

the milliwatt



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

JUNE, 2017

CC "Symbol Rate" Rule Making Proposal Open for Comment at Least Until October

In a July *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in WT Docket 16-239, the FCC proposed to revise the Amateur Service Part 97 rules in response to the ARRL's so-called "Symbol Rate" *Petition for Rule Making (RM-11708)*, filed in late 2013. The proceeding will remain open for public comment at least for another 60 days, since the *NPRM* has not yet appeared in *The Federal Register*, thus starting the 60-day clock.

ARRL had asked the FCC to change the Part 97 rules to delete the symbol rate limits in §97.307(f) and replace them with a maximum bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz on amateur frequencies below 29.7 MHz.

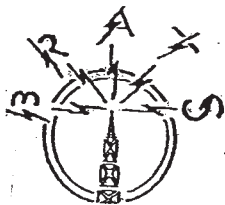
In its *NPRM*, the FCC proposed to eliminate the current baud rate limitations for data emissions, consistent with ARRL's *Petition*, but it declined to propose a bandwidth limitation for data emissions in the MF and HF bands to replace the baud rate limitations.

The official deadline to file comments will be announced when it becomes available. The ARRL plans to comment in the proceeding.

FCC ACTS ON TWO INTERFERENCE CASES

Interference is the scourge of every amateur on the air. Recent actions from the FCC are taking on two more such instances. Amateur Radio Newsline's Neil Rapp WB9VPG has the details. Communications Commission Enforcement Bureau issued an Order and Consent Decree which imposed a \$90,000 fine, a compliance training program, mandated reporting, and other measures on a marketer of LED light fixtures which reportedly caused interference to radio transmissions. After an investigation, the FCC found that the product was in violation of the rules. AFX, Incorporated based in Waukegan, Illinois agreed to the order, and resolved to solve the interference problem to bring the devices into compliance. The FCC asserted its authority to prevent electronic equipment suppliers from legally marketing their products by denying equipment certifications.

In other enforcement news, the FCC issued a Notice of Unlicensed Operation to Bradley C. Pike of Dallas on May 17. The notice was issued in response to a complaint from Dallas County Consolidated Services regarding interference to their VHF public safety radio system. Agents used direction finding to determine the source of the interference. Pike then surrendered a radio signal jammer and admitted to causing the interference. Pike could face a fine, seizure of equipment, and criminal sanctions. He has 30 days to respond to the notice.



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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 giving the Harrisburg Hamfest as a Sunday. It is SATURDAY. Yes, it is July 1, but that is on a Saturday. We also got the BARC VE EXAMS date wrong but that was because they made it a week later without telling anybody. Hopefully we got it all right this time.
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

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

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Meetings: 2nd Monday, 7 PM

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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 Bul

Sun 8 PM BRATS ATV net

AS Needed: Skywarn

BRATS Board of Directors

Through December, 2018

K2GZL, N3GXH

Through December, 2017

W3MSR, K9FXV

NEXT BRATS MEETING

Conference Call Meeting

Date to be determined

Check home page and repeater

For information.....

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/R

Radio Amateurs of Canada in the Black

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) President Geoffrey Bawden, VE4BAW, told the RAC's Annual General Meeting in his **Report to RAC Members** last month that the organization is solvent.

"After two and a half years of hard work, RAC is on a firm financial footing," Bawden said. At the 2010 Annual General Meeting, Bawden had raised the specter of financial failure. "We were insolvent and on the very brink of bankruptcy," he said. "We needed to slash expenditures and increase revenues." At the October Annual General Meeting Bawden said that "the risk of bankruptcy and dissolution is receding."

Bawden urged a positive stance. Spectrum threats, antenna and mobile radio restrictions, and other challenges "are, at the end of the day, a function of public indifference to Amateur Radio," Bawden said.

"Regulators take their cues from politicians; politicians take their cues from the public. The good news is that there are more hams than ever, and we hams are providing more community support than ever. We need to profile ourselves to the public without embarrassment or self effaceme

ARRL member may be oldest Active Radio Amateur

ARRL report 105-year-old **Cliff Kayhart, W4KKP**, of White Rock, South Carolina, is claiming the title of "World's Oldest Operating Ham."

No official record of such milestones exists, but ARRL is not aware of any radio amateurs senior to Kayhart, and he is now quite likely the oldest active ham at least in the US.

Early this year, Charlie Hellman, W2RP, died at 106; he also may have been the longest licensed. Hellman outlived the former "oldest US ham," Harry Wolf, W6NKT, by 8 days. Wolf was a couple of weeks shy of turning 108. Kayhart now lives at The Heritage at Lowman Home.

"I have had to get help getting set up after moving here from Tennessee," he said in his QRZ.com profile. "Two local clubs, Dutch Fork Amateur Radio Group and Columbia Amateur Radio Club, have been there to help. It has been slow going. They tell me I may be the oldest operating ham." Kayhart is active on 80 meters as well as possibly other bands.

Born in 1911, Kayhart was first licensed in 1937 as W2LFE in New Jersey. He then was W9GNQ before becoming W4KKP.

Read the full ARRL story at

<http://www.arrl.org/news/centenarian-arrrl-member-claiming-oldest-active-radio-amateur-crown>

NOTICE

The national Weather Service Atlantic and Pacific High Seas and Storm Warning Announcements broadcast on WWV and WWVH are scheduled to be discontinued on October 1, 2017.

(<https://www.nist.gov/pml/time-and-frequency-division/time-services/wwv-and-wwvh-digital=time-and-code-broadcast-format>)

ONE HAM'S TRIBUTE TO AMELIA EARHART

: Eighty years ago, Amelia Earhart -- the first woman to cross the Atlantic on a solo flight -- attempted to fly around the world. Now Project Amelia Earhart is honoring that attempt with a ham radio operator at the helm, Two things I've been for a long time: A ham and a pilot. Both go back to before I can remember, love of radios and love of airplanes.

Brian Lloyd WB6RQN is taking off in June to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Amelia Earhart's famous attempt at circumnavigating the world. What sets this flight apart is Lloyd's plan to work hams on HF along the way.

What does amateur radio have to do with it? Anytime you cross the ocean, you are required to have HF communications. Being a ham, I can use that for not only communicating with air traffic control but also with other hams. So I'll have it on and work people as I travel around the world.

: Lloyd's ham rig will be a Motorola Micom 3 HF transceiver with Automatic Link Establishment or ALE.

: Making a contact with ALE is nothing more than entering a person's call sign and the radio then figures out oh I can reach that person on this band. Once it establishes the connection it switches to SSB voice. Its almost like dialing a telephone. I press a button to establish the call and we talk. Lloyd hopes hams will give ALE a try.

: If you operate digital modes now, like Olivia or PSK31, you can pick up a copy of PC ALE and install that and you will be able to operate ALE and communicate with me that way. It can be a bit tricky, but if you've operated the digital modes, it is really straight forward. Mostly I'll be operating in the DX portions of 40 and 20 meters depending on band openings. You can track me directly.

The web page is all one word: project Amelia Earhart dot org, That web site links to the face book page. I hope to get a chance to work many of your listeners as I make my way around the world.

Lloyd hopes to finish his trek by landing on Monday July 24th at the Experimental Aircraft Association's annual gathering in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

KICKER: A TALE OF TWO HOLLANDS

There are many kinds of mills - paper mills, or mills that grind wheat and corn. And then there are mills that generate contacts between amateurs, across continents and across oceans. In this case, both of them were in Holland - but in different parts of the world.

: The springtime amateur radio event that has come to be known as Mills on Air is a natural for Holland, the land of windmills. On the weekend of May 13th and 14th, hams were active at windmills and pumping stations throughout the Netherlands and participated in the Mills on the Air event with other hams in Europe and even, this year, Australia. Using call sign PB17MILL, Dutch hams activated a mill in the northeast part of the Netherlands about 25 kilometers from the German border. The three operators, Frank PD5JFK, Mark PD0ME and Bernard PB7Z were active all weekend and according to Bernard, they made a total of 725 QSOs in 53 DXCC entities, with the farthest contact being in Argentina.

While this was the ninth year for the Holland mill to be participating from the Netherlands, another Holland - this one in the U.S. - was making its debut. Bernard told Amateur Radio Newslines that he had been in touch with two American hams in Holland, Michigan - Phil K8PVH and Jeff KB8QAP - to help get their authentic Dutch Mill into the game. This year the mill, known as De Zwaan, made it, using the call sign K8DAA and operating on SSB, CW and PSK. The Mill was even on EchoLink. Bernard said that, from a distant Netherlands, the Dutch hams couldn't be prouder of that mill. Built in Holland, it arrived in the U.S. during the 1960s. Now it's not just the only authentic Dutch mill operating in the U.S., but the only one operating on the radio spectrum!

SILENT KEY

Charles J. Schnepf, III

WB3LKB

June 7, 2017

We were very saddened to learn of Charlie's passing. He was the quiet worker for the BRATS. For many years he kept the membership and expiration lists up to date for me and never let anyone know he did it. He will be missed.

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

June 17-18 All Asian DX Contest, CW
Ukrainian DX RTTY Contest
West Virginia QSO Party
June 24-25 HM King of Spain, SSB
Ukrainian DX Digi Contest
ARRL FIELD DAY
July 1 RAC Canada Day Contest

HAMFESTS

ARRL DX BULLETIN

UGANDA, 5X. Kazuo is QRV as 5X2B. He is active on the HF bands. QSL via operator's instructions.

MALDIVES, 8Q. John, G4IRN is QRV as 8Q7RN during the month of June. His activity is on the HF bands. QSL to home call.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HI. Didier, F5PLR will be QRV as HI9/F5PLR from Las Terrenas from June 6 to July 4. Activity will be on 30, 20 and 15 meters. QSL via operator's instructions.

GREECE, SV. Members of the Radio Amateur Union of North Aegean are QRV as J48GEO from the Geo Park on Lesbos, IOTA EU-049, until June 23. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SB and various digital modes. During the Geopark weekend they will be located at the Natural History Museum of the Lesbos Petrified Forest. QSL direct to SZ8LSV.

Sunday, October 1,

W. Friendship, MD

CARA Hamfest

Howard County Fairgrounds

Dave, KB3VDY, 410-977-1249

info@carafest.org

Sunday, June 18: Upperco, MD

BARC Fathers Day Hamfest

Acadia Volunteer Fire Co. Carnival

Grounds; 16020 Carnival Ave., Upperco

Dave, AB3TE 443-465-6583

w3ft67@yahoo.com 07/67

Saturday, July 1 Harrisburg, PA

Firecracker Hamfest

Harrisburg Community College

3599 Industrial Rd Harrisburg

15/76 kb3oz@arrl.net

717-461-3398

Sunday, August 6: Berryville, VA

Shenandoah ARC Hamfest

Clarke Co. Ruritan Fairgrounds,

also known as Winchester Hamfest

Tom, AF2D, 540-869-7065

af2d@arrl.net

MacDoppler Version 2.25 Released:

Don Agro (VE3VRW) on June 2, 2017

[Add a comment about this article!](#)

Satellite tracking software for Mac.
Dog Park Software is pleased to announce that MacDoppler Version 2.25 has been released and can be downloaded from:

What's New in this release?

- * Added Yaesu FT-991 driver.
- * Added Prosisstel Combo azel driver.
- * Added Tuning Dial Tracking to IC-910.
- * Show Tuning Dial Tracking capability.
- * Added Rotator Stop button.
- * Display offsets in VFO panel Uplink and Downlink.
- * Fixed FT-847, FT-817 in-band doppler.
- * Fixed GS232B ERC Rotor Readback.

Canada C3 Sesquicentennial Voyage May be Tracked via WSPR Beacon

An Amateur Radio *WSPR* (*Weak Signal Propagation Reporter Network*) beacon has been installed and activated onboard the **Canada C3** vessel. The ship departed Toronto, on June 1 on a 150-day expedition to Victoria, British Columbia, via the Northwest Passage as part of the Canadian Sesquicentennial celebration. Sponsors are calling it an "epic journey to celebrate Canada and connect Canadians." According to Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), Canada C3 organizers permitted a group of enthusiasts under the leadership of Barrie Crampton, VE3BSB, to install the *WSPR* beacon on the C3 vessel. "This provides a unique opportunity to track the vessel on its 150-day sailing voyage around the Canadian coast — the longest coastline in the world," an RAC bulletin said. The *WSPR* beacon identifies as **CG3EXP** (this page also includes *WSPR* Amateur Radio frequencies). A **live tracking link**, generated by QRP Labs, the supplier of the **tracking hardware**, has been activated, hosted by Jeff Milne, VE3EFF. It generates a series of dots — one for each Maidenhead grid square the vessel traverses.

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BARC VE EXAMS

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
905 Frederick Rd. Catonsville, MD

Registration begins at 2:00 PM
Exams begin at 2:30 PM
NO ONE ADMITTED AFTER EXAMS BEGIN

pre-register by email:
info@veteam.org

NEXT EXAMS

Saturday, July 1

BARC Meetings

First Wednesday, 7 PM
All meetings at Wegmans
Hunt Valley, in the upstairs
dining room.....

CARA

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

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@aml.net

Milliwatt Swap Shop!

Ads are free...

Mail your ad to BRATS, Box 5915,
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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
wa3lad@comcast.net

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

WANTED: Manual for MFJ 1452,
WB2LOO, glm313@verizon.net

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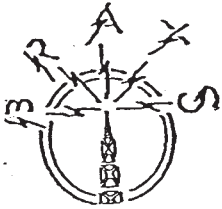
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Renew: Regular \$15; retired/student/disabled \$10; Family \$20

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JUNE, 2017

The Doctor Will See You Now!

"Flea Market Tips" is the topic of the current episode of the "ARRL The Doctor is In" <http://www.arrl.org/doctor> podcast. Listen...and learn!

Sponsored by DX Engineering <http://www.dxengineering.com/>, "ARRL The Doctor is In" is an informative discussion of all things technical. Listen on your computer, tablet, or smartphone -- whenever and wherever you like!

Every 2 weeks, your host, QST Editor-in-Chief Steve Ford, WB8IMY, and the Doctor himself, Joel Hallas, W1ZR, will discuss a broad range of technical topics. You can also e-mail your questions to doctor@arrl.org, and the Doctor may answer them in a future podcast.

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Source:

The ARRL Letter

New Bands! FCC Issues Amateur Radio Service Rules for 630 Meters and 2,200 Meters

Effective Date

The fact that the new rules contain a new information-collection requirement — notification of operation to the UTC — makes it difficult to guess at an effective date. The FCC R&O says the Office of Management and Budget (under the Paperwork Reduction Act) must first approve the information-collection requirements (in §97.303[g][2]). Once that happens, the revised Part 97 rules sections will become effective after the FCC publishes a notice in *The Federal Register* "announcing such approval and the relevant effective date."