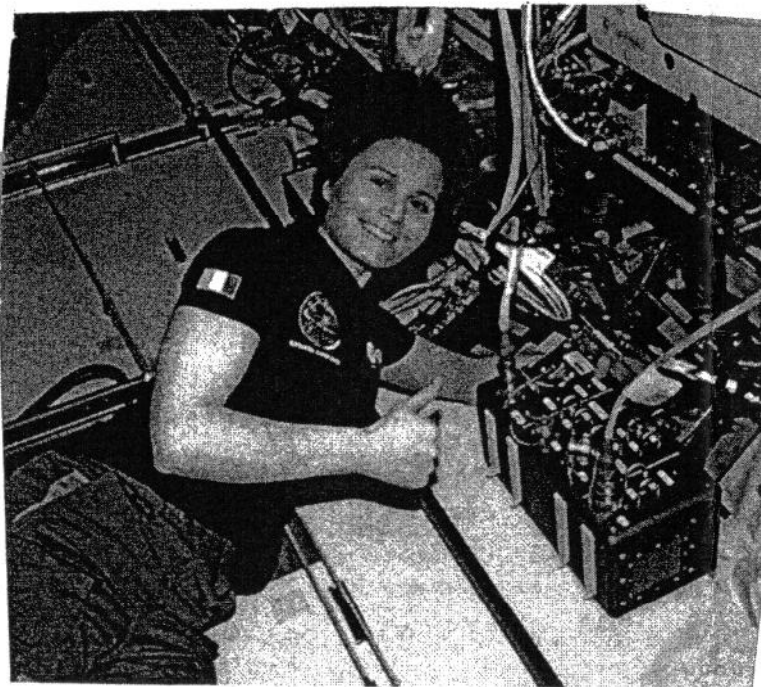
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Astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti, IZ0UDF, Sets New Record for Woman in Space

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European Space Agency Astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti, IZ0UDF, who returned to Earth June 11 with her crewmates -- NASA Astronaut Terry Virts, and Russian Cosmonaut Anton Shkaplerov -- has set a new record for the longest single space mission by a woman. Cristoforetti's duty tour on the International Space Station was extended by about a month, following the failure in late April of the Russian robotic *Progress 59* cargo spacecraft to reach the ISS. The *Progress* went out of control, eventually burning up in Earth's atmosphere.

"Early start into Day 200 in #space," Cristoforetti tweeted before boarding the *Soyuz* vehicle for the trip home. "It's been an amazing journey, thx for coming along! Now time to go home to Earth."



Massive Solar Flare Reported Blacks Out Some Radio Communication

A sunspot erupted this afternoon creating a powerful solar flare bathing Earth in electromagnetic radiation and causing temporary disruptions in some radio communication, according to SpaceWeather.com, while a solar storm continues to rage. The solar flares can trigger several types of events. In today's, the solar flare unleashed X-ray radiation, in addition to a solar particle event or "proton storm," and it combined with a coronal mass ejection of charged particles, all hitting Earth and affecting Earth in different ways at different times. NOAA sent out a space weather warning, indicating astronauts, spacecraft, and even airline passengers flying very high in the farthest northern latitudes will be exposed to increasing radiation. (6/23/15)

AMSAT-NA Opportunity to Rideshare to Geosynchronous Orbit

AMSAT is excited to announce that we have accepted an opportunity to participate in a potential rideshare as a hosted payload on a geosynchronous satellite planned for launch in 2017. An amateur radio payload, operating in the Amateur Satellite Service, will fly on a spacecraft which Millennium Space Systems (MSS) of El Segundo, CA is contracted to design, launch, and operate for the US government based on their Aquilla MS Series Satellite Structure.

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

July 1	RAC Canada Day Contest
Jul 2	NRAU 10m Activity Contest
July 3	NCCC RTTY Sprint
July 4-5	Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest DL DX RTTY Contest Original QRP Contest
July 5	DARC 10-meter Digital Contest
July 11-12	IARU HF World Championship
July 17	QRP Fox Hunt
July 18-19	DMC RTTY Contest NA QSO Party, RTTY CQ WORLDWIDE VHF Contest
July 23	RSGB Club Champ. Data
July 25-26	RSGB IOTA Contest County Hunters CW Contest
Aug. 1-2	10-10 Int. Summer contest SSB NA QSO Party, CW ARRL August UHF Contest
August 8-9	Maryland-DC QSO Party

HamGallery Dayton 2015 Photo Gallery is Now Available:

Tom Roscoe, K8CX, reports that the Dayton 2015 Photo Gallery has been posted on his HamGallery website. Tom's Dayton photo galleries date back to 1997 and contain nearly 4500 photos. You can access these annual photo databases from the HamGallery homepage, and you can search within individual annual photo galleries.

ARRL Offering 20 Percent Off on Select Antenna Publications

Summertime is antenna time! To celebrate, ARRL is rolling back prices on some of the hottest antenna publications in Amateur Radio. Save 20 percent on select ARRL antenna-themed publications when you order online through July 31, 2015. No coupon code is necessary to receive the savings, and discounted titles may be combined with one coupon code offer. For a complete list of discounted publications, visit ARRL's "Antenna Books Price Rollback" page online.

ARRL publication are available from the **ARRL Store** or from your **ARRL Publication Dealer**, or call 860-594-0355 (toll-free in the US, 888-277-5289) to order. E-mail **ARRL Publication Sales** for more information.

ARRL DX BULLETIN

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Milan, OK1DWC is QRV as E51DWC from Rarotonga Island, IOTA OC-013, for the next few weeks. Activity is holiday style on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.

COLOMBIA, HK. Lothar, DK8LRF will be QRV as HK3JCL from June 20 to October 20. Activity will be mainly on 20 meters using SSB, with some occasional PACTOR and PSK. QSL to home call.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, HL. A group of operators are QRV as 6M6M from the Gyeonggi Province until July 31. Activity is on 6 meters using CW, SSB, FM and digital modes. QSL via HL2UVH.

NETHERLANDS, PA. Special event station PA50DRAA is QRV until July 14 to draw attention to the decades-long development of the national park Drentsche Aa. QSL via bureau.

MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7. Bob, VK2RG will be QRV as V73RG from Majuro beginning June 22. Activity will be on the HF bands using JT65 and WSPR, and possibly PSK and some SSB. QSL via operator's instructions.

CAMBODIA, XU. Jarrad, VK3HXT is QRV as XU7AGA from Koh Rong, IOTA AS-133. Activity is on 20, 17 and 15 meters using SSB and PSK31. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

Hamfests

Sunday, July 19:

NO BRATS MARYLAND HAMFEST!

Nobody stepped forward to volunteer to run it,,

1AW Portable Operations Booklet Now Available

The W1AW Portable Operations commemorative booklet, which chronicles the central activity of the year-long ARRL Centennial QSO Party, is now available. The Centennial celebration may be over, but the memories can live on with this keepsake publication, which features 40 pages of stats, stories, and photos from the hams who put W1AW/p on the air, bringing enjoyment to many thousands of hams. *The W1AW Portable Operations* is available from the ARRL Store (ARRL Item No 0383; \$9.95 retail), or call 860-594-0355 (toll-free in the US, 888-277-5289).

E-mail ARRL Publication Sales for more information

BARC VE Exams

Sunday, July 12

Our Savior Lutheran Church

141 Lavern Ave., Lansdowne

Walk-ins accepted;

Register at 1:30, exams start at 2PM

No one admitted after exams begin

LARC VE EXAMS

364 Main St. Laurel,

3rd Sat. at 9 AM;

John, WB3GXW,

301-572-5124

**MD Mobileers VE Exams at
National Electronics Museum,
Linthicum**

4th Tuesday at 6 PM

Mike, KA2JAI, 443-310-4902

KA2JAI@arrl.net

New world distance records on 2.3 and 3.4 GHz Ham Bands

The ARRL report two California radio amateurs - one of them in Hawaii - have set new world distance records of 4024 km on the 2.3 and 3.4 GHz microwave amateur bands.

Wayne Overbeck, N6NB, operating from a radio-equipped rental car on the big island of Hawaii, worked **Gregory Campbell, W6IT**, operating Overbeck's own fixed station near Orange, California, on both bands - a distance of more than 4024 km (2495 miles). The contacts blew away records that had stood for more than 20 years and more than doubled the previous distance record for a two-way voice (SSB) contact at those frequencies, Overbeck said, adding that most previous microwave distance records have been set using CW.

"These are the first-ever SSB contacts between Hawaii and the mainland on 2304 and 3456," Overbeck said.

The record-setting contacts occurred on June 19 (June 18 in Hawaii) on 2.3 GHz at 0257 UTC and at on 3.4 GHz at 0300 UTC. W6IT was in grid square DM13cs, while N6NB/KH6 was in BK29hq. According to the database of distance records maintained by Al Ward, W5LUA, the old record was 3982 km, set on by KH6HME (SK) and N6CA on July 14, 1994, on 2.3 GHz and on July 28, 1991, on 3.4 GHz. Both contacts were on CW.

Read the full ARRL story at

<http://www.arrl.org/news/view/new-world-distance-records-set-on-2-3-and-3-4-ghz-ham-bands>

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Lewis, 410-296-4874.

WANTED: Manual for MFJ 1452,
WB2LOO, gkm313@verizon.net

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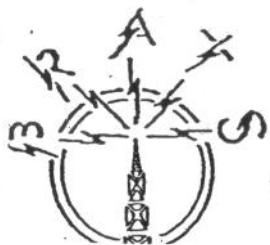
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<http://www.videotapingservice.com>

OJ0B on Market Reef Logs Hundreds of 2 Meter Moonbounce, Meteor Scatter Contacts

The recent Market Reef OJ0B expedition resulted in 462 contacts via 2 meter Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) and meteor scatter activity with stations on all continents. The activity this month was a somewhat belated 50th anniversary celebration of the historic first 2 meter EME contact. More than 50 US and Canadian hams were among those that worked OJ0B on 2 meter EME. The OJ0B activity shut down on June 15 after making more than 8200 contacts on all bands and modes.

Project leaders dedicated the activity to VHF pioneer Lenna Suominen, OH1NL (SK), who had experimented with EME in the 1960s and made the first-ever 2 meter EME contact, as well as the first transatlantic (Europe-US) on any band above 50 MHz, with Bill Conkel, W6DNG, in 1964. OJ0B used JT65B mode, developed by Joe Taylor, K1JT. Former ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, was one of the lucky US stations to work OJ0B, and Harrison served as one of the pilots for the activity.

All contacts have been uploaded to ClubLog and OQRS.



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BRATS MEETINGS

Owings Mills, MD
July 13, August 10:
Pikesville Library

BARC Meetings
Wednesday

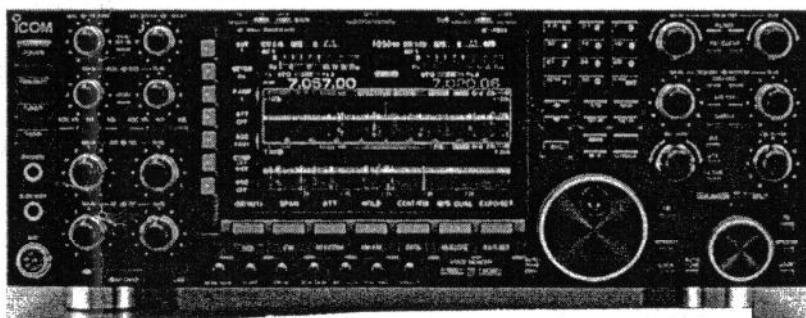
Wegmans Hunt Valley
upstairs dining room

Other Clubs

CARA
4th Tuesday at 7:30 PM
Columbia Gateway Center
Room 401; Columbia, MD

AARC
Thursday,
Davidsonville Family Rec.
Center, 3789 Queen Anne
Bridge Rd. Davidsonville

IC-7851 HF/50MHz Transceiver

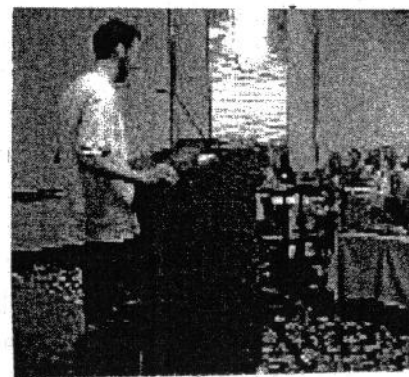


New high-end transceiver from Icom

Icom UK have announced the latest generation of high end HF transceiver, called the IC-7851. It has a host of new features and upgrades and you can read full details on Icom UK's website at http://www.icomuk.co.uk/News_Article/3508/18475/

The 34th Annual ARRL And TAPR Digital Communications Conference

October 9-11, 2015,
Arlington Heights, IL
(Chicago)
Doubletree by Hilton



Renew: Regular \$15; retired/student/disabled \$10; Family \$20

Name _____ Call _____ e-mail _____

MAIL TO: BRATS, P.O. Box 5915; Baltimore, MD 21282-5915