

the milliwatt



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

October, 2015

AT THE END OF THE PAPER TRAIL

License applicants, welcome to the age of paperless paperwork: In keeping with its announcement earlier this year, FCC has stopped printing and mailing license documents as part of its plan to economize and streamline. And that has made things busier than ever at the ARRL's VEC.

VEC Manager, Maria Somma, (AB1FM), says her offices are receiving three times the number of calls from amateurs who may be confused about the change, or need additional information on how to get copies of their license. Somma has responded by creating a web page called "Obtain License Copy," which walks website visitors through the ways to receive an official document from the FCC. She also recommends that amateurs wanting a license copy call the FCC directly at 877-480-3201 and select option 4 from the menu. (ARRL via ARNewsline)

FCC IT Woes Redux — License and Exam Session Files Not Being Processed

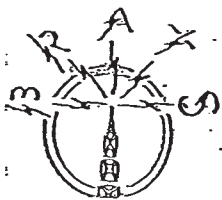
09/29/2015

The FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS) electronic batch filing (EBF) system hasn't been processing any VEC license and examination session files since early on Monday, September 28. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said her office has alerted the FCC IT staff, which is said to be looking into the issue.

"I thought there would have been an issue after the big website server switchover in early September," Somma said. "This is a bit of a surprise!"

Somma said the ARRL VEC contacted the W5YI-VEC, and it has been experiencing the same issue and also has been in contact with FCC IT staff.

Somma also said the ULS license search function "has only been working sporadically."



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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

Fall is indeed here. All you need to do is look at the contest schedule. We did not list all of them, but you can find more at WA7 BMN Contest Calendar.... If you've never operated in a contest, try it, even for a few minutes. It's lots of fun.... And let me know how you liked it

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
=====

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 Bulle
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

2nd Monday at 7 PM

Greene Turtle, Red Run Blvd

Owings Mills, MD.

Permenent site to be determined

NEXT BRATS MEETING

Monday, October 12, 7-9 PM

Greene Turtle Owings Mills

GET WELL WISHES TO:
Father SKIP, N3DGY

BRATS

Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society
September 2015 MINUTES

Due to a confluence of schedule conflicts, both religious and secular, there was no meeting in September.

The next BRATS meeting will be held on Monday, October 12, 7-9 pm at the Greene Turtle in Owings Mills in the party room.

The 2015 BRATS Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) will be held Oct 17. Limited spots remain for volunteers. For more information, please contact: brats@bratsatv.org. Please note this is not an open-invite event, and you must be pre-registered to attend.

Ted, WA3AER,
Secretary

SILENT KEY

James M. Weitzman
K3JW

June 25, 2015

We were deeply saddened to learn that Jim passed way from ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). Jim was a communications attorney and fellow ham who helped hams with problems as only he could. We really appreciate all that he had done for The BRATS through the years and will sorely miss him.....

More Chinese Amateur Radio Satellites are Aloft

Quick on the heels of the **September 19** launch of nine satellites carrying Amateur Radio transponders comes word that three more satellites were launched on September 25 from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Inner Mongolia's Gobi Desert. The CubeSats, identified as Tianwang-1A (TW-1A; SECM-1), Tianwang-1B (TW-1B; NJUST-2), and Tianwang-1C (TW-1C; NJFA-1), were developed by students at the Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics in collaboration with the Shanghai Engineering Center for Microsatellites. TW-1A and TW-1B are 2 U CubeSats, while TW-1C is a 3U CubeSat.

According to Michael Chen, BD5RV, of CAMSAT, the satellites have downlinks in the 435-438 MHz Amateur-Satellite Service allocation. TW-1A transmits on 435.645 MHz (GMSK 4800/9600 baud, 10 second transmit interval); TW-1B on 437.645 MHz (GMSK 4800/9600 baud, 20 second transmit interval), and TW-1C on 435.645 MHz (GMSK 4800/9600 baud, 10 second transmit interval). Note that TW-1A and 1C use the same frequency. The satellites also may have downlink frequencies in the VHF range. TW-1A is object 40928, 2015-051D; TW-1B, (NJUST-1) is object 40927, 2015-051C, and TW-1C is object 40926, 2015-051B. On the same launch was the technology demonstration satellite Pujian-1, which includes WiFi technology for intra-satellite communication. Trevor, M5AKA, said it's believed that Beijing plans another launch of Amateur Radio payload satellites on October 5. —

Thanks to AMSAT News Service, AMSAT-UK

RAMPING UP AGAINST RADIO INTRUDERS

A recent report from the International Amateur Radio Union has put radio amateurs on alert to some new and persistent sources of interference on the bands. An increasing amount of Russian military traffic has turned up at 40 meters and 20 meters, according to the September newsletter from the IARU Region 1 Monitoring System. Monitors in Europe reported strong daily interference and frequent splatter in particular in Gorodezh on 14.108 MHz from a Russian over-the-horizon radar, and found the Russian Navy using FM CW frequently on 14.192 MHz. Other monitors, based in Germany, reported Chinese over-the-horizon radars operating on other bands, including 75 meters. Region 1 monitors have also detected interference from Spanish fishing vessels on all bands, and an interfering transmission from a beacon in Kazakhstan on 7027.5 kHz, sent as a continuous letter "V." European-based monitors have also detected interference on 10 meters, as transmissions between taxi dispatchers and drivers. Wolf Hadel, D-K-2-OH-M (DK2OM), a coordinator and monitor with the program, has told members of the Rusk County Amateur Radio Club in East Texas that Russian and Iranian over-the-horizon operations are among the worst offenders, especially on 20 meters. Hadel has been encouraging more hams to become volunteer monitors. (IARU Region 1) via ehaam.net

ARRL DX BULLETIN

MAURITIUS, 3B8. Elvio, IW1GIO is QRV as 3B8/IW1GIO. There are currently no details available on his activity here, and his length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

AZERBAIJAN, 4J. Special call signs 4JK3K and 4KK3K are QRV during a DXpedition in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Activity to date has been on 40, 20 and 17 meters using CW and RTTY. QSL via 4J3DJ.

NORTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Rob, N7QT, Melanie, N7BX, and Grant, KZ1W will be QRV as E51MQT, E51MBX and E51MKW, respectively, from Manihiki Atoll, IOTA OC-014, from September 29 to October 27. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via N7BX.

CHESTERFIELD ISLAND, FK. Look for a group of operators to be QRV as TX3X from October 1 to 12. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY with at least six stations active. QSL via operators' instructions.

REUNION ISLAND, FR. Gil, TU5KG is QRV as FR/TU5KG. Of late, he has been active on 10 meters using SSB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL via F4DXW.

BELGIUM, ON. Special event call sign ON130CLAES is QRV until October 31 to commemorate the 130th birthday of Ernest Claes, a famous Flemish author. QSL via ON6LC.

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

Oct 3-4 15 Mtr SSTV Dash Contest
Oceania DX Contest, Phone
Russian WW Digital Contest
California QSO Party
Oct 10-11 Oceania DX Contest, CW
Scandinavian Activity, SSB
Arizona QSO Party
Oct 11 Pennsylvania QSO Party
Oct 17-18 New York QSO Party
Oct 18 Asia Pacific Fall Sprint
Oct 24-25 CQ WW DX Contest, SSB
Oct 31-Nov 1 ARRL EME Contest

PY70FEB - Special Call - Brazil

PY70FEB is the 10th Special Event Stations celebrating 70 years end of World War II in 2015, and a tribute to the Brazilian Expeditionary Force - FEB in Italy campaign. Each month in 2015 we will activate a different callsign and also send different QSLs.

PY70FEB 01_30.October.2015

CW, Digital and SSB

PS7AB: SSB (sorry I live in downtown of my city, and my DX reception is very bad.)

PP1CZ: CW & Digital QSL Manager: PS7AB

QSL policy : I will answer all QSL requested via direct (US\$2,00), Bureau, eQSL and LOTW. ATTENTION: If you prefer request your QSL via email, I will send the QSL card attached to your email in .jpeg file, 300dpi, 14x9cm. More information:

<https://www.qrz.com/db/py70feb>

73, **Ronaldo Reis PS7AB**

Please visit my homepage :

<http://www.ps7ab.com.br>

A Note About the New AMSAT News Service Format

The current AMSAT News Service Weekly Bulletin is posted at:
<http://amsat.org/pipermail/ans/2013/000685.html>

HAMFESTS

Saturday, October 3. Georgetown, DE
Delmarva Hamfest and Dela. State Convention
Sussex Technical HS 17099 County Seat Hwy
(Route 9) Georgetown, DE
Vic KC3BUI, 302-628-3060; Herb, KF3BT
302-629-4949; Talk- in 147.09+ PL 156.7.
Free VE testing 12:10 PM. Walk-ins welcomed

Sunday, October 4. West Friendship MD
2015 CARAFest, Howard County Fairgrounds
Route 144 at Route 32 adjacent to I-70.
Open 6 AM for tailgaters, 8 AM for public
info@carafest.org 443-492-9501
VE Exams, DX Card Checking

BARC VE Exams

Our Savior Lutheran Church
141 Lavern Ave. Landsdowne
Register at 1:30; exams at 2:00
Saturdays: Oct. 3,
Nov 7, Dec. 5 ; no one admitted
after exams begin; walk-ins okay.

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

AR Newsline DX

The Amateur Radio Club of Chios Island, SZ8XIO, is hosting a special event station through October. Using the call sign SX8HOMER, the Greek Island station will operate on 40, 30, 20, 17, 15 and 10 meters, using SSBm PSK31 and JT65. The call sign honors the author of the epic poems, "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey."
QSL cards are not necessary but a certificate is available for \$5, or is free for a .PDF.
Write the QSL manager SV8GXQ.

DXPEDITION ON THE MOVE

We're barely into autumn but already the Intrepid DX Group is thinking ahead to January 2016. That's when the radio operators are heading to South Sandwich/South Georgia on their next DXpedition. These are coveted spots, with the South Sandwich Islands being Number 3 on ClubLog's Most Wanted DXCC List, and South Georgia Number 8.
Paul Ewing, N6PSE, said the team expects to arrive on South Sandwich on Jan. 17, weather permitting, and will spend 10 days there operating as VP8STI, before moving on to South Georgia Island, where they will operate as VP8SGI beginning Feb. 1.
Ewing told the ARRL that the South Sandwich operation is a top consideration:
QUOTE "Our main priority is to make a great impact to the need for South Sandwich contacts, and we will sacrifice our time at South Georgia to ensure that we make that impact from South Sandwich." (ARRL, via ARNewsline)

Milliwatt Swap Shop

Ads are free and get results!

Mail your ad to: BRATS, Box 5915

Baltimore, MD 21282-5915 or

email to w3gxxk@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, w3gxxk@verizon.net

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

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

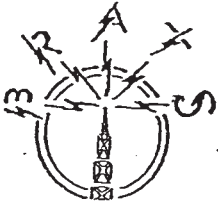
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Your ad would have appeared here
if you sent it to us. Send your ad to
w3gxxk@verizon.net

VTS Video Taping Service
video, DVD duplications,
Video tape transferred to DVD,
Standards, conversions,..
1-877-891-1002. BRATS
member Bob Shapiro, K2MYS
<http://www.videotapingservice.com>

RSGB IOTA Reports Website Breach

The RSGB Islands on the Air (IOTA) website reports that an "automatic bot" accessed the IOTA website at 0448 UTC on Sunday, September 27. The bot "was able to exploit a bug in the IOTA code in order to reset the password for every user on the site," preventing users from logging in.

"There is no sign in the system logs that any data was read or that personal data was compromised," IOTA said. "Once the IT team was aware of the issue, they immediately took the database offline for analysis and corrected the bug. User passwords are stored in a hashed format in the database, not in plain text. In accordance with best practice, however, we'd like to encourage all users of the IOTA website to change their passwords." IOTA added that if you use your IOTA password on other websites, you might consider changing your password on those sites too. Contact IOTA with any questions or concerns. — *Thanks to The Daily DX, via ARRL*



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October, 2015

Next BRATS Meeting

Monday, October 12,
7 to 9 PM, at the
Greene Turtle, Owings Mills

BARC Meetings

First Wednesday at 7 PM
Wegman's Hunt Valley
Upstairs Dining Room

Other Clubs

CARA

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

AARC

Thursday, April 2, 7:30 PM
Davidsonville Family Rec.
Center, 3789 Queen Anne
Bridge Rd. Davidsonville

425 DX NEWS

3B8 - Willi, DJ7RJ will be active as 3B8/DJ7RJ from Mauritius Island (AF-049) on 5-30 October. He will operate CW and SSB on 160-10 metres, with a focus on 160m. QSL via home call (direct). [TNX AA1M]

6Y - Masa, JA0RQV will be active as 6Y5/JA0RQV from Jamaica (NA-097) between 24 October and 9 December. This will be a business trip, and he will be QRV on 40-6 metres CW and SSB in his spare time and during the weekends. He has plans to operate in the CQ WW DX SSB Contest from the QTH of 6Y5WJ. QSL via JA0RQV, direct or bureau (OQRS on Club Log), and LoTW. Updates will be posted to <http://blog.goo>.

BARC : Upcoming Events and Meetings:

Club meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month at Wegman's Hunt Valley (Hunt Valley Town Center--122 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, MD 21030 in the upstairs dining area) 7:00 pm. sharp. Arrive ahead of time if purchasing dinner or beverage downstairs. Wegman's has an extensive buffet food bar with many Chinese and American food selections plus pizza and beverages.

Renew: Regular \$15; retired/student/disabled \$10; Family \$20
Name _____ Call _____ e-mail _____
MAIL TO: BRATS, P.O. Box 5915; Baltimore, MD 21282-5915