

the milliwatt



December, 2012

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

SATELLITE JAMMING TRACED TO SYRIA AND IRAN

According to European satellite operator Eutelsat, disruptions in satellite signals in the Middle East and Europe have been traced back to Syria and Iran. There has been speculation that the jamming is a reaction to changes in the regulations put forth by the International Telecommunications Union to comply with the European Union's increasingly tough sanctions on Iran. The ITU altered its regulations at the World Radiocommunication Conference in Geneva after receiving complaints of repeated and deliberate interference in the reception of TV in Persian and Arabic. Because of these changes, Eutelsat no longer carries 19 radio and television channels broadcast by the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting. The European Broadcasters Union has now responded to the information by condemning it. In a press statement it's Director Ingrid Deltrenre said that access to information is a universal human right and an essential component for democracy. As such the E-B-U deplores this attack on media freedom. For its part, the International Telecommunications Union says that these recent incidents are not the first time that there have been allegations of Iran blocking communications from the outside world. The latest wave of interference has affected numerous radio and TV broadcasters including the BBC, France 24, Deutsche Welle and the Voice of America.

FCC Rejects Maryland Ham's Plan for Amending Message Forwarding System Rules

On Monday, November 5, the FCC issued a letter dismissing a *Petition for Rulemaking* filed in February 2012 by Rolan Clark, W3FDK, of Adamstown, Maryland. In his *Petition*, Clark had asked the FCC to amend Section 97.219, specifying that control operators of the first forwarding station in a message forwarding system of stations should *not* be obligated to authenticate the identity of a station from which the message forwarding system accepts messages, and that the first forwarding station should *not* accept accountability for any violative content of the messages put into the system. According to the FCC, it amended the rules in 1994 to accommodate the Amateur Service community's desire "to operate high speed message forwarding systems by adding Section 97.219, which provided that the control operators of intermediate forwarding stations, other than the first forwarding station, would not be held accountable when their stations retransmitted improper communications inadvertently. It noted that holding accountable the control operators of the first forwarding stations, but not control operators of intermediate forwarding stations, would facilitate high speed message forwarding yet retain a degree of protection against abuse. It also agreed with commenters that the accommodations for message forwarding systems should not apply to other operating activities such as repeaters and auxiliary stations, and it decided to leave questions regarding how to authenticate the identity of the originating station to the designers of the systems." Thus, the Commission considered and rejected requirements such as you propose in your *Petition* when it adopted the message forwarding system rules in 1994," the FCC told Clark. "Your present *Petition* does not demonstrate or even suggest that any relevant circumstances have changed such as to merit reconsideration of this decision. Your current proposal does not demonstrate that revising this rule as requested would provide the ongoing oversight of message forwarding systems that must be present. To the contrary, your proposal asks for an accommodation for message forwarding systems that commenters said should not apply to these systems."



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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

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

**Best wishes for the new year
from the officers and directors
to all The BRATS and families!**

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The Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

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 of and support: The ARRL and The
Foundation for Amateur Radio.

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

email: brats@bratsatv.org

Meeting; 2nd Monday at 7:15 PM at the
Pikesville Library; 1301 Reisterstown Road

President: Ed Rosen, N3GXH

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Vice Chair., Technical: Mike Dees, N3EZD

Vice Chair., Operations: Ian Millett, N3CVA
=====

BRATS REPEATERS

Linked Repeaters WB3DZO

147.03+, 224.96-, 448.325-

Stand-Alone repeaters:

443.350+, 224.8-

Packet Nodes:

W3GXT-5: 145.05

W3GXT-10: 224.52

ATV Repeater W3WCQ

Inputs: 426.25, 1253.25

Outputs: 439.25, 911.25

BRATS Weekly Nets

Monday, 9 PM – Traffic and Info

Tues. 11:45 AM- Informal ATV

Wednes. 9 PM – CATS ATV Net

Thurs. 9 PM – BRATS ATV Net

Sat., 1 PM* Weekly News Bulletin

Sun. 8 PM BRATS ATV Net

As Needed: Skywam

BRATS BOARD OF DIRECTOR

Through December, 2013:

WA3SWA, K2GZL, W3ZQI

Through December, 2012:

K9FXV, KA3ZMN, K0RYX

BRATS MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Second Monday, 7:15 PM

Pikesville Library

1301 Reisterstown Road

Next BRATS Meeting S

Monday, December 3, 7 PM

Monday, January 14, 7:15 PM

Pikesville Library

Spot The Space Station Over Your Backyard With New NASA Service

On the 12th anniversary of crews continuously living and working aboard the International Space Station, NASA announced Friday a new service to help people see the orbiting laboratory when it passes overhead. "Spot the Station" will send an email or text message to those who sign up for the service a few hours before they will be able to see the space station. "It's really remarkable to see the space station fly overhead and to realize humans built an orbital complex that can be spotted from Earth by almost anyone looking up at just the right moment," said William Gerstenmaier, NASA's associate administrator for human exploration and operations. "We're accomplishing science on the space station that is helping to improve life on Earth and paving the way for future exploration of deep space." When the space station is visible -- typically at dawn and dusk -- it is the brightest object in the night sky, other than the moon. On a clear night, the station is visible as a fast moving point of light, similar in size and brightness to the planet Venus. "Spot the Station" users will have the options to receive alerts about morning, evening or both types of sightings. The International Space Station's trajectory passes over more than 90 percent of Earth's population. The service is designed to only notify users of passes that are high enough in the sky to be easily visible over trees, buildings and other objects on the horizon. NASA's Johnson Space Center calculates the sighting information several times a week for more than 4,600 locations worldwide, all of which are available on "Spot the Station." Nov. 2 marks 12 years of continuous human habitation of the space station. To sign up for "Spot the Station," visit: <http://spotthestation.nasa.gov> For information about the International Space Station and a full list of sightings, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/station>

**REMINDER: December 3rd BRATS Meeting is Holiday Party and Elections.
7:00 PM at the Pikesville Library- one week earlier than usual! Join with us!**

Norway Gets New Allocations

The Norwegian P & T Authority has made changes to the Norwegian amateur licence regulations. The major changes are that permission has been given to use 472 to 479kHz with a maximum 1W EIRP. The former permission to use 493 to 510kHz has been stopped. Permission has been given to use 70.1875 to 70.2625MHz, except in the three Norwegian southwest counties of Hordaland, Rogaland and West-Agder, where there still is commercial traffic within this frequency segment. Other segments allowing 100W transmitter power and maximum 16kHz bandwidth include 70.0625 to 70.0875MHz, 70.3625 to 70.3875MHz and 70.4125 to 70.4625MHz.

DENMARK SETS DIGITAL RADIO SWITCHOVER DATE

The Danish government's new media policy has defined 2019 as the year for the country's digital radio switchover. This providing that at least half of all radio listening in the country is digital by 2018. Uffe Elbak, the Danish Culture minister stated that this move is a normal progression. He said that the world is digital and therefore it is a natural continuation of previous efforts and policy decisions in the area that we now will speed up the digitization of radio, just as we did with the TV a few years ago. Elbak said that this will be accomplished by continuing to expand the nation's digital radio network, and establishing, albeit with conditions, a date for the switch-off of analog FM. By setting a date Elbak says that his nation is sending a clear signal to both the industry and the Danish radio listeners about where digitalization of broadcasting is headed. According to other reports, the national single-frequency Digital Audio Broadcasting or DAB block used by the public service broadcaster DR Multiplex will be exchanged for two DAB regional frequency blocks now occupied by a single commercial multiplex. This will take place in 2013. All Danish DAB transmissions will also transition from the original DAB standard to the DAB+ standard

KD4OHZ, Missing at Sea After Sinking of Tall Ship Bounty; N6TQS, Rescued:

Every DXer knows the story of the HMS Bounty and Pitcairn Island, VP6: In 1789, the HMS Bounty -- a small three-masted sailing vessel sent by Britain's Royal Navy to the Pacific on a supply expedition -- was roiled by tension between its crew and its captain, William Bligh. After landing in Tahiti and taking on a cargo of breadfruit, the Bounty set sail for the West Indies; it never reached that destination. Instead, Master's Mate Fletcher Christian led the men in a mutiny, eventually allowing Bligh and his loyalists to sail off in a longboat. After an arduous journey, they reached safety at the Dutch-owned port of Kupang. Christian and his followers ended up on Pitcairn Island where they burned the Bounty and settled on the island. Passing ships did not discover the enclave until after the turn of the century. On Monday, October 29, a replica of the Bounty <http://www.tallshipbounty.org/> -- built in 1960 for a remake of the 1962 film *Mutiny on the Bounty* -- sank off the coast of North Carolina as Hurricane Sandy made its way toward New Jersey. Of its 16 crew members, 14 were rescued by the US Coast Guard. Bounty Captain Robin Walbridge, KD4OHZ, never made it to one of the two deployed life rafts and is presumed dead. Claudene Christian, who claimed to be a direct descendent of Fletcher Christian, was unresponsive and passed away at a North Carolina hospital on Monday evening. Doug Faunt, N6TQS, of Oakland, California, was one of the 14 who was rescued by the Coast Guard. Faunt served as a deckhand and was also the ship's electrician. A noted DXer and ARRL Life Member, he was part of the FO0AAA DXpedition crew in 2000 to Clipperton Island. He was also a member of the VP6DIA DXpedition to Ducie Island, and in 2007, he was part of the DXpedition to Lakshadweep. According to Spud Roscoe, VE1BC, Faunt had satellite communications equipment and Winlink capabilities on board the Bounty, but he was not the ship's radio officer. "Sailing on replica ships was a hobby of Doug's," Roscoe told the ARRL. "He had previously sailed across the Great Australian Bight on a replica of the HMB Endeavour <http://www.anmm.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=1437>, Captain Cook's ship. He was an able seaman of the watch." Roscoe was the radio officer on the replica Bounty for its original voyage to France in 1962. Faunt told the ARRL that the Bounty crew tried various methods, including a satellite phone, to call for help, "but we got nothing when tried calling out on HF. We tried calling the Maritime Mobile Net, but nothing was out there. We had Winlink on the ship that we used for e-mail and accessing the Internet to post to blogs and to Facebook, and we finally found an e-mail address for the Coast Guard. As a last-ditch effort, we used Winlink to e-mail the Coast Guard for help. Within an hour, we heard a C-130 plane, and later, a helicopter overhead." According to Faunt, it was Walbridge, as master of the ship, who sent out the distress messages "I don't know how I made it off the ship," Faunt recalled. "I had finished serving a long watch, and then we started going down. I was exhausted. I had to swim to get to the life raft. The water was full of rigging, and here I am, in my Gumby suit, trying to swim. It was so difficult. While swimming to the raft, I came up for air and a spar was coming at me. I finally found a raft and tried to climb into it, but I almost didn't make it, tired as I was. Through the help of my shipmates who were already aboard the raft, I got on. The two life rafts were out about 100 miles from shore when they were rescued. The vessel left Connecticut on Thursday, October 25 with a crew of 11 men and five women, ranging in age from 20-66. After being treated at a hospital in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, Faunt arrived back home in California on Wednesday, October 31. "I'm looking for a new boat to sail and a DXpedition to go on," Faunt told the ARRL. "Ham radio got me into my position on the Bounty, and ham radio got me out alive!" (The ARRL Letter, via ARNewline)

ARRL DX BULLETIN

DOMINICA, J7. Walter, HB9MFM is active as J79WTA from the Tamarind Tree Hotel near Salisbury until December 17. Activity is holiday style on 160 through 10 meters, using SSB, RTTY, PSK as well as SSTV, if possible. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau.

MICRONESIA, V6. Haru, JA1XGI will be active as V63XG from Yap Island (OC-012) from December 5 to 12. Activity will be on 40 through 6 meters, using mainly CW, with some SSB and the digital modes, and JT65. QSL via JA1XGI, direct or by the Bureau.

SLOVENIA, S5. Slovenian special event station S512IAPMC is QRV until January 15, from the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities in Slovenj Gradec. Activity is on all bands, using CW, SSB and digital modes.

QSL via the Bureau.

SINGAPORE, 9V. Koichi, JR1MLT has been active as 9V1KK on weekends only, on 160 through 10 meters, using SSB and CW. He hopes to get on the digital modes in the future as well. QSL via JH1ILX.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Andrew, G7COD will be active as 8Q7AK from Embudu Island on the South Male Atoll, AS-013, for three weeks in February 2013. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau.

LESOTHO, 7P. Gerry is QRV as 7P8CC and has been active using CW on 10 meters around 1300z and then 1730z. QSL via EI7CC.

ANGOLA, D2. Mike, UA1QV is QRV as D3AA from Vila de Catoca until February 15, 2013. QSL to home call.

OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT.

The following operation is approved for DXCC credit: Uganda, 5X1EME, 2012 operation.

Next BRATS Meetings

Monday, December 3, 7 PM

Monday, January 14, 7:15 PM

GB3GC a New 6 Metre Repeater

A new six metre repeater, GB3GC, is up and running in south east Cornwall, on the same site as the 2m repeater GB3PL. This 6m repeater has its input on 51.230MHz FM and 500kHz spacing for its output at 50.730MHz. The CTCSS tone is 77Hz. Any enquiries should be directed to Roger, 2E0RPH. whose details are correct on QRZ.com.

DX (AR Newsline)

IN DX, the March, **2013 DXpedition to Clipperton Island** has received the callsign TX5K to be used during the operation. So far the team has 23 members and one space remains available for another operator, scientist, or other supporter who wishes to join the DXpedition. More information is on-line at www.cordell.org/CI, **DL1LLL** is currently operational portable **Zed-S-7 from Antarctica** on the High Frequency Bands. His location is the Neumeyer Emergency base. QSL via DL5EBE.

JH5GHM is currently on the air stroke V26 from **Antigua Island** on the High Frequency bands only. No mention of modes or times on the air. QSL via his home call or electronically using Logbook of the World.

JA1PBV is currently active from **Mauritania as 5T5BV**. Listen out for him on the High Frequency bands operating mainly CW. QSL via home call **UA4WHX is currently active stroke EX from Kyrgyzstan**. He's been reported being heard on many of the High Frequency bands. His QSL route is direct to his home callsign.

(Above from various DX news sources)

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

Dec 1-2	ARRL EME Contest
	TOPS Activity Contest
Dec. 2	SARL Digital Contest
Dec 8-9	ARRL 10-Meter Contest
Dec 15	OK DX RTTY Contest
Dec 15-16	Croatian CW Contest
Dec 26	DARC Christmas Contest
Dec 29	RAC Winter Contest
Dec 29-30	Stew Perry Topband Challenge
January 1	SARTG New Year RTTY Contest

HAMFESTS

Sunday, January 27: Odenton, MD
MMARC Post-Holiday Hamfest,
Odenton Fire Hall, Rte. 175.
wb4ogp@arrl.net

Saturday, Feb. 2: Richmond, VA
Richmond Frostfest, at the
Richmond Raceway Complex,
All tickets \$10. 804-657-7038
www.frostfest.com (146.82/R)

Sunday, March 3: Hicksville, NY
LIMARC Hamfest; Levittown Hall
Hicksville, Long Island, NY
Richard, K2KNB 516-694-4937
(146.85, PL 136.5) k2knmb@arrl.net

Saturday, April 6: Timonium, MD
ONE DAY ONLY! Greater Baltimore
Hamboree Timonium Fairgrounds;
(146.67/R). Sharon, K3DUH,
443-590-1444; w3ft67@yahoo.com

SILENT KEY

**David Anderson,
WA3WZX
November 1, 2012**

M6GLD UNVEILS ISS APRS VIDEO

Robert Broughton, M6GLD has made available a new video demonstrating reception of amateur radio APRS signals from the International Space Station. The data shown in the clip is decoded using free online software and a soundcard connected from a receivers audio out to the computers audio in. For this demonstration the closest slant range to the I-S-S at zenith was around 1,350 miles line of sight with the space station transmitting on 145.825 Mhz. You can watch the video at tinyurl.com/iss-aprs-video (M6GLD)

VE Exams

LARC, 364 Main St. Laurel
3rd Sat. 9 AM John, WB3GXW,
301-572-5124
Historic Electronics Museum,
Linthicum
4th Tuesday 6 PM, Harold, WB4OGF
410-757-0493 (h); 410-712-6829(w)

BARC VE Exams

At BARC, 12360 Owings Mills Blvd
Registration 1:30 Exams at 2 PM
2013: Sun, Jan. 6., Sat. Feb 2, March 2
Sunday, April 14; Sat. May 4, June 1;
Sunday, July 7; Sat. August 3; Sunday,
Sept. 8, October 6; Sat. Nov 2, Dec. 7
(Thanks, N3YI)

Aero Amateur Radio Club

2013 Testing Schedule
White Marsh Library
1 PM, walk-ins welcome
Jan. 26, March 23, May 11, Sept. 28,
Nov 23; ARRL VEC \$15 testing fee
Pat, AC3F, 410-687-7209
ac3f@juno.com

A Note About the New AMSAT News Service Format

The current AMSAT News Service Weekly
Bulletin is posted at:
<http://amsat.org/pipermail/ans/2012/000663.html>

Milliwatt Swap Shop

Ads are free and get results!

Send your ad to: BRATS, Box 5915,

Baltimore, MD 21282-5915, or

email to: w3qyk@verizon.net

FOR SALE: Hustler G7-144\$125. You pick up- HRO discount price \$199. Took down to put up dual band antenna. N3BHE 410-299-5931.

FOR SALE: ICOM T2H 2 mtr. HT w/ charger belt clip, rubber ducky, manual, asking \$80 K38CD: 410-866-5441; or wmm@comcast.net

FOR SALE: ICOM BC-110 battery charger 12vDC, 200 ma, for ICOM T8A or equivalent. almost new, cost \$46, make reasonable " offer. WANTED: Battery for ICOM T8A, Mayer, W3GXX, w3qyk@verizon.net

FOR SALE: ICOM 745, 200 watt HF scvr, PIEXX IC-EX 243 physical electric keyer, PROM memory board, standard mike, 13v. power cord. No power supply. Will consider trade, currency or both. KB3RLD@arrl.net

US Postal Service to Phase Out IRCs

If the US Postal Service (USPS) gets its way, it will no longer sell International Reply Coupons (IRCs) after January 27, 2013. According to the October 23 edition of the Federal Register, there is not sufficient demand for the USPS to continue offering IRCs to customers; however, per the Universal Postal Union (UPU) regulations, the USPS must continue to exchange (redeem) IRCs that have been purchased in foreign countries and presented at USPS facilities. The current Nairobi model is valid through December 31 2013. Comments on this proposed change will be accepted through November 23, 2012. IRCs provide foreign addressees with a prepaid means of responding to inquiries, solicitations or other types of communications -- such as QSL cards -- that are initiated by US senders. IRCs are exchangeable for postage stamps by postal administrations in member countries of the UPU. Each IRC is equivalent in value to the destination country's minimum postage price for an unregistered airmail letter. The purchase price in the US is currently \$2.20 per IRC. -- Thanks to The Daily DX for some information. (ARRL Web Extra)

JADE COMPUTERS

1009 Ingleside Ave, Baltimore 21228

443-667-4187. joe@jadecomputers.us

web page design, hosting, order PC on-line,

<http://www.jadecomputers.us>.

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.videotaping-service.com>

Antique radio repair, Restoration

Eric, WA3TAD, audio visual service, retro

radio. 3401 Chestnut Ave. Baltimore 21211

410-467-3620. Wa3tad@comcast.net

WANTED: AT 930 for TS 930S. Jerry

jerrymcf@sbcglobal.net

WANTED: AC Gilbert erector sets: old, new

large, small, need not be complete. CASH

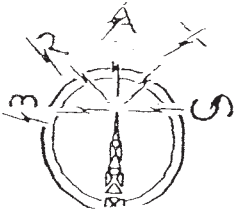
PAID. Lewis, 410-296-4874|

WANTED: Manual for MFJ 1452. Greg

WB2LOO. gjm313@verizon.net

COME AND GET EM! Two five-foot

satellite dishes. Les, W3GXT, 410-833-8667



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December, 2012

BRATS November Meeting

The November meeting took place on November 12 at the Pikesville Library with 15 people present. The Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting; The Treasurer gave the balance which was larger than last month due to receipt of our hamfest deposit. Repeaters: Stand alone repeaters put back and are working. SkyWarn and EOCs used the repeaters. They will run emergency nets.. 2 of our sites are on emergency power. ATV: Need to check antennas, possibly raise them 10 feet
"Public Service, nothing at the moment
Hamfest: flyers will be printed.
Discussion on number of board members., nomination of officers..... Mayer, W3GXX, Secretary

Next BRATS Meetings

Monday, December 3, 7 PM
Monday, January 14, 7:15 PM
Pikesville Library

OTHER CLUB MEETINGS:

QCWA: Monday at Noon, Cactus Willie
7315 Ritchie Hwy, Glen Burnie
3rd Thursday, 1 PM, Old Country
Buffet, Joppa at Satyr Hill
Last Wednesday, 1 PM, Denny's
Bel Air Road at Putty Hill

AARC: 1st and 3rd Thursday, 7:30 PM
Davidson Family Rec. Center
Queen Anne Bridge Road

AMRAD: 2nd Thursday, 7:30 PM
Dolley Madison Library
14 Oak Ridge Ave. , McLean, VA

BARC: 1st and 3rd Wednesday,
7:30 PM, 12360 Owings Mills Blvd.
Owings Mills, MD

CARA: 4th Tuesday, 7:30 PM
Gateway Center, Room 401
6751 Gateway Dr. , Columbia, MD

BRATS MEMBERSHIP FORM: Regular, \$15; Retired/Disabled/Student: \$10; Family: \$20

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