

# the milliwatt



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

December, 2015

## SILENT KEYS

### Father Edward W. (Skip) Koritzer, N3DGY

November 5, 2015

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Skip, along-time BRATS member. Skip was the mobile PA system for the BRATS Hamfest for a number of years and will also be remembered for being the first one to volunteer to do some work for the club, We will miss him...

### William W. (Bill) Self, KA3IDB

November 14, 2015

We were also very saddened to learn of the passing of Bill, a long-time BRATS member and always among the first to Volunteer to do "stuff" for the club along with his lovely late wife Jill. Both were at every BRATS function, helping out and providing support and often transportation. We will miss him too

### BRATS December Meeting

Monday, December 7, 6:30 PM  
at Greene Turtle, Owinas Mills

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The BRATS officers, directors and members  
wish you all a Happy Holiday Season!

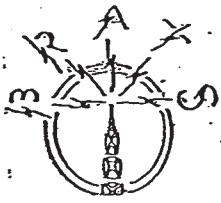
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### Free ATV magazine

CQ-DATV 30 free download now available  
<http://cq-datv.mobi/ebooks.php>  
Contents  
DATV News  
Editorial  
Aerial photography  
DVB-T using the HiDes modules  
DATV-Express Project - October update report  
DVB-T: A Solution for ARES Television Operations  
Christmas Shoot Revisited  
Show and Tell!  
The good old days?  
Home-brew  
Difference between DVB-T, DVB-S and DVB-C  
DVB-T2 HEVC at the door  
Nothing Whatsoever to do with Television!  
Coming up



# the Milliwatt

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

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXK, Editor

## Some Thoughts

Much is being done as we approach the new year. We are still working on a system of membership notices, renewals, dues, rosters etc. We are also working a permanent meeting site or sites....

Be patient, hang in their with us and volunteer to help with all of the above, See you on December 7 at the Greene turtle in Owings Mills. Have a happy and healthy holiday season and new year!  
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 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, W3GXK  
=====

## 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 Bulletin

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

Second Monday of each month

7:00 PM, site to be determined

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

# BRATS

## Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society MINUTES of the 16 November 2015 Monthly Meeting

OryxG, KORYX, chaired meeting held at Liberty Rd. VFD.

### /REPORTS

- Minutes: Secretary's Minutes from the October meeting accepted, approved.
- Treasurer: Treasurer's report summarized: recent expenses for JOTA and radios (latter from grant funds).
- Repeater/Equipment: WIRES-X unit received. Waiting upon receipt of last 2M Tx amp purchased under grant.  
ATV – reportedly working OK; controller timing may have drifted a little. CATS agreed to 50% cost share for new preamp. KenM, K3UQQ, will verify operation with his prior to purchase. FredM, K3TAZ, made presentation on the future and direction of DATV ; made recommendations for DATV modes and equipment.
- Events: none

### /OLD BUSINESS

- Venue: December's Holiday meeting will be held at Greene Turtle, Owings Mills on Dec. 7, 6:30PM. Still discussing ongoing use of LRVFD meeting space.
- JOTA: Deemed a success by BSA, BRATS, and NSS staff, including MARAD. Apprx. 70 attendees. JOTI very successful, well coordinated with other sites. Looking at possibility of 2-day, longer hours for 2016 event.
- Repeater Room: Now have contact, protocol to proceed with request.
- Membership System: Kevin and Oryx will engage NeilG, W3ZQI, to get operational on Web site.

### /NEW BUSINESS

- K3SAV Antenna Contribution: TedB, WA3AER, asked if BRATS would be interested in helping with the cost of putting a multi-band wire antenna on NSS. Kevin and Oryx interested. TedB to provide further information.
- N3DGY SK: contributions in memory of Fr. Skip go to American Legion; see BRATS Web site for info. EdR, N3GXH, proposed naming one of club assets in Fr. Skip's memory. Agreed to naming our portable repeater and PA system in his honor. Discussed how to have his SK announcement in QST.
- NPOTA: MarkR, W3MSR, suggested the club participate in ARRL's 2016 event. He will contact Ft. McHenry to see if we can use the park.
- 2016 Officer Nominations: President, Oryx, KORYX; VP, Kevin, KB3PLX; Treasurer, Jim, KB3SKN; Secretary, Ted, WA3AER; Board Members, Shane, K2GZL, and Ed, K3GXH. No other nominations forwarded. Elections at the December meeting.

Ted, WA3AER,  
Secretary

## **MORE CHANGES ONLINE AT THE FCC**

As the FCC, and hams around the country, recuperate from the on-again, off-again outage that left the FCC with a backlog of license applications and exam sessions, the agency has announced yet more change coming online: A newly revamped website that is making its debut on Dec. 10, through a four-hour transition that will begin at 0100 UTC. The agency said, in a public notice released Tuesday, Nov. 24, that the changes were based on information gathered from user feedback over time and the new website should provide QUOTE“better functionality, an improved design and better searchability and navigability.”ENDQUOTE The Commission’s IT Department had run the site in a beta-test version earlier this year to collect input from visitors before the official launch. The new site is also optimized for use on tablets, smartphones and other mobile devices and offers different browsing options. The FCC says: Worry, not, because while the current agency website will no longer be available after Dec. 10, files and webpages on [transition.fcc.gov](http://transition.fcc.gov) will still be accessible until they too are migrated to the new site. The Commission has already upgraded its consumer help center and other interactive areas – and says it has been working toward fine-tuning those areas as well. ARNewline)

## **DECEMBER IS YOTA MONTH**

According to the calendar, we’re heading into December, but to European amateur radio operators in their early 20s – or even younger – the next 31 days that lie ahead are really known as YOTA Month. December is being set aside for the program, Youngsters on the Air, a large group of youthful hams from Region 1 of the International Amateur Radio Union who support one another’s projects and engage in QSOs with one another, and around the world. Throughout December, YOTA members will be active on the bands, using Y-O-T-A as the suffix in their call sign. Young South African hams participating will be using the call sign, Z-S-9-YOTA. And in the UK, the special call sign, G15YOTA will be on the air for 22 days during December, many from school amateur radio clubs and some from the RAF Air Cadets. Proponents of the event remind amateurs around the world that in many cases, a YOTA operator might be having his or her first experience on radio when giving a call, so try to make that QSO happen! And make it friendly.

## **AN AMSAT ‘FIRST’**

AMSAT-North America is now the proud owner of its first CubeSat. The Fox-1A satellite, AO-85, has joined AMSAT Operations, after being formally commissioned and determined to be ready to go. AMSAT will now be responsible for its scheduling and modes. AMSAT Vice President for Engineering Jerry Buxton, N-ZERO-JY, said in a statement: QUOTE“Many new techniques are incorporated, and lessons will be learned, as with any new ‘product.’ We will incorporate changes from what we learn in each launch, to the extent possible, in subsequent Fox-1 CubeSats. To our members, we want to say that the Fox Team is very proud and pleased that our first CubeSat is very successful and hopefully will be for some time.”

## **60 METERS A HARD-WON REALITY**

Sixty meters became a new reality at the World Radiocommunication Conference in Geneva, which agreed on Nov. 18 on a secondary allocation of the band for the amateur service, setting regional power limits of 15 watts to 25 Watts measured in effective isotropic radiated power. The allocation was a hard-won accomplishment following years of preparation by the International Amateur Radio Union. The last step is the signing of the Final Act at the conference’s Nov. 27 closing, and is considered a formality.

## ARRL DX BULLETIN

**FRANCE, F.** Francois, F8DVD will be QRV with special event call TM21COP from November 29 to December 13 during the 21st session of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL via operator's instructions.

**GUINEA-BISSAU, J5.** Livio, IZ3BUR is QRV as J52HF from the Cumura Hospital until December 10. Activity is in his spare time mainly on 20, 15, 10 and 6 meters using SSB and PSK31. QSL via I3LDP.

**EL SALVADOR, YS.** Members of the Club de Radioficionados del El Salvador are QRV as YS90IARU until December 31 in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the IARU. Activity is on all HF bands. QSL via W3HNK.

### OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT.

The following operations are approved for DXCC Credit: Togo, 5V7BJ and 5V7MP, 2014 operations; Bhutan, A52CVX, 2015 operation; Ogasawara, JD1BOX, 2014 operation; Benin, TY4AB, 2015 operation; Benin, TY2AC, operation running from 2015 to 2018; and Marshall Islands, V73D, 2015 operation

## DX WORLD: Guam and Saipan

Freddy F4HEC informs DX-World that he will be active from Guam and Saipan in December:

- **KH2/F4HEC** – December 3-9, 2015.
  - **KH0/F4HEC** – December 10-13, 2015.
- QRV on 80-10m, SSB.  
QSL via H/c (direct) or LoTW.

## WRC-15 final news

rsgb | November 27, 2015

The 2015 ITU World Radio Conference in Geneva has concluded.

Following earlier success at 5MHz, the conference has agreed to include a future agenda item for the next conference, in 2019, which will consider harmonising the 50MHz band in Region 1.

Several other agenda items that might have affected the amateur services have also concluded largely favourably.

The Society would like to thank Colin Thomas, G3PSM, Ian Greenshields, G4FSU, and the many other volunteers for their efforts over the years in advancing the amateur cause at ITU in often very challenging circumstances.

Attention now immediately turns to preparations for the 2019 ITU World Radio Conference.

## WA7BNM Contest Calendar

Dec 4-6	ARRL 160-mtr. Contest
Dec 5	TARA RTTY Melee
Dec 5-6	UK/EI DX Contest, SSB
Dec 6	10-mtr. RTTY Contest SARL Digital Contest
Dec 12-13	ARRL 10-Meter Contest Int'l Naval Contest
Dec 18	Russian 160-meter Contest
Dec 19	OK DX RTTY Contest RAC Winter Contest
Dec 19-20	Croatian CW Contest
Dec 26	DARC Christmas Contest

## THE WORLD OF DX

(ARNewsline)

Mats, who holds the call signs SM6LRR and RM2D, is operating holiday style in Vietnam as XV2D until Dec. 6

Donald, KD4UDU, will be working until Dec. 17 as EL2DW from Monrovia,

**Liberia.** Look for him on 20m, 15m and 10m on SSB. Send QSL cards to his home call.

## DX News.com

**TX90IARU Grande Terre Island New Caledonia**

FK8DD and others will be active from Grande Terre Island, New Caledonia (IOTA OC-032) until 31 December 2015 as TX90IARU.

**C5WP Gambia 2016**

Pedro, ON7WP will be active again from Gambia December 2015 - 9 January 2016 as C5WP.



## **BARC VE Exams**

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

## **HAMFEST**

**Saturday, January 30**, Odenton, MD  
MMARC Hamfest , NEW SITE:  
Odenton Baptist Church  
8410 Piney Orchard Pkwy  
Odenton, MD 21113  
Returns to Odenton fire hall in 2017  
146.805-, tone 107.2  
Mike, KA2JAI; ka3jai@arrl.net

### **For Immediate Release**

## **FCC ANNOUNCES TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR DECEMBER OPEN MEETING** WASHINGTON,

November 25, 2015 – Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler announced that the following items are tentatively on the agenda for the December Open Commission Meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 17, 2015: US Telecom Petition for Forbearance: The Commission will consider a Memorandum Opinion and Order addressing a petition from US Telecom that seeks forbearance from various categories of statutory and Commission requirements applicable to incumbent local exchange carriers. (WC Docket No. 14-192) Part 25 Rules for Space Stations and Earth Stations: The Commission will consider a Second Report and Order that streamlines, eliminates or updates numerous provisions of Part 25 of the Commission's rules governing licensing and operation of space stations and earth stations for the provision of satellite communication services. (IB Docket No. 12-267) The Open Meeting is scheduled to commence at 10:30 a.m. in Room TW-C305 of the Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. Neil Grace, 202-418-0506 [neil.grace@fcc.gov](mailto:neil.grace@fcc.gov)

## **SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY**

**WX4NHC**, the Amateur Radio station at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, will be taking part in **SKYWARN** Recognition Day (**SRD**) on Saturday, December 5. The annual on-the-air event gets under way at 0000 UTC (Friday, December 4 in US time zones) and concludes at 2400 UTC. **WX4NHC** will be active from 1400 UTC until 2300 UTC. The Hurricane Center ham station has participated in every **SKYWARN** Recognition Day since its inauguration 16 years ago. **WX4NHC** will take advantage of the event for operator training.

During **SKYWARN** Recognition Day amateur stations exchange contact information with as many National Weather Service-based stations as possible on SSB, FM, CW, RTTY, and AM on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meter bands plus 70 centimeters. Repeater contacts are permitted. Stations exchange call signs, signal reports, location, and a one or two-word description of the weather (eg, sunny, partly cloudy, windy, rainy). **Procedures** are detailed on the NOAA **SRD** web page.

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:w3gxxk@verizon.net)

JADE COMPUTERS  
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, [gkm313@verizon.net](mailto:gkm313@verizon.net)

WANTED: YOUR AD!  
Your ad would have appeared here  
if you sent it to us. Send your ad to  
[w3gxxk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gxxk@verizon.net)

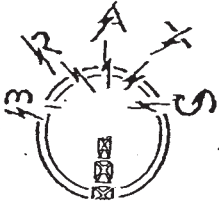
VTS Video Taping Service  
video, DVD duplications,  
Video tape transferred to DVD,  
Standards, conversions,...  
1-877-891-1002. BRATS  
member Bob Shapiro, K2MYS  
<http://www.videotapingservice.com>

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### National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) Map Now Available

In cooperation with ARRL, CQmaps has introduced a 2016 National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) map. The full-color map includes all NPOTA units within the US, including Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Guam, Saipan, and American Samoa. All sites are clearly labeled and include the park name along with the ARRL park designator. Each 24 x 36 inch map is offered in either a laminated heavyweight paper or DuPont Tyvek. The NPOTA laminated map is well suited for using a dry-erase marker to check off your progress in chasing the parks. The map is personalized with your Amateur Radio call sign. The price is \$25, including US shipping. Add \$10 for international orders.

Editor's Note; Smaller maps are available at \$18. To order any map, google CQ Maps. They will give you all the information on how to order....



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P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

December, 2015

## BRATS MEETINGS

Second Monday of each month  
7:00 PM . Site to be determined

## BRATS HOLIDAY MEETING

Monday, December 7, 6:30 PM  
at Greene Turtle, Owings Mills

## BARC Meetings

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

## Other Clubs

### CARA

4<sup>th</sup> 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

## 10ANZAC to be heard from Casey Base

Date : 21 / 11 / 2015 Author : Jim Linton - VK3PC

After two days of blizzard conditions the weather forecast is enabling V10ANZAC to be on air from Casey Base in the Australian Antarctic Territory. As part of the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) ANZAC 100 program it plans to be operating on November 22, from 1pm (AEDT) or 0200 UTC.

A large transport aircraft is due to land at Casey Base just before the operation begins. The only other time V10ANZAC has been able to be on air was August 29-30, again cut short by blizzard conditions.

The WIA is delighted that V10ANZAC is to reactivate and expressed sincere thanks to Doug VK0DMV and the Australian Antarctic Division. V10ANZAC will start on 14.250MHz and QSY if necessary. Other possible frequencies are: 40m 7.135, 7.100 and 7090, 7.105, and 15m 21.250, 21.255, 21.260, 21.265, 21.270 USB. Casey Station is located in a World Wide Flora and Fauna (WWFF) site VKFF0571. QSL via the Bureau and eQSL. (via eham.net)

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

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

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