

the milliwatt



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

February, 2017

Lifetime License Denied

The FCC has denied the petition of an Arizona radio amateur, who had petitioned for lifetime Amateur Radio licenses. Mark F. Krotz, N7MK, of Mesa, had filed his *Petition for Rule Making (RM 11760)* with the FCC last November, and the FCC invited public comments in February. Krotz wanted the FCC to revise § 97.25 of its rules to indicate that Amateur Radio licenses are granted for the holder's lifetime, instead of for the current 10-year term. Hundreds of radio amateurs commented on the petition, but the FCC was not swayed by those favoring the idea. "Based on our review of the record, we are not persuaded that the petition discloses sufficient grounds for the requested rule change," the FCC said in a June 21 *Order*. "Krotz's primary argument is that extending the term of amateur licenses to the lifetime of the holder would reduce the Commission's administrative and personnel costs, but it is not clear to us that the proposal actually would enhance administrative efficiency." That's because the vast majority of license renewals are submitted online and processed automatically by the Universal Licensing System (ULS), "with minimal staff involvement," the *Order* said. (FCC)

The Doctor Will See You Now!

"AM and SSB" is the topic of the latest (February 9) episode of the "ARRL The Doctor is In <http://www.arrl.org/doctor>" podcast. Listen...and learn!

Sponsored by DX Engineering <http://www.dxengineering.com/>, "ARRL The Doctor is In" is an informative discussion of all things technical. Listen on your computer, tablet, or smartphone -- whenever and wherever you like!

Every 2 weeks, your host, QST Editor-in-Chief Steve Ford, WB8IMY, and the Doctor himself, Joel Hallas, W1ZR, will discuss a broad range of technical topics. You can also e-mail your questions to doctor@arrl.org, and the Doctor may answer them in a future podcast.

Enjoy "ARRL The Doctor is In" on Apple iTunes <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/arrl-the-doctor-is-in/id1096749595?mt=2>, or by using your iPhone or iPad podcast app (just search for "ARRL The Doctor is In"). You can also listen online at Blubrry https://www.blubrry.com/arrl_the_doctor_is_in/, or at Stitcher <https://www.stitcher.com/> (free registration required, or browse the site as a guest) and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle, or Android devices.

If you've never listened to a podcast before, download our beginner's guide <http://www.arrl.org/doctor>.

Source:

The ARRL Letter



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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

First let me apologize for missing the January issue. Time just gets away fast, We want to call your attention to the Stories on page 5 entitles Foundations for Amateur Radio. This is not to be confused With the Foundaion for Amateur Radio/ It is from VK6 land, Also, check the minute Of the last meeting which has instructions On how to join in the next meeting.
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>
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Meetings: 2nd Monday, 7 PM

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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 Meeting
February 20th Conference Call
See next page for info....

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 23 January 2017 Annual Board and Monthly Meetings

KevinS, KB3PLX, chaired the meeting held at LRVFD.

Annual Board Meeting

All Board members, except Chairman, present for Board meeting.

Reviewed 2017 meeting arrangements. Kevin will provide Skype contact info.

Events - April MS Walk - -Towson, date t.b.d.

Tour de Cure - Reisterstown, May 6

Balloon Launch - site t.b.d., May 13. (Publish notice to airmen.)

MS Bike Tour - Easton, June 17,18

Field Day - June 24; KA3ZMN and Aero

Susan G.. Komen Ride - Annapolis, June 24

MS Walk - Cambridge, October

JOTA - focus on more education, October 21, 22.

ChrisV will set up Google Forms on Web site for events' sign ups.

Budget - looking to trim expenses in 2017

Digital ATV and Balloon projects' eqt. is mostly on hand; minimal extra expenses foreseen.

No issues with budget items as presented. Approved.

Plan to formalize system documentation in 2017.

General Meeting

/REPORTS

- Minutes: Minutes of the December 2016 meeting accepted, approved.
- Treasurer: report submitted. Open items' bills submitted to Treasurer.
- Repeater/Equipment: Discussed recent repeater outage.
 - Work to replace Asterisk software continuing.
 - Planning to replace repeater controllers with HP thin clients.
 - New eqt. package on hand for Heaver site.
- **2017 Dues REMINDER**: Members are reminded to remit their 2017 dues before the end of February. Dues will now be collected on a calendar year basis, with payment due in January - February.

/OLD BUSINESS

- NPOTA: MarkR, W3MSR, currently stands in 9th place for Activators. He did 239 site activations.

/NEW BUSINESS

- Announcements: Flyers handed out for York Hamfest.
- February Meeting: 20 February, 7PM. This will be an audio conference. Dial in at +18042866686 ,Conference ID: 18635843

Ted, WA3AER
Secretary

NETS OF NOTE: THE YEAR OF THE ROOSTER

The Chinese calendar tells us that the Year of the Rooster has just begun, but if you ask one enthusiastic bunch of hams, they'll tell you the Year of the Rooster has been going on since 1957. Amateur Radio Newslines Caryn Eve Murray KD2GUT talked with the Chief Rooster of the Rooster Net for the latest story in our series, "Nets of Note."

A flock of hams has been roosting on 80 meters for more than 60 years and yes, that's something to crow about. So says Chief Rooster Mike Errigo, WB3EQW, also known as Rooster Number Four hundred eleven.

"The Rooster Net started just with a bunch of guys getting together on 75 meters back in the late 50s. One of the wives of one of these guys in this group said 'You guys get up early and you talk so early in the morning, you must be like a bunch of roosters.' And that's where it got its name, and that's where it got its start."

:Check-ins and chat begin every day just as the sun comes up. To avoid ruffling feathers, though, there's no talk of sex, politics or religion.: "We hope we're just a fun group. We don't do emergency communications and we'll clear the frequency if the ARRL needs it or it is needed for some emergency. We're just a ragchew group."

Of course, there are a few membership requirements. You need to be alert by 6 a.m. Eastern time, complete 20 check-ins in a 90-day period and, oh yes, there's that very formal Rooster initiation ceremony.

MIKE: "Stand up on the back of your chair, flap your wings, announce your call and crow like a rooster, remembering that this is radio, this isn't television. The Lone Ranger when he was on radio, much as we hate to admit it, probably didn't have a horse in the studio when they made their show. It's the same with us. It's just theater of the mind."

On this net, the early bird gets the frequency. Well, sometimes. For more information, visit theroosternet.com or find them at 3990 kHz any morning.

: Meanwhile, if you know of a net with an interesting story to tell, email us at newsline@arnewsline.org and we might just feature it as one of our next Nets of Note.

AUSTRALIAN HAMS MARK HISTORIC WW2 BOMBING

In Australia, the 75th anniversary of the Japanese bombing of Darwin is being marked with a special event station. Amateur Radio Newslines Graham Kemp VK4BB has details:

Japanese air raids on Darwin and northern Australia during World War II marked the single largest assault on the nation by any foreign power. It was an attack that practically destroyed the city. Special event callsign V18BOD will commemorate this important piece of wartime history as the Darwin Amateur Radio Club begins operations on Saturday, February 18th, out of an old Qantas Hangar in a Darwin suburb. The station will be on the air until the 28th of March.

The special operation is a reminder of what happened on February 19th, 1942 as Japanese aircraft staged two air raids, planned and led by the same commander who had directed the earlier attack on Pearl Harbor.

Twenty-one of the 46 ships in Darwin Harbor were sunk in the first raid and two more were sunk off Bathurst Island. In response to the Japanese assault, hundreds of thousands of members of the U.S. military were stationed in the Northern Territory.

ARLD005 DX news

CYPRUS, 5B. Members of the Paphos Radio Club are QRV with special event station H2017PFO during all of 2017 for Europe's Capital of Culture in 2017. Activity is on the HF bands using all modes. QSL direct to 5B4AIE.

RWANDA, 9X. Harald, DF2WO is QRV as 9X2AW from Kigali until March 11. Activity is on all HF bands using CW and various digital modes. QSL via M00XO.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Milan, OK1DWC is QRV as E51DWC from Rarotonga island, IOTA OC-013, until sometime in March. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. This includes entries in the upcoming ARRL DX contests and possibly the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB DX contest. QSL to home call.

BULGARIA, LZ. Members of the Bulgarian Radio Club Blagovestnik are QRV as LZ235SIR during February for All Saints 2017. QSL via bureau.

Foundations of Amateur Radio -- #87:

from Onno VK6FLAB on February 3, 2017

Website: <http://podcasts.itmaze.com.au/>

MARS is our next door planet or it relates to Pumping up the Volume, but what does it have to do with Amateur Radio?

This week in Foundations of Amateur Radio I look at modifying your radio with a so-called MARS/CAP modification. What are the implications, what should you be aware of and what are the risks? The Amateur community rarely talks about such things and ignores it with: "Here be Dragons!", but really we should be leading the charge and discussing this professionally and comprehensively, rather than hiding it under the rug.

This weekly podcast can be downloaded from <http://podcashas.itmaze.com.au/> and found on iTunes by searching for my callsign, VK6FLAB. (WIA via eham.net)

Foundations of Amateur Radio -- #88:

from Onno VK6FLAB on February 10, 2017

The pimples on the Sun that erupt and make a mess are called Sun-spots and they make it possible for you to use your Amateur Radio on HF for long distance communication via the ionosphere. How does this actually work and what is a Sun-spot actually and why are Sun-spot numbers not the same as the numbers of dots on the Sun. This week I investigate how getting Sun burned is like heating the ionosphere.

Foundations of Amateur Radio is a weekly podcast about anything ham radio and can be downloaded from <http://podcasts.itmaze.com.au/> and found on iTunes by searching for VK6FLAB.

Thank you for your kind and sometimes provocative emails, unexpected, fun and enlightening, keep 'm coming - vk6flab@gmail.com.

Onno

BARC VE EXAMS

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
905 Frederic Rd. Catonsville, MD

Registration starts at 2 PM

Exams at 2:30 PM

**NO ONE ADMITTED AFTER
EXAMS BEGIN**

Pre-register by email:
info@veteam.org

Next Exams
Saturday, March 4

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

Feb 13-17 ARRL School Club R pundup
Feb 13-14 Russian PSK WW Contest
Feb 24 QRP Fox Hunt
Feb 26-27 North Carolina QSO Party
Mar 4-5 ARRL Int'l DX Contest. SSB

BARC MEETINGS

First Wednesday 7PM
Even Months at Wegmans Owings Mills
Odd Months Wegmans Hunt Valley

CARA

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

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

Veteran Volunteer Examiner Lauded for His Dedication:

Mel Fukunaga, KH6H, of Wailuku on the Hawaiian island of Maui has been a volunteer examiner with the ARRL VEC since its inception in 1984, becoming accredited with the ARRL VEC in September of that year.

"For the past 32 years, Mel has faithfully conducted three exam sessions on average every year," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "The VEC appreciates his dedication and service to the Amateur Radio community in Hawaii."

On December 2, Fukunaga, an ARRL Life Member, administered his 100th exam session, and the Maui Amateur Radio Club honored his long-term dedication to Amateur Radio licensing on Maui by presenting him with an engraved bowl. Fukunaga heads the island's VE team, which administers ham radio examinations three times a year -- in April, August, and December. For many years, Fukunaga served as the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) District Emergency Coordinator on Maui. (ARRL LETTER)

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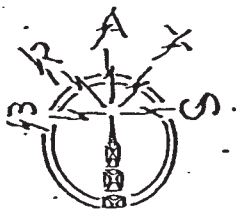
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Joe and Crew, JHS 22 ARC (WB2JKJ)
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February, 2017

KICKER: NOT-SO-POETIC LICENSE

: We end this newscast with a story about how the FCC is bringing Novice call signs back. Well.....yes and no. Amateur Radio Newline's Don Wilbanks AE5DW tells us what's really going on.

\ When is a Novice call sign not a Novice call sign? The answer is simple: When it's not! There are no more Novice licenses being granted but don't think for a moment that this doesn't mean the old call signs have gone away -- because they haven't. In fact, they're starting to turn up again. Just ask Brandi Frame, KN4AFW, who was among those to get one of them last month. According to callsign historian Pete Varounis NL7XM, this freshly minted Technician doesn't exactly have a freshly minted callsign: it was first assigned 62 years ago to a 15-year-old boy named Chase P. Hearn in Raleigh, North Carolina.

So what's going on here? The FCC hasn't gone retro or nostalgic, it's just issuing callsigns sequentially, as it always has. District 4, where Brandi lives, simply exhausted its supply of "KM's" and by the time she and the others took their test, the FCC had moved on to the sequence of "KN" callsigns. Sure, this has caused some oldtimers to do a doubletake -- one of them was Brandi's husband Andrew Frame WD4RCC, who remembers the old Novice Class -- but as Pete points out, "KN" assignments are going to become increasingly commonplace as other districts exhaust their "KM" licenses too.

By the way said Pete, the original Novice license-holder, Chase, is still on the air - operating now from Virginia - and his callsign of K4AFW is simply an upgrade of the 1954 callsign now assigned to Brandi. Everything old is new again!

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

Name _____ Call _____ e-mail _____

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