

# the milliwatt



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

MAY, 2017

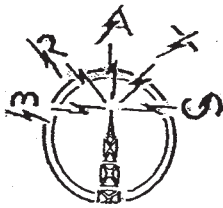
## New Bands! FCC Issues Amateur Radio Service Rules for 630 Meters and 2,200 Meters

**[CORRECTED to UPDATE information on effective date: 2017-03-31 @ 1315 UTC]** It's been a long time coming, but the Amateur Service will get two new bands in the near future. The FCC on March 28 adopted rules that will allow secondary Amateur Radio access to 472-479 kHz (630 meters) and to 135.7-137.8 kHz (2,200 meters), with minor conditions. The FCC *Report and Order (R&O)* spells out the details. It allocates 472-479 kHz to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis and amends Part 97 to provide for Amateur Service use of that band as well as of the previously allocated 135.7-137.8 kHz band. The *R&O* also amends Part 80 rules to authorize radio buoy operations in the 1900-2000 kHz band under a ship station license. Just when the new Part 97 rules will go into effect is difficult to determine just yet; more on that below.

### **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.”

- Amateurs operating on 472-479 kHz will be permitted a maximum equivalent isotropically radiated power (EIRP) of 5 W, except in parts of Alaska within 800 kilometers (approximately 496 miles) of Russia, where the maximum would be 1 W EIRP. [EIRP is the product of the power supplied to the antenna and the antenna gain in a given direction, relative to an isotropic antenna (absolute or isotropic gain). EIRP is equal to ERP multiplied by 1.64.]
- Amateurs operating in the 135.7-137.8 kHz band will be permitted to run up to 1 W EIRP.



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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

Yes, it is hamfest season again. This month we list 6 hamfests, taking place in May, June and July. Even if you don't buy anything, or need anything, it's always great to meet up with old friends and to just look around. Go to a hamfest, you'll love it.....

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>

Email: [brats@bratsatv.org](mailto:brats@bratsatv.org)

Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7 PM

President.: Kevin Sherwood, KB3PLX

Vice Pres; Oryx Gazella, K0RYX

Secretary: Ted Bauer, WA3AER

Treasurer: Jim Sherwood, KB3SKN

Chairman of the Board:

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXK

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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 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

Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

7:00 PM; Pikesville Library

1301 Reisterstown Road

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

Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society  
MINUTES of the 17 April 2017  
Monthly Meeting

KevinS, KB3PLX, chaired the meeting held at Woodlawn Public Library.

**/REPORTS**

- Minutes: Minutes from the March meeting accepted, approved.
- Treasurer: Balance essentially the same; only payment last month was \$90 P.O. Box fee. Library meeting room bill outstanding.
- Repeater/Equipment: Work recently performed on HVR and STJ sites. HVR back online.  
5GHz link dishes re-aimed at both sites, yielding an appreciable signal strength and data rate increase.  
Camera installed at HVR.  
Replaced PC controllers at both sites with updated equipment; logging services have been enhanced.  
220MHz ready to be put online at NW location.  
KenM, K3UQQ, reports there are 25 ATV users in the area.
- Events: No schedule changes from last month.  
Aero needs volunteers to support May 6 Tour de Cure ride.

**/NEW BUSINESS**

- Events: MS Walk is May 7 at Padonia Park Club  
MS 150 Ride is June 17-18. BRATS will provide comms infrastructure, using SNP pairs on 2M and 440MHz. Estimated expense is \$300-500.  
Balloon Launch – will be delayed; no new date set.  
JOTA – Plan to purchase 20M and 40M BPFs to reduce inter-station interference. Estimated cost is \$240. Discussed 2<sup>nd</sup> station antenna alternatives. Computer logging will be used; TedB, WA3AER, will obtain (donate) N3FJP ACLog software for the event.
- Membership: The Secretary requested a list of currently paid members (2016-2017) to support pruning the email list of unpaid members.
- May Meeting Venue: May's meeting will be on Wed., May 17, at the Pikesville Library. Note the day of the week change.

Ted, WA3AER  
Secretary

**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>)

## **MALTA, UAE GET ON 60 METERS**

Been on 60 meters lately? Well listen up, you might hear some newcomers. It's getting a little bit busier on the air these days between 5351.5 kHz and 5366.5 kHz as hams in Malta and the United Arab Emirates get the green light to get on the band. The Malta Communications Authority's new national plan gives amateurs there access to the 60 meter band on a secondary basis. The maximum power permitted is 15w EIRP. Likewise, hams in the UAE are permitted to a maximum power of 15w EIRP. Malta and the UAE join a number of nations that have been enjoying privileges on 60 meters, including hams in the U.S. who were given access by the FCC in 2012 for the band's use on a channelized basis. Eight channels have also been available for hams in Israel since 2013 for General and Extra class licensees. The Cayman Islands, the Dominican Republic and Greenland are among those nations also having access using channelized operation.

Since the agreement at the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2015 many countries who are new to the band are adopting the 15KHz band rather than channels along with the 15 watts effective isotropic radiated power limit.

## **WHAT, NO MORE MORSE?:**

Morse Code has become history once again. It's no longer a requirement for amateurs seeking their license in Taiwan.

Following the lead taken by so many other nations, Taiwan's National Communications Commission is preparing to do away with the Morse Code requirement for amateur licensees in that nation. The change, which is contained in a recent amendment, has already been approved but won't take effect immediately because the amendment must first be presented for public view for two months. The NCC's frequency and resources department deputy director Chen Chun-mu told the Taipei Times that in addition to dropping the code requirement, the amendment also extends the lifetime of an amateur license from five years to 10 and allows hams with expiring licenses to begin the renewal process as many as five months before the expiration date. Presently hams in Taiwan can only do this one month before expiration. Commission data reflects that 42,900 licenses have been issued by the NCC for qualified operators between 2012 and 2016. Morse Code became an optional part of global amateur radio after the World Radiocommunication Conference of 2003 when the International Telecommunications Union gave nations the right to decide individually whether Code proficiency would remain part of their licensing qualifications. In the U.S. the FCC did away with the Morse Code requirement for the Technician class entry level license in 1991 and a change that took effect in 2007 eliminated the FCC code requirement from licenses altogether. Poland, Italy, the Netherlands, Australia and the UK also number among the many nations no longer requiring Morse.

**NEXT BRATS MEETING**  
**Wednesday, May 17, 7 PM**  
**Pikesville Library**  
**1301 Reisterstown Rd.**

## THE WORLD OF DX

In the world of DX, we have a few CW operators who'll be calling QRZ. You have a few more days to listen for **S79J operating from Mahe Island in the Seychelles Islands**. The callsign is being used by Ivan LZ1PJ until the 10th of May. Listen for S79J operating in CW on the HF bands and on 6m. QSL to the home call.

**Martin MW0BRO is operating from Qatar as A7/MW0BRO through the 18th of May**. He is transmitting from the Qatar Amateur Radio Society club station in Doha. Listen for him operating in CW on 80 through 10m. QSL to his home call.

**Gab HB9TSW is operating as Z68BG from Slatina Air Base in Pristina, Kosovo until the 23rd of May**. He will use CW on 40m to 10m. QSOs with Kosovo do not count for the DXCC Award at the present time.

**On Saint Martin Island, John K9EL is operating as FS/K9EL on SSB, CW and RTTY through the 15th of May**. Listen for him on 80 meters through 6 meters. Send QSL cards via the home call, OQRS, LoTW and eQSL. (DXCOFFEE, IRISH RADIO TRANSMITTERS SOCIETY)  
Via ARNewsline

## ARRL DX BULLETIN

**CAPE VERDE, D4**. Harald, DF2WO (XT2AW, 9X2AW) is QRV until June 8 as D44TWO. He is operating on 80 to 6 meters with a hex beam and vertical antennas. QSL via M0OXO.

**TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5**. Art, KZ5D plans to be QRV as VP5/KZ5D from May 25 to 31, including the CQ WPX CW Contest with special call VQ9D. QSL via LoTW.

**BOTSWANA, A2**. A group of operators are QRV as A25UK until May 6. Activity is on the low bands with an emphasis on RTTY. QSL via M0OXO.

**SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5**. Doug, W6HB and Bruce, AD7MM will be QRV as E51DLD and E51BAS, respectively, from Rarotonga Island, IOTA OC-013, until May 12. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL direct to home calls.

**JAPAN, JA**. Special event stations 8J4VLP, 8J6VLP, 8J8VLP and 8J9VLP are QRV until June 30 to commemorate World QRP Day on June 17. All stations will be active on the HF bands using 5 watts. QSL all calls via bureau.

**FERNANDO DE NORONHA, PY0F**. Jan, PY4NY will be QRV as PY0NY from May 5 to 15 to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the Smoke Squadron, the Brazilian Air Force's Official Squadron. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and various digital modes. QSL to home call.

**POLAND, SP**. Special event station SN74GETTO is QRV until May 16 to commemorate the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. QSL direct to SP5PDB.

## HAMFESTS

**May 19, 20, 21** : Xenia, OH  
Dayton Hamvention  
Greene Co Fair and Exposition Ctr.  
Xenia, Ohio  
937-276-6930

**Sunday, May 28**: W. Friendship, MD  
MDFM Memorial Weekend Hamfest  
Howard County Fairgrounds, Rte 144  
16/76; John, WA3MNN, 301-641-5313  
[marylandfm@verizon.ent](mailto:marylndfm@verizon.ent)

**Sunday, June 4**: Manassas, VA  
Prince William County Fairgrounds  
Ole VA Hams ARC; 146.97 rptr  
571-292-1490 [KC4DV@arrl.net](mailto:KC4DV@arrl.net)

**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](mailto:w3ft67@yahoo.com) 07/67

**Sunday, July 1**: Harrisburg, PA  
Firecracker Hamfest  
Harrisburg Area Community College  
3599 Industrial Rd., Harrisburg, PA  
16/76; kb3oza@arrl.net  
[717-461-3398](tel: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](mailto:af2d@arrl.net)

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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](mailto:info@veteam.org)

**NEXT EXAMS: Saturday, June 10**  
and first Saturday of each month

## BARC Meetings

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

## CARA

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

## LARC VE EXAMS

364 Main St. Laurel,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. at 9 AM;  
John, WB3GXW,  
301-572-5124

**MD Mobileers VE Exams at  
National Electronics Museum,  
Linthicum  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 6 PM...  
Mike, KA2JAI, 443-310-4902  
[KA2JAI@arrl.net](mailto:KA2JAI@arrl.net)**

## Milliwatt Swap Shop\

Ads are free...

Mail your ad to BRATS, Box 5915,  
Baltimore, MD 21282 , email:  
w3gxx@Verizon.net

FOR SALE: Hustler G7-144 \$125.  
HRO price \$199. N3BHE  
410-299-5931

SPECIAL: ICOM BC110 battery  
charger, 12vDC, 200 ma for ICOM  
T8A or equivalent, cost \$46,  
Make me a reasonable offer.  
Mayer, [w3gxx@verizon.net](mailto:w3gxx@verizon.net)

JADE COMPPUTERS  
1009 Ingleside Ave. Balto 21228.  
443-667-4187.

[joe@jadecomputers.us](mailto:joe@jadecomputers.us)  
web page design, hosting,  
order PC ONLINE  
<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](mailto: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, [glm313@verizon.net](mailto:glm313@verizon.net)

WANTED: YOUR AD!  
Your ad would have appeared here  
if you sent it to us. Send your ad to  
[w3gxx@verizon.net](mailto:w3gxx@verizon.net)

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member Bob Shapiro, K2MYS  
<http://www.videotaping-service.com>

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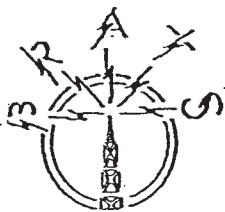
Joe and Crew, JHS 22 ARC (WB2JKJ)

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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



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## **QSL Wall to be Available at Hamvention**

Hamvention® May 19-21 in Xenia, Ohio, will borrow a tradition from Friedrichshafen, Germany's Ham Radio event — a QSL wall, where visitors can tack up their QSL cards for all to see. "The big wall at Friedrichshafen is very popular and covered with hundreds and hundreds of cards by the end of the show," said ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. The Hamvention QSL wall will be in Building 1 near the Hamvention prize booth; (ARRL EXPO will be in Building 2 of the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio.) Don't forget *your* QSL for the wall!

## **STILL SEEKING YHOTY NOMINATIONS**

One more reminder that the deadline approaches to nominate a candidate for Amateur Radio Newsline's Bill Pasternak Memorial Young Ham of the Year Award. Do you know someone 18 or younger who particularly impresses you? This is Amateur Radio Newsline's commitment to honoring young talented radio operators. Find application forms on our website at [arnewsline.org](http://arnewsline.org) under the "YHOTY" tab. Nominations close May 31 -- that's later this month!

## **NETS OF NOTE: THE AIR FORCE FLYERS CLUB NET**

Membership has fallen off in recent years, according to Stromsland, but still remains very active:

At one point, we had over 500 members and a lot of the old-time members of course, have become silent keys, but currently we have about 69 active members.:

I asked Stromsland where you can find the net:

The net meets on 20 meters every day, seven days a week, on 14.290 at 1530 Zulu.

And then on Tuesdays only, we have a 40 meter net that comes on right after the 20 meter net closes on 7.181 in the morning and on Tuesday in the evening at 7pm Pacific time we meet on 7.278.

PAUL: While you have to be either active military or a veteran in order to join the net, anyone is welcome to check into the net and join in the discussion.