

# the milliwatt



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

January, 2014

## Plans Announced to Update the Communications Act of 1934

The US House Communications and Technology Subcommittee has announced plans for a multi-year effort to examine and update the Communications Act of 1934, the overarching law under which the FCC functions. The subcommittee, part of the US House Energy and Commerce Committee, is chaired by Oregon Republican Greg Walden, W7EQI. Walden and Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Fred Upton of Michigan made the announcement December 3. "Today we are launching a multi-year effort to examine our nation's communications laws and update them for the Internet era," Upton said in a news release. "The United States has been the global leader in innovation and growth of the Internet, but unfortunately, our communications laws have failed to keep pace." ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, noted that the most recent significant update of the Communications Act was in 1996. "Under the leadership of Greg Walden, the subcommittee and its staff are well equipped to take up the challenge," Sumner said. "The ARRL will be monitoring the work closely as it goes forward next year and beyond."

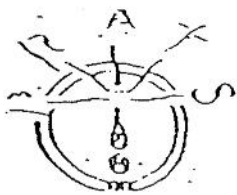
## FCC CHAIRMAN DELAYS TV SPECTRUM AUCTION UNTIL 2015

The long awaited TV spectrum incentive auction has been postponed by a year. The chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, Tom Wheeler, delivered the news via his FCC Blog on Friday, December 6th where he stated -and we quote: "I believe we can conduct a successful auction in the middle of 2015." The National Association of Broadcasters has lodged several concerns regarding the TV station repacking software. NAB executives met earlier with FCC engineering officials to object to the proposed calculations in the TVStudy software. At that time the NAB questioned whether it indeed met the spirit of the law that all reasonable effort be made to preserve an over the air broadcast TV signal reach. (ARNewsline)

## PUBLIC SERVICE: HAM RADIO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2014 BOSTON MARATHON

Registration to be a 2014 Boston Marathon ham radio communications volunteer is now open. If you'd like to help out as a radio operator at the Marathon on Monday April 21<sup>st</sup> or the smaller races on Saturday April 19th, you can register at [marc.mmra.org](http://marc.mmra.org). One note. Due to security issues, volunteer signup will end in early March and organizers will not be able to accept volunteers up to the last minute as has been the case in years past. So if you wish to volunteer, please do so as soon as possible. (ARNewsline)

# *Happy New Year!*



# the milliwatt

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

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX, Editor

## Some Thoughts

See story on page 3. The FCC is proposing to allow wireless services on aircraft. I don't know about you, but when I am on a plane for an hour or two (or even 3 or 4), I don't want the person next to me to be running his/her mouth all that time. On the other hand, some people prefer to be able to talk. Respond to the NPRM (Notice of Proposed Rulemaking) and let the FCC know how you feel ... And best wishes for the new year.  
73, Mayer<W3GXX

### =====

#### 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](mailto:brats@bratsatv.org)

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

**President:** Kevin Sherwood, KB3PLX

**Vice Pres.** Oryx Gazella, K0RYX

**Secretary:** Ted Bauer, WA3AER

**Treasurer:** Jim Sherwood, KB3SKN

**Chairman of the Board:**

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX

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## 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 Directors:

Through December, 2014:

K9FX, K3ZMN

Through December, 2015:

K2GZL, N3GXH

## MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Second Monday of each month, 7:15 PM  
Pikesville Library 1301 Reisterstown Rd

## NEXT BRATS MEETING

Monday, January 13, 2014

7:15 PM, Pikesville Library

## FUTURE BRATS MEETINGS

Monday, February 10, March 10

7:15 PM, Pikesville Library

January, 2014

## BRATS

## MINUTES of the 9 December 2013 Monthly Meeting

Kevin, KB3PLX, chaired meeting.

**REPORTS**

The usual Minutes and Treasurer's reports were not presented. The meeting was largely given over to the annual Holiday Party and Officer Elections (see below).

Repeater/Equipment – agreed to purchase rack-mount version Mirage D1010 for ATV amplifier replacement. Also likely that the ATV wiring will be revamped, since documentation is lacking.

**/OLD BUSINESS**

2013 Financials – operating expenses estimated at \$3400 for the year.

**NEW BUSINESS**

By Laws Amendment – Term limit amendment for President, V.P. officers presented by Kevin, KB3PLX.

2014 Board Meeting – meeting will be held on the January monthly meeting date.

2014 Officer Elections – the following are Officer and Board positions for 2014:

Board	Ed, N3GXH
Board	Shane, K2GZL
President	Kevin, KB3PLX
Vice President	Oryx, K0RYX
Treasurer	Jim, KB3SKN
Secretary	Ted, WA3AER

**PROGRAM**

Holiday Party – Ample food and refreshments were enjoyed by all attendees.  
Ted, WA3AER, Secretary

## FCC INITIATES PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD TO REVIEW RULES FOR WIRELESS SERVICES ONBOARD AIRCRAFT

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission today initiated a proceeding to consider a proposal that would permit airlines to install equipment on aircraft that could safely expand the availability of in-flight mobile wireless services to passengers. The Commission will now seek to solicit public input on the proposal, and will carefully review input from consumers and stakeholders before taking any final action. The proposed rules, if adopted after a period of public review and comment, would expand the existing default ban on the use of cellphones in-flight to include frequency bands not previously subject to the prohibition. However, if an airline chooses to equip its aircraft with specialized onboard equipment that would prevent harmful interference with wireless networks on the ground, the airline would have the ability to enable in-flight wireless broadband access to passengers. The new systems could allow airlines to offer an array of new choices to the flying public, including Internet, e-mail, text and potentially voice services. The new technology also would provide airlines with a high level of control over the in-cabin communications environment. The proposal would not require airlines to install onboard access systems or to provide mobile wireless services to passengers on their fleets. Under the proposal, the use of mobile wireless devices would still be prohibited as a default, unless an airline installs an onboard system to manage the service. Under the proposal, individual airlines would be free, consistent with the Commission's rules and relevant Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Department of Transportation (DoT) rules, to make their own decisions about whether to offer mobile wireless services at all, and, if so, which services to offer. If an airline chooses to install new onboard equipment, consumers would be able to use their mobile devices' full wireless data capabilities in addition to the current choice of access to Wi-Fi on some flights. Airlines would be in total control of what types of mobile services to permit

## **Solar Scientists Say Cycle 24 is the Weakest in More than a Century**

Four leading solar scientists on December 11 told journalists attending the American Geophysical Union (AGU) fall conference in San Francisco that current solar Cycle 24 has demonstrated extremely low sunspot activity and appears to be the weakest cycle of the past 10 cycles — more than 100 years. This already has resulted in milder “space weather” and less-intense geomagnetic storms and “energetic particle events,” such as coronal mass ejections (CMEs), NASA scientist Nat Goplaswamy said. “The weak activity of Cycle 24 is thought to be due to the weak polar magnetic field in Cycle 23,” an AGU news release explained. “If this trend continues for the next couple of cycles, the Sun may be heading for a global minimum.” The scientists drew no specific conclusions regarding the impact of the extremely weak Cycle 24 on radio propagation. Stanford University’s Leif Svalgaard said this weak cycle had been predicted based on the behavior of the Sun’s polar magnetic fields, which translate into fewer sunspots. Svalgaard believes that in a few years it will be possible to use polar field data to determine the robustness of Cycle 25. The Sun’s weak polar magnetic field could lead to an increase in cosmic ray activity, which could affect manned spaceflight, the news conference was told. (ARRL)

## **CONGOLESE CLUB STATION BACK ON THE AIR**

The Democratic Republic of the Congo looks ready to reinstate limited ham radio operations. Ohio-Penn DX newsletter says that there are several reports stating that after 3 years of negotiations with the Congolese government and gaining official approval from the nation’s Ministry of Telecommunications that the national club station 9Q0AR and its special callsign 9Q0HQ were finally given permission to operate again. This would be the first legal activity from 9Q-land in several years. On QRZ.com under the listing for 9Q0AR it suggests to listen on 21.310 MHz between 10:00 to 14:00 UTC for that station. (ARNewsline)

## **Electric car owner arrested for stealing \$0.05 worth of power from school**

Well, there’s really no way of making up a story this ridiculous: The owner of an electric vehicle was recently arrested by police in Georgia for “stealing” electricity from a school where he plugged in his car. Breakdown of the crime is as follows:

- The reason Kamooneh was there: to watch his son’s tennis match.
- The estimated time of his powering up the Nissan Leaf electric vehicle: 20 minutes.
- Estimated amount of power “stolen” from the building: \$0.05

“He said that he was going to charge me with theft by taking because I was taking power, electricity from the school,” Kamooneh told a Georgia television station, regarding his confrontation with a police officer who was called to the spot to check out the theft as it was taking place. “I’m not sure how much electricity he stole,” said Chamblee police Sergeant Ernesto Ford, but he added: It doesn’t matter. “He broke the law. He stole something that wasn’t his.” As if the story isn’t already bizarre enough, get this: Kamooneh wasn’t arrested on the spot. His power theft was formally reported to the Chamblee police, who then performed an actual investigation into the matter. Upon finding enough evidence that he had illegally tapped the power source for some unapproved electrical juice, they travelled over to his house and arrested him at his home . . .

10 days later. After being booked, Kamooneh spent 15 hours in a jail cell before being released. While everything described here is almost beyond comprehension, a post about charging one’s electric car without permission on EVelectricity.com states: “You may want to ask as some car owners have reported being written up for stealing electricity. Sometimes it is better to ask for forgiveness than to ask for permission. Whatever approach you go with make sure you think it through.”

Or, if you happen to be near Chamblee, Georgia and are close to needing a recharge, you may want to take the risk of waiting it out until you arrive at the next town over. Kamooneh said that he will fight the charges. (Thanks, Scott. KB3JQQ)



## ARRL DX Bulletin

**DJIBOUTI, J2.** Christian, F5MBF is QRV as J28NC for another two years. He is active on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via F5RQQ.

**CURACAO, PJ2.** Jeff, K8ND plans to be QRV as PJ2T in the ARRL 160 Meter contest. QSL direct via W3HNK.

**EUROPEAN RUSSIA, UA.** Special event call R2014CC is QRV until March 1, 2014 to commemorate the 2014 Winter Olympic Games. QSL via operators' instructions.

**UKRAINE, UR.** Special event station EN100ZKM is QRV to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Nikolaev's regional museum. QSL via UT5ZY.

**INDONESIA, YB.** Burkhard, DL3KZA is QRV as YB9/DL3KZA from Lombok Island, IOTA OC-150. Lately he has been active on 20 and 15 meters using SSB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

**SOUTH AFRICA, ZS.** Members of the South African Radio League are QRV with special event call sign ZS9MADIBA for the next 30 days to commemorate the life of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. QSL via operators' instructions.

### More ARNewsline DX

**TOGO:** F5MVB is planning to be active as 5V7MP from Togo sometime in 2014. Look for more details to be forthcoming in January.

**UGANDA:** G3XAA as 5X1XA is expected to return again to Kampala, Uganda between February 25th and March 16th. His activity will be CW only including the RSGB Commonwealth Contest on March 8th and 9th. QSL 5X1XA via G3SWH.

**ISLANDS** DK1AX and his wife DK1MA will be operational as A35AX on a holiday style DXpedition from **Tongatapu Island** and **Vava'u Island** between February 24th and March 7th. Activity will be on CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via the OQRS on ClubLog.

## WA7BNM Contest Calendar

Jan 1	SARTG RTTY Contest
Jan 1, 3	QRP Fox Hunt
Jan 4-5	ARRL RTTY Roundup
Jan 12	DARC 10-Meter Contest
Jan 17-19	ARRL January VHF Contest
Jan 18	LZ Open Contest
Jan 18-19	Hungarian DX Contest NA QSO Party, SSB
Jan 24-26	CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW
Jan 25-26	UBA DX Contest, SSB

## ARNewsline DX News

F5PLC, is currently operational stroke FR from **Reunion Island**. The length of his stay is not known. Activity will be on the HF bands only. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the REF Bureau.

K9EL will operate stroke FS from **St. Martin** between June 8th to the 27th of 2014. Activity is usually on 160 through 10 meters using CW, SSB and possibly RTTY. Daily uploads to ClubLog and LoTW are planned. QSL via his home callsign.

**CHILE:** YV5IAL will be on the air stroke CE2 from Chile between January 2nd and the 30th. He plans to operate PSK31 daily on 14070.15 and occasionally on 10, 15 and 40 meters using both PSK31 and SSB. QSL via his home callsign, direct or via the bureau.

**SAN ANDREAS ISLAND** LW9EOC will be active stroke H-K-Zero from San Andres Island between April 18 and the 25th of 2014. Operations will be on 80 through 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via LW9EOC.

# Happy New Year!

## Hamfests

**Sunday, January 26:** Odenton, MD  
2014 Post-holiday Hamfest.  
Odenton Volunteer Fire Company  
1425 Annapolis Rd. 146.805/205  
Bruce: AB3AC 410-456-2500

**Saturday, February 1:** Richmond, VA  
Richmond Frostfest. Richmond  
Raceway Complex; 600 E. Laburnum Ave.  
<http://www.frostfest.com>; 146.88/R  
Mike, AC5PT, 804-657-7038

**Saturday, April 5** – Timonium MD  
The Greater Baltimore Hamboree  
MD State Fair Grounds, Timonium  
ONE DAY ONLY!! Free VE Exams aa  
at 9 AM; BARC. 443-590-1444

### HAMVENTION ON-LINE ORDERING NOW AVAILABLE

The online ordering system is now accepting Hamvention 2014 orders. According to an announcement the Hamvention's Webmaster Richard Rieben, KE4WLE, you can now order your tickets or reserve a flea market spot. Its all on-line at [hamvention.org](http://hamvention.org). (KE4WLE)

## VE EXAMS

LARC. 364 Main S.I Laurel, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat., 9 AM  
John, WB3GXW, 301-572-5124

Historical Electronics Museum, Linthicum  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 6 PM, Harold, WB4OGP  
410-757-0493(h); 410-712-6829 (w)

Aero ARC: White Marsh Library 1 PM,  
walk-ins welcome  
Nov. 23. ARRL VEC \$15 testing fee.  
Pat. AC3F, 410-687-7209; [ac3f@juno.c](mailto:ac3f@juno.c)

## BARC VE EXAMS

12360 Owings Mills Blvd,  
Register at 1:30; exams at 2.

Jan. 5, Feb 1, March 1  
No session in April  
May 3, June 7, July 13,  
August 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 5,  
Nov 8, Dec 6...  
January, July and October  
are Sunday sessions.  
(Thanks, N3YI)

## HRD TO CONTINUE SUPPORT TO WINDOWS XP USERS

HRD Software has announced that it will continue to support Ham Radio Deluxe on the Windows XP Service Pack 3 platform beyond April 8, 2014. This for as long as it is technically and commercially reasonable for them to do so, and there is no external dependency. For example, if the manufacturers of radios, rig interfaces, or soundcards discontinue making drivers that work on Windows XP and you should purchase one of these devices, Ham Radio Deluxe would not be able to work with it. These same companies may discontinue support for older products that currently work on Windows XP and this could prevent trouble shooting.

HRD Software says that it recognizes that many operators may have no desire to upgrade their operating system or their computer. Microsoft provides some guidance to users of in this regard. HRD Software says that it will refer its customers to guidance provided by Microsoft in these instances. More information on HRD Software products is on the web at [www.ham-radio-deluxe.com](http://www.ham-radio-deluxe.com) (HRD via Southgate, 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 [w3qxxk@verizon.net](mailto:w3qxxk@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 K3BCD: 410-866-5441; or [wmm@comcast.net](mailto:wmm@comcast.net)

SPECIAL OFFER! ICOM BC-110 battery charger, 12vDC, 200 ma, for ICOM T8A or equivalent, almost new, cost \$46, make me a reasonable offer. Also, WANTED: Battery for ICOM T8A. Mayer, W3GXX, [w3qxxk@verizon.net](mailto:w3qxxk@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

### JADE COMPUTERS

1009 Ingleside Ave, Baltimore 21228  
443-667-4187. [joe@jadecomputers.us](mailto: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.videotapingervice.com>

### Antique radio repair, Restoration

Eric, WA3TAD, audio visual service, retro radio. 3401 Chestnut Ave. Baltimore 21211 410-467-3620. [Wa3tad@comcast.net](mailto:Wa3tad@comcast.net)

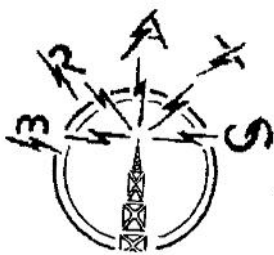
WANTED: AT 930 for TS 930S. Jerry [jerrymcf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jerrymcf@sbcglobal.net)

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](mailto:gjm313@verizon.net)

## CQ TO CONSOLIDATE PUBLICATIONS

CQ Communications, Inc. has announced plans to realign its roster of publications and to launch a new online supplement to its flagship CQ Amateur Radio magazine. Effective with the February 2014 issue of CQ, content from the magazine's three sister publications, Popular Communications, CQ VHF and WorldRadio Online, will be incorporated into CQ's digital edition as a supplement to be called CQ Plus. According to Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, while their primary audience is ham radio operators, very few hams began their radio involvement as amateurs. Most started out as shortwave listeners, broadcast band DX'ers, CB'ers or scanning enthusiasts. Ross says that many continue to be involved in various different aspects of the radio hobby in addition to amateur radio. K2MGA notes that by consolidating four specialized publications into one, that CQ will be better able to keep these multidimensional readers informed on all aspects of the radio hobby while simultaneously exposing those who are not hams to all the excitement and opportunities that amateur radio has to offer. Richard Fisher, K16SN, who is currently Editor of both Popular Communications and WorldRadio Online will become the Editor of CQ Plus. Current subscriptions to Popular Communications, CQ VHF and WorldRadio Online will be converted to CQ subscriptions and receive CQ Plus at no additional charge. Details will be posted on each magazine website. In the meantime a preview of the February issue's Table of Contents is available right now on the CQ website at [tinyurl.com/cq-february-2014](http://tinyurl.com/cq-february-2014). (CQ)



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## NZART ISSUES A CORRECTION ON 6 METER OPERATION

The New Zealand Amateur Radio Transmitters or NZART which is that nation's national ham radio society has issued a correction to its recent news release regarding the availability of 6 meters. It says that that a small error was made in its bulletin number 286 that stated the nations six meter allocation was 50 to 54 MHz.

This says the NZART is not correct. Rather the 6 meter band for operational use is from 50 to 53 MHz for all modes at up to the full legal power limit. It notes that New Zealand does have limited use of the band from 53 to 54 MHz but only for approved individually licensed 6 meter repeater outputs. 53 to 54 MHz is not available for general amateur operation. (NZART)

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## SILENT KEY

Kenneth R. Gebhart

W3KRG

December 30, 2013

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## NEXT BRATS MEETING

Monday, January 13, 2014

7:15 PM, Pikesville Library

## OTHER CLUB MEETINGS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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