

the milliwatt



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

July, 2016

BREAKING NEWS: AES CLOSING!

Breaking News: Amateur Electronic Supply, the second-largest ham radio dealer in the U.S., is closing. The Milwaukee-based seller plans to shut its doors at the end of this month after more than 50 years of serving the amateur radio community. Amateur Electronic Supply has four locations: Its corporate headquarters in Milwaukee; the Cleveland area; Las Vegas and Orlando, Florida.

The business began as a venture by a then-18-year-old Terry Sterman, W9DIA, in Milwaukee in 1957. It was founded as Amateur Electronic Supply, LLC in 1998, according to business records, including Bloomberg. Terry Sterman became a Silent Key in 1999.

THOUSANDS GATHER AT FRIEDRICHSHAFEN EXPO

In the U.S., we have Dayton, but in Europe the big gathering for the past four decades has been in Germany. We hear more from Teemu Salminen, OH7T, who was there for Amateur Radio Newline: While radio amateurs had their Field Day in the States, in Europe, in Germany, in Friedrichshafen, there was a ham radio expo with over 17,000 visitors from around the world. During the three days, 198 companies and associations from the 36 countries presented their services and products related to radio and telegraphy in ham radio. The many visitors were from the United States, Japan, Taiwan, China, Australia and India and were all represented there. It opened, for its 41st year, with the new motto: "Amateur Radio - on land, on water and in the air."

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POPE IN POLAND

:When Pope Francis arrives in Poland toward the end of this month, it will mark his first visit to that country. He will be there for World Youth Days, a biannual event created by Pope John Paul II that draws young Catholics from all corners of the world.

The youth-oriented program isn't the only high profile activity taking place in Krakow, however: Amateur radio's special event station H-F-ZERO-F will be on the air in that city to coincide with the Pope's visit and will operate from July 25 to July 31st. QSL cards should be sent to SP9BRP. Pope Francis' visit comes 10 years after Pope Benedict's four-day trip to Poland in May 2006.



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

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXK, Editor

SOME THOUGHTS

We apologize for the lateness of this issue.
We have been occupied with other things.
There was no June meeting., There will be no
July meeting, due to lack of business.
There will be an August and September
Meeting at the LRVFD firehouse on August
26 and Sept.22. Plan to join us.
'73, Mayer, W3GXK

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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
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Email: brats@bratsatv.org

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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 W3WCO
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 Bull
Sun 8 PM BRATS ATV net
AS Needed: Skywarn

BRATS Board of Directors
Through December, 2016:
W3MSR, K9FXV
Through December, 2017:
K2GZL, N3GXH

BRATS MEETINGS

4th Monday at 7 PM
Liberty Rd. Volunteer fire Dept.
10010 Liberty Rd. Randallstown
Date and place subject to change

Listen to the weekly News
Bulletin on 147.03/R
Saturday at 1 PM
Join us for the weekly
Traffic and info Net on
Mondays at 9PM on 147.03/I

**There was no June or July meeting.
We are repeating the minutes of the May meeting, FYI:
Next meetings: August 26 and Sept. 22 at LRVFD**

**Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society
MINUTES of the 16 May 2016
Monthly Meeting**

OryxG, KORYX, chaired the meeting, held at Greene Turtle, Owings Mills.

/REPORTS

- Minutes: Minutes of the April meeting accepted, approved.
- Treasurer: Treasurer's report submitted and accepted.
- Repeater/Equipment: 030 transmitter is working OK. No reported issue with PL tone on north Baltimore site.
Discussed possible existence of historical documentation allowing equipment at north Baltimore site and difficulty engaging with current facilities management. KenM, K3UQQ, to pursue.

'OLD BUSINESS

- Public Service Events: **MS150 Ride**, June 4-5, Easton, MD; 3 (4?) rooms available for volunteers.
Susan G. Komen Ride, June 25 (conflicts with Field Day), South River High School. Help needed.
- Activities: **Balloon Launch**, July 16, site t.b.d. Discussed how to stabilize azimuthal view camera.
NPOTA, April 30, Ft. McHenry. Successful operation with 2 stations, 20 and 40M SSB, netted approx. 250 contacts. Established good rapport with site rangers; no issues raised. Discussed doing Ft. McHenry again this Fall.

/NEW BUSINESS

- June Meeting: there will be none. Time will be spent working on the balloon project.

In Ohio, No Trial Balloon

College students who love what they're studying often take their assignments higher than they need to go. One Ohio undergrad, a radio amateur, took his sky-high. For Brandon Nilsson, KD8ZEI, a mechanical engineering student at the University of Akron, what started as one project for his Independent Study project morphed into a Field Day launch of another. In his school assignment, Brandon chose a Morse Code beacon weather balloon because, well, what ham can resist incorporating amateur radio into their schoolwork? He programmed an Arduino microprocessor that allowed the onboard transmitter to send, in CW, the words "W8UPD Weather Balloon," bearing the call sign of the university's amateur radio club, of which he is president. First mission accomplished!

Then came Field Day, and Brandon had even bigger plans: He wanted to launch another weather balloon, this one carrying a cross-band repeater, which he fashioned out of two B aofeng HTs. He programmed a raspberry Pi to take photographs every 30 seconds and save them to an SD card. Then as Field Day launched, so did the balloon.

Brandon told Amateur Radio Newline QUOTE "I figured Field Day would be the best day of the year to launch since the repeater would have the most likely chance of being used with all the activity." ENDQUOTE

It worked. He told us his farthest contacts were 15 miles north of Detroit, Michigan, into Ontario and also into Warren, Pennsylvania. As for the balloon, it eventually made contact too - with the earth - and was located on the ground in Sugar Creek, Ohio.

UPGRADES FOR K2BSA

Boy Scouts on the air as K2BSA aren't just operating, they're upgrading. This week in Radio Scouting we have 3 scout camps on the air as K2BSA, an upcoming radio scout net, and the scout loan stations are being upgraded.

Our portable zero station is still active at Camp Geiger in St. Joseph MO and will continue to be through July 22nd. Our portable five station at the Philmont Scout Ranch continues as well in NM through September 1st. Finally, our portable 8 station at Camp Wynamdot in Wakeman, OH will continue to be active on Wednesdays through July 21st.

Chris Overbey, KB5UBT, has volunteered to host a monthly Radio Scouting Net on the second Thursday of every month. His first net will be at 10 PM Central time, Thursday, July 14 (which is also 0300 UTC Friday, July 15). Frequency is 7.190 MHz, +- the QRM. Chris is located in the Dallas, Texas, area.

Icom America has provided 10 complete stations for loan to local councils since 2012. They are now in the process of updating their kits, replacing the IC-7200 with the new IC-7300. With it's touch screen and panadapter display, it meets Scouts where they live, with their smartphone.

Please help support this activity, and others involving youth in amateur radio, by working and spotting them on the air and online. For more information on K2BSA and radio scouting, please visit <http://www.k2bsa.net/>.

ARRL DX Bulletin

MONTENEGRO, 4O. Bill, ON5JE is QRV as 4O1/ON5JE until July 20. Activity is on 40 and 20 meters. He is also active as 4O1/ON5JE/p from various World Flora and Fauna areas. QSL to home call.

SAMOA, 5W. Pascal, HB9EXA is QRV as 5W0RX from Apia, Upolu Island, IOTA OC-097. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using CW and SSB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

SVALBARD, JW. Matthew, M0MIE is QRV as JW/M0MIE from the club station at Longyearbyen, IOTA EU-026. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands, but mainly on 20 meters using SSB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

BULGARIA, LZ. Members of the Bulgarian Radio Club Blagovestnik are QRV as LZ1886PGS during the month of July to honor Bulgarian Saints. QSL via bureau.

BRAZIL, PY. Special event callsign PY160FD is QRV during the month of July in celebration of the 160th anniversary of the first fire department in Brazil. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via operators' instructions.

MICRONESIA, V6. Kouichi, JR2GAG will be QRV as V63GG from Pohnpei Island, IOTA OC-010, from July 6 to 10. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 6 meters. QSL to home call.

LAOS, XW. Bruce, 3W3B is QRV as XW4XR until July 12. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters using CW, RTTY and JT65. QSL via E21EIC.

AR Newsline DX Items

Martinez, HK3Y, will be active between July 18 and July 23 as **5J0Y from San Andres Island**. He'll be working a few of the HF bands so listen up. He's on the air to commemorate Colombian independence. Send QSLs to HK3Y.

Ady, DK5ON, is working as **EA6/DK5ON holiday style from Mallorca Island** until July 22nd. Send QSLs via DK5ON, direct, by the Bureau or LoTW.

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Jul 9-10 | IARU HF World Champ. |
| Jul 13-14 | CW ops Mini CW Test |
| Jul 15 | NCCC RTYY Sprint |
| Jul 16 | Trans-Tasman Low Band Challenge |
| Jul 16-17 | CQ WW VHF Contest NA QSO Party, RTTY RSGB Low Power Contest |

Next BRATS MEETINGS

Monday, August 22nd
Monday, September 26nd
7-9 PM, Liberty Road VFD Hall
10010 Liberty Rd. Randallstown
There is no July meeting.....

BARC VE EXAMS
Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
905 Frederic Rd. Catonsville. MD

PRE-REGISTER
 To pre-register by email:
info@veteaam.org

Registration starts at 1:30 PM.
 Exams begin at 2 PM.
 No one admitted after the exams begin.

BARC MEETINGS
First Wednesday at 7 PM
Wegman's Hunt Valley
Upstairs dining room.

Directions to the Baltimore VE Team's new exam site.

Please preregister so we can contact you in the event that the exam location site changes.

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

| 2016 Testing Schedule (The date or location is subject to change; please preregister.) | |
|--|--------------|
| Day | Date |
| | |
| | |
| Saturday | August 6 |
| Saturday | September 10 |
| Saturday | October 1 |
| Saturday | November 5 |
| Saturday | December 3 |

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

Milliwatt Swap Shop

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HRO price \$199. N3BHE
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<http://www.jadecomputers.us>

Antique radio repair, restoration
Eric WA3TAD, audio visual service,
Retro radio, 3401 Chestnut Ave.
Balto. 21211, 410-467-3620
wa3tad@comcast.net

WANTED AC Gilbert erector sets:
Old, new, large, small, need not be
Complete. CASH PAID!
Lewis, 410-296-4874.

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

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HAM RADO Manuals

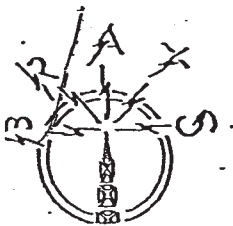
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Joe and Crew, JHS 22 ARC (WB2JKJ)

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July, 2016

IT'S GREEN FOR "GO"

Operating on the power of sun and wind at a site in Ireland, one noted contester has his hopes as high as the hill he works from. It's summer, and Olivier ON4EI/EI8GQB is back on his familiar hilltop in Ireland. More than any other radio amateur, he is truly in his elements. In his case, these elements happen to be mostly wind and sun -- and he is using both to power his station. Olivier has big plans. His blog on QRZ.COM describes his antenna park and the rest of his station, reminiscent of a Field Day setup: He'll be on the air from now until the 12th of August, using six antennas and two radios operating on five bands.

Any successes he has he will owe to band conditions, skilled operation and green energy as he competes in the IARU HF World Championship with the call sign EI1A on 9 July and 10 July, and in the Island on the Air Contest from 30 July to 31 July.

Olivier writes in his blog: QUOTE "Wow! What a pleasure to be back again on the hill and being alone for two weeks in the middle of nature. This place is my lonely paradise where I can refill my social batteries." ENDQUOTE

Of course, he will also be recharging his scorecard's batteries. He'll need them to qualify for the World Radiosport Team Championship in Germany. As ambitions go, that's pretty powerful too, green energy or not.

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10010 Liberty Rd. Randallstown

There is no July meeting.....

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

Name _____ Call _____ e-mail _____

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