

the milliwatt



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

February, 2016

Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, Will Succeed David Sumner, K1ZZ as ARRL CEO

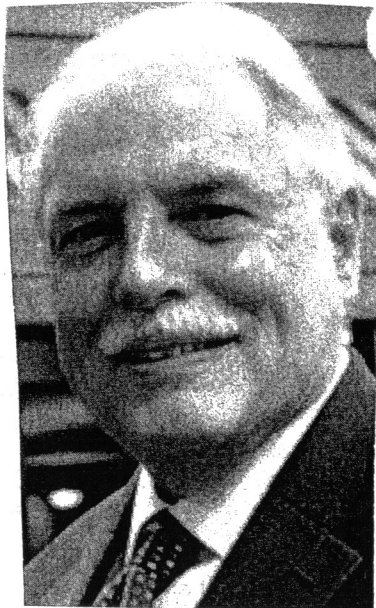
Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, of West Palm Beach, Florida, will succeed David Sumner, K1ZZ, as the chief executive officer of ARRL, effective April 18. In that role, he will oversee all activities at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut. Meeting in a special webinar session on January 25, all 15 ARRL Directors voted to elect Gallagher as CEO and Secretary, positions that Sumner will relinquish on April 18. Gallagher will join the ARRL staff as CEO-Elect on February 29, and a transition period will follow.

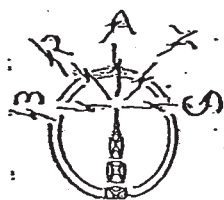
"I am excited by the prospects of ARRL's Second Century, but I am equally mindful of Dave Sumner's enormous 4-decade contribution to our organization and of the extraordinary contributions he has made to advancing the art and science of Amateur Radio, to growing our ranks, and to expanding the sheer enjoyment of ham radio around the world," Gallagher said. Gallagher said he is looking forward to attending the ARRL 2016 National Convention, hosted by the Orlando HamCation, February 12-14. (ARRL)

Changing of the Guard: Rick Roderick, K5UR, Elected as ARRL's 16th President

The ARRL Board of Directors has elected ARRL First Vice President Rick Roderick, K5UR, of Little Rock, Arkansas, as ARRL President. The Board took the action as it convened for its 2016 Annual Meeting January 15-16 in Windsor, Connecticut. Roderick, 63, officially assumed office for a 2-year term at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. He is the ARRL's 16th president, succeeding Kay Craigie, N3KN, of Blacksburg, Virginia, who had served for three terms since being elected in 2010.

A ham for 48 years, Roderick is an attorney. He has served on the ARRL Board of Directors for 24 years and is an enthusiastic Amateur Radio operator and DXer on HF and VHF/UHF. He and his wife Holly have two adult children.





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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

The middle of winter, plenty of snow,
February is contest season. See page 5
For a list of contests and hop in. You
might not win or even try to win, but
you will have fun participating, Try it,
you'll like 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
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, 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, 2016:
W3MSR, K9FXV
Through December, 2017:
K2GZL, N3GXH

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

Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society
MINUTES of the 18 January 2016
Annual Board and Monthly Meeting

OryxG, K0RYX, chaired combined Board and Monthly meeting held at MarkR offices.
Board members present: MarkR, EdR, Shanel, and ChrisV. All officers present.

/REPORTS

- Minutes: Minutes from the December 2015 meeting accepted with typo fix, approved.
- Treasurer: Treasurer's report submitted, accepted.
- Repeater/Equipment: Discussed adding tone on 030 input vs. tweaking squelch settings to eliminate occasional triggering by fringe area repeaters. Aero had recent DR1-X Tx lock ON for 17 hours. Yaesu firmware update reportedly coming soon to address this known issue. KevinS has received Chinese DTV building blocks to start experimenting.
- 2016 Events: Apr. 17, MS Walk at Towson
Apr. 30, NPOTA at Ft. McHenry
Jun. 4-5, MS Bike Tour at Easton
Sep. 10-11, MS Challenge Walk at Baltimore City
Oct. 15-16, JOTA at NS Savannah

/OLD BUSINESS

- NPOTA: MarkR will contact NPS, Ft. McHenry, re. our planned date. Plan 20M operation. TedB will provide vertical antenna, unun, tuner, coax. **Need** ground mount and radials.
- Web site: ChrisV repaired calendar.
- Meeting Venue: TedB reported on NeilG's discussion progress with Towson American Legion. Still a long way to go to accomplish what we want. OryxG will book a location for our February meeting. Stay tuned for info.

/NEW BUSINESS

- Work Party Volunteer List: MarkR and Shanel added to list. Please add your name to the list via email to TedB: thbauer [at] gmail [dot] com.

/BOARD Items

- 2016 Budget: OryxG presented budget items. Discussed and accepted with adjustment to Milliwatt item. Oryx will also make a sizable 2016 donation to BRATS' treasury.
- Balloon project: Item is in our 2016 budget.
- 2016 Hamfest: There will not be one.
- Milliwatt: Discussed and resolved to discontinue printed document. Relevant content will be available on Web site in a timely fashion. Discussed having an annual tri-fold newsletter mailing containing dues renewal.

Ted, WA3AER,
Secretary

LUXEMBOURG HAMS HONOR ROYALTY

Another special call sign - this one in Luxembourg - is being activated through June to mark the 95th anniversary of His Royal Highness the Grand Duke Jean of Luxembourg. Some members of the Luxembourg Amateur Radio Union will be working as LX1AM on single sideband and as LX1EA and LX3X in digital modes. There is a special QSL card that will be sent via the Bureau. QSOs will also be confirmed on LoTW and eQSL. For more details visit QRZ.com.

IARU R1 Interim Meeting - Vienna 2016

The interim meeting of the IARU Region 1 HF Committee, V/U/SHF Committee and EMC Committee takes place from April 15-17, 2016

The papers submitted up to the closing date for papers are available as three .zip downloads. Should further papers be received in time, they will be added as an extra .zip download and a notification placed on the IARU Region 1 website.

Download the papers at

<http://www.iaru-r1.org/index.php/88-news/1518-interim-meeting-vienna-2017>

Discrepancy detected in GPS time

Tuesday, 26th January, Aalto University's Metsähovi observatory located in Kirkkonummi, Finland, detected a rare anomaly in time reported by the GPS system (Google translation). The automatic monitoring system of a hydrogen maser atomic clock triggered an alarm which reported a deviation of 13.7 microseconds. While this is tiny, it is a sign of a problem somewhere, and does not exclude the possibility of larger timekeeping problems happening. The specific source of the problem is not known, but candidates are a faulty GPS satellite or an atomic clock placed in one. Particle flare-up from sun is unlikely, as the observatory has currently not detected unusually high activity from sun.

Read the full story at

<http://it.slashdot.org/story/16/01/26/1735223/discrepancy-detected-in-gps-time>

Our thanks to **Stephen, G7VFX** for spotting this item. (Via Southgate)

NEXT BRATS MEETING

Monday, Feb 22, 7 PM

Liberty Rd Volunteer Fire Company
10010 Liberty rd. Randallstown

SILENT KEY

Frank T. Barranco, Sr ,
W3FBQ (Doc)

ARRL DX BULLETIN

SRI LANKA, 4S. Peter, DC0KK is QRV as 4S7KKG from Moragalla until April 3. Activity is on 20 to 10 meters using mostly RTTY and JT65. QSL to home call.

TANZANIA, 5H. Stan, WS5K will be QRV as 5H2SF from Dar Es Salaam from January 26 to February 10. QSL via operator's instructions.

TONGA, A3. Hiro, JA6WFM is QRV as A31MM from Nuku'alofa. He is here for about two years. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters. QSL via EA5GL.

CHILE, CE. Special event station XR4SURF is QRV from Pichilemu, known as the Chilean surfing hotspot, until February 29. QSL via bureau.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Roly, ZL1BQD is QRV as E51RJR from Rarotonga Island, IOTA OC-013, until February 14. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using most likely JT65 with some CW. QSL to home call.

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

Feb 4	NRAU 10-m activity Contest
Feb 5-7	YLRL YL-OM Contest
Feb 6-7	Vermont QSO Party
	10-10 Intl Winter Contest, SSB
	F9AA Cup, CW
	British Columbia QSO Party
	Mexico RTTY Intl Contest
Feb 6	Minnesota QSO Party
Feb 7	North American Sprint, CW
Feb 8-12	ARRL School Club Roundup
Feb 13-14	CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest
	SARL Field Day Contest
Feb 13	Asia-Pacific Sprint, CW
	Dutch PACC Contest
	OMISS QSO Party
Feb 20-21	ARRL Intl DX Contest, CW
	Russian PSK WW Contest
Feb 27-28	South Carolina QSO Party
Feb 28-29	North Carolina QSO Party
Feb 26-28	CQ 160 Meter Contet, SSB

10 DAYS OF CONTESTING IN IRAN

The first Iranian ham contest kicks off on February 1 and runs to February 11, marking the 37th anniversary of the Iranian Islamic revolution. The contest's goal is simple: Organizers want to encourage and increase new contacts with Iranian hams, and they're placing a special emphasis on DXing. Find the action on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters, in Single Side Band, RTTY and CW modes. QSL cards and certificates will be available. For further information, send an email to epcontest-dot-2016@gmail.com (that's epcontest.2016@gmail.com). (SOUTHGATE)

THE WORLD OF DX

Jean- Pierre, F6ITD, is active as FG/F6ITD, from Desirade Island between Feb. 3 and March 8. He will work SSB and digital modes on HF bands. During the weekend and during contests he will sign TO6D. Jean-Pierre also plans to work 6m. QSL via F6ITD (d), LoTW.

Peter, DC0KK, is working as 4S7KKG from Moragalla, Sri Lanka, until April 3, mainly on CW and the Digital modes. He is focusing on 20 meters through 10 meters. QSL via DC0KK, by the Bureau, which he prefers, or direct. LoTW will be used on request. All QSLs will be sent via the Bureau.

(OHIO PENN DX, DEUTSCHER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB)

BARC VE Exams

**Our Savior Lutheran Church
141 Lavern Ave. Landsdowne
Register at 1:30: exams at 2:00**

BARC Meetings

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

2016 Testing Schedule

(The date and location are subject to change; please preregister.)

Day Date

Saturday February 6 @ Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 141 Lavern Ave, Lansdowne, MD 21227
Saturday March 5 @ Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 141 Lavern Ave, Lansdowne, MD 21227
Saturday April 2 @ Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 141 Lavern Ave, Lansdowne, MD 21227
Saturday May 7 @ Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 141 Lavern Ave, Lansdowne, MD 21227
Saturday June 4 @ Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 141 Lavern Ave, Lansdowne, MD 21227
Saturday July 9 @ Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 141 Lavern Ave, Lansdowne, MD 21227
Saturday August 6 @ Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 141 Lavern Ave, Lansdowne, MD 21227
Saturday September 10 @ Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 141 Lavern Ave, Lansdowne, MD 21227
Saturday October 1 @ Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 141 Lavern Ave, Lansdowne, MD 21227
Saturday November 5 @ Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 141 Lavern Ave, Lansdowne, MD 21227
Saturday December 3 @ Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 141 Lavern Ave, Lansdowne, MD 21227

Registration starts at 1:30 PM.

Exams begin at 2 PM.

No one admitted after the exams begin.

Preregister by email: info@veteam.org

Please preregister so we can contact you in the event that the exam location site changes.

Other Clubs Meetings

LARC VE EXAMS

364 Main St. Laurel,

3rd Sat. at 9 AM;

John, WB3GXW,

301-572-5124

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

MD Mobileers VE Exams at
National Electronics Museum,
Linthicum
4th Tuesday at 6 PM
Mike, KA2JAI, 443-310-4902
KA2JAI@arll.net

Milliwatt Swap Shop

Ads are free and get results!

Mail your ad to: BRATS, Box 5915

Baltimore, MD 21282-5915 or

email to w3gkxk@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, w3gkxk@verizon.net

JADE COMPUTERS
1009 Ingleside Ave. Balto 21228.
443-667-4187,
ioe@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
wa3lad@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

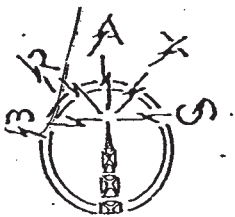
WANTED: YOUR AD!
Your ad would have appeared here
if you sent it to us. Send your ad to
w3gkxk@verizon.net

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>

IN SOUTH AFRICA, LEAP TO THE CHALLENGE

Start training now for the big Leap Year Challenge that's barely a month away: The South African Radio League is inviting amateurs to work as many stations as possible on Monday, Feb. 29 - Leap Day - on all bands and in all modes. The only restriction is that you can work a station only once, regardless of band, mode or call sign.

Logs should be submitted via email by Wednesday, March 2, and the ham who totals the most QSOs wins a membership in the league for the year 2016 to 2017. Don't waste any time getting ready - if you miss this, you will have to wait until the next leap year in 2020 -- and remember, you'll be four years older then! (SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE) (via ARNewsline)



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THE UK'S NEWEST RECORD-SETTERS

Speaking of CW, there is reportedly a new record in distance for CW contacts in the UK, as reported on Southgate Amateur Radio news by the hams who say they've accomplished it: Ian Lamb, G8KQW, and John Hazell, G8ACE. claim to have set a new UK distance record for Code on 134 GHz. The record-breaking contact is said to have occurred on January 16, with the two amateurs utilizing a line-of-sight path from Chute Causeway near Andover, all the way to Cheesefoot Head near Winchester. The distance covered? 35.6 kilometers, which is a little more than 22 miles. The previous UK record on 134 GHz was 19.2 km, and had been set by G8KQW and G8ACE on September 20, 2015. (SOUTHGATE AMATEUR RADIO NEWS)
(via ARNewsline)

U.S. FCC to unveil plan to allow competitors to pay TV set-top boxes

Wednesday, 27 Jan 2016 | 10:51 AM ET FCC chairman Tom Wheeler is announcing the proposed regulation later on Wednesday to allow companies like Alphabet Inc and Tivo to compete directly to provide video services, according to a summary of the proposal, the proposal says. The FCC says Americans spent \$20 billion a year to lease pay-TV cable and satellite boxes, or an average of \$231 a year, and said box...

VP8STI shuts down early

After managing to recover from the effects of a fierce South Atlantic storm, an emergency resulting from the storm has forced the VP8STI team back to their transport vessel, the R/V *Braveheart*.

They were able to remove all of the VP8STI equipment from Southern Thule on 26 January. The DXpedition team is now headed for South Georgia, AN-007, where it plans to operate for eight days as VP8SGI. (RSGB)

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

Name _____ Call _____ e-mail _____

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