

# the milliwatt



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

**March, 2016**

## **Brats 2016 Calendar**

Posted on January 18, 2016 by kb3plx  
April 17, 2016 - MS 5k Walk, Hunt Valley, MD  
April 30, 2016 (tentative) - National Parks on the Air  
June 4-5, 2016 - MS 150 Chesapeake Challenge, Easton, MD  
September 9-10, 2016 - MS Challenge Walk, Easton, MD  
October 14-15, 2016 - Jamboree on the Air, N/S Savannah, Baltimore, MD

## **BRATS Special Event**

BRATS is activating Ft. McHenry National Monument for the ARRL National Parks on the Air event. **Saturday, April 30 0900-1700.** We need firm commitments in advance. You can volunteer for all morning, all afternoon or all day. Contact: Mark Rosenthal, W3MR at [marksro@comcast.net](mailto:marksro@comcast.net)

## **FCC SEEKS COMMENTS ON LIFETIME LICENSES, 80/75 METER CHANGES**

If you have thoughts on the ARRL's petition for the FCC to make changes to 80 and 75 meters, now is the time to share them. Or if you want to weigh in a proposal that the FCC issue lifetime amateur radio licenses, take care of that now too. On the bands, the ARRL has asked the commission to fix what it calls a shortfall in available spectrum for RTTY and data, following the bands' reapportionment by the FCC a decade ago. The ARRL would like to see the boundary shifted between the 75 meter phone/image subband and the 80 meter RTTY/data subband - a proposal that the league's Board of Directors adopted as policy in July of last year. The ARRL would like the phone/image subband to extend from 3650 kHz to 4000 kHz and the RTTY/data subband to extend from 3500 kHz to 3650 kHz. The ARRL would also like 3600 kHz to 3650 kHz made available for General and Advanced Class licensees - as it had been before 2006. The FCC is also considering a request made last year for lifetime licenses to replace the 10-year term. In his petition, Mark F. Krotz N7MK, of Mesa, Arizona, pointed out that the General Radiotelephone Operator License sets a precedent because it is already valid for a lifetime. Using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), select RM11759 for the 80 and 75 meter issue, and RM11760 for the lifetime license issue. Let your voice be heard. (ARRL via AR NEWSLINE)



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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

## Some Thoughts

One of the things I liked about The BRATS and still do, is our participation in public service activities and special events. You will see lists of both on Page 1. Do try to participate with us. It's great to help the public and a lot of fun at the same time.

Thanks and 73,  
Mayer, W3GXX

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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

President: Oryx Gazaella, K0RYX  
Vice Pres.: Kevin Sherwood, KB3PLX  
Secretary: Ted Bauer, WA3AER  
Treasurer: Jim Sherwood, KB3SKN  
Chairman of the Board:  
Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX

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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

## BRATS

### Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society MINUTES of the 22 February 2016 Monthly Meeting

OryxG, K0RYX, chaired the meeting held at LRVFD.

March meeting date and site T.B.D.

#### /REPORTS

- Minutes: Minutes from the January meeting accepted, approved.
- Treasurer: Treasurer's report submitted. All Dues will now be paid in January.
- Repeater/Equipment: **030 machine** - having a receive module issue at our northern site. Site visit planned for 2/29 - 3/1.  
**ATV** - KenM, K3UQQ, or Kevin will contact me to pick up 25A pwr supply.
- Events: **NPOTA** - Ft. McHenry folks "nervous" about operating anywhere but parking lot. Claim our application and check are lost; our check has cleared. They are OK with Apr. 30 date and are having a meeting to decide what restrictions to impose on our operation. MarkR, W3MSR, also contacted Antietam; they are much more receptive. We may do that as a separate activation.  
**Susan G. Komen Bike Ride** - requesting support for Jun. 25 (conflicts with FD); location is South River H.S. No decision made.

#### /OLD BUSINESS

- Meeting Venue: Towson American Legion is off the table. J. Rekus feedback on other Towson site pending. LRVFD is only certain location to date. Options are solicited from members. National Electronics Museum (NEM) a possibility.
- Work Party Volunteer List: MarkR, W3MSR, and Mike R, KC3BFE, added to list.

#### /NEW BUSINESS

none

#### /PRESENTATION

KevinS, KB3PLX, demo'd DATV (DBVT standard) Tx/Rx prototyped with HiDes modules (available via eBay).

Ted, WA3AER,  
Secretary

**The Milliwatt, Page 3.**

**March, 2016**

## List of US House Amateur Radio Parity Act Sponsors Continues to Grow

Three more members of the US House of Representatives have stepped forward to cosponsor The Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R. 1301. That brings the total to 123.

The latest to sign on are Reps Evan Jenkins (R-WV), Stephen Knight (R-CA), and Charles Boustany Jr (R-LA).

On a voice vote on February 11, the US House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, chaired by Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI, sent H.R. 1301 to the full House Energy and Commerce Committee with a favorable report for further consideration.

H.R. 1301 would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land-use restrictions, such as deed covenants, conditions, and restrictions.

More information on The Amateur Radio Parity Act is on the ARRL website.

## “Frequency” TV Series Now Planned for CW Network

The buzz from Hollywood is that a TV series based on the 2000 movie “Frequency” now is in development on — appropriately enough for a show featuring ham radio — the CW. Amateur Radio served as a plot device in the movie and will do the same in the TV series.

In November 2014, *The Hollywood Reporter* indicated that NBC had committed to a “Frequency” series, but those plans apparently fell by the wayside.

Now, the CW has ordered a pilot episode of “Frequency,” and if the network does go forward with the project, the modern-day version of “Frequency” the TV series would feature a young female police detective named Raimy, who uses ham radio to communicate through time with her deceased father, played by Riley Smith. Actress Peyton List is said to have landed to role of Raimy, reprising Jim Caviezel’s movie character.

When the original “Frequency” movie debuted, the ham radio theme and the chance to see vintage ham gear and real, glowing vacuum tubes on the big screen generated considerable interest within the Boat Anchor community. The ARRL worked with the film’s producers.

## Entire Popular Science Magazine Archive Now Available

The entire 140-year oeuvre of *Popular Science* magazine has been archived for free browsing, thanks to a partnership with Google. Popular Science includes some Amateur Radio-related articles, such as “You Can Talk Around the World” in the January 1932 edition, “Thousands of Radio Amateurs Find it Easy to Learn Morse Code” from the March 1932 edition, and “The Hams Join Up” from the November 1941 edition. Many other articles deal with radio and radio repair as well as do-it-yourself electronics projects.

## WA7BNM Contest Calendar

- Mar 4, 11 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- Mar 6 DARC 10-mtr digital contest
- Mar 12-13 EA PSK63 Contest
  - QCWA QSO Party
  - NA Sprint, RTTY
- Mar 15-16 Clara chatter party
- Mar 19-20 Russian DX Contest
- Mar 26-27 CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB

## NEXT BRATS Meeting

Listen to BRATS Weekly  
News Bulletin on Saturday at  
1 PM, and/or to weekly Traffic  
and Info net on Mondays at 9 PM...

## NE HAM'S LOW-POWER LEGACY

**DON:** A low-power transmitter donated from a Silent Key's estate is adding some high-power interest to the ARRL's Historical Collection. Let's hear more from Amateur Radio Newsline's Skeeter Nash, N5ASH:

**SKEETER:** It's not just a collector's item; it's a piece of radio history. It's a flea-powered transistorized ham transmitter that was used in a transatlantic contact in 1956. And now it's set to be displayed in the ARRL's Historical Collection in Connecticut, a donation from the estate of Silent Key Gus Fallgren, who was licensed as W1OGU when he built the transmitter with two fellow Raytheon engineers.

On Sept. 18, 1956, the 78 mW transmitter was showing off some low-power, battery-powered prowess, achieving a 3,800-mile contact on 20 meters. Fallgren himself was at the key, transmitting into a 3-element, wide-spaced Yagi. His signal report of 339 signal came all the way from OZ7BO in Copenhagen, Denmark.

As built by Fallgren and his colleagues, Al "Hank" Hankinson, W1OSF, and Dick Wright, W1UBC, the transmitter was designed to run two Raytheon 2N113 transistors - and it was the first to run such transistors on 20 meters. The trio had taken up the challenge of trying to achieve Worked All Continents status with it. The donation made from his estate, by Andy Stewart, KB1OIQ, includes the original transmitter and a 7.013.4 kc crystal as well as the Vibroplex bug used for the contact, among other things. The ARRL will display it along with the bug, station log, and the issue of Radio and Television News that featured a story about the transmitter - and Gus Fallgren on the cover. (ARRL)

## ARRL DX BULLETIN

**EQUATORIAL GUINEA, 3C.** Ken, LA7GIA plans to be QRV as 3C7GIA from Bioko Island, IOTA AF-010, from March 2 to 14. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.

**TANZANIA, 5H.** Shin, JA7SGV is currently QRV as 5H3JA. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL to home call.

**MAURITANIA, 5T.** Ahmad, 9K2AI is QRV as 5T2AI for the next two to three years. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via N15DX.

**POLAND, SP.** Dionizy, SP6IEQ is QRV with special call sign HF6FIRAC during 2016. QSL to home call.

**ALBANIA, ZA.** IW2JOP is QRV as ZA/IW2JOP from Saranda and is generally active on 80 to 2 meters using SSB and various digital modes. QSL direct to IW2HAJ.

**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 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](mailto: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,

3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. at 9 AM;

John, WB3GXW,

301-572-5124

**MD Mobileers VE Exams at**  
National Electronics Museum,

Linthicum

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 6 PM

Mike, KA2JAI, 443-310-4902

KA2JAI@arrl.net

**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

**CCARC**

Monday, 7:30 PM

50 Kate Wagner rd.

## Milliwatt Swap Shop

Ads are free and get results!

Mail your ad to: BRATS, Box 5915

Baltimore, MD 21282-5915 or

email to [w3gxk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gxk@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, [w3gxk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gxk@verizon.net)

JADE COMPPUTERS  
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  
[w3gxk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gxk@verizon.net)

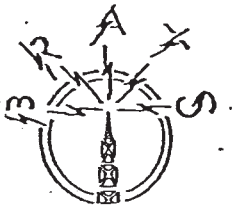
VTS Video Taping Service  
video, DVD duplications,  
Video tape transferred to DVD,  
Standards, conversions,..  
1-877-891-1002. BRATS  
member Bob Shapiro, K2MYS  
<http://www.videotaping-service.com>

## 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)

March, 2016

the milliwatt, Page 7.



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## ARRL VEC Applications, Session Scheduling Getting Back on Track

03/03/2016

A computer program issue that was preventing the ARRL VEC from managing and posting its schedule of future examination sessions and transmitting application data from completed sessions to the FCC has been resolved, and the backlog is being cleared. "The ARRL IT department has our system is back up and running," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "ARRL VEC has begun to transmit into FCC Electronic Batch Filing system the approximately 200 exam sessions that were waiting in the queue. It may take a few days to get through the entire backlog." Since the problem surfaced on February 22, the system had worked "sporadically," Somma said, allowing a few test sessions here and there to make it to the FCC for processing. (ARRL News)

## MFJ Founder, President Martin Jue, K5FLU, Will Keynote Dayton DX Dinner

"The Early Days of MFJ" will be the topic as MFJ Founder and President Martin Jue, K5FLU, keynotes the 31st annual Dayton DX Dinner, sponsored by the SouthWest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA). Held in conjunction with the 2016 Dayton Hamvention®, the dinner will be on Friday, May 20, at the Marriott Hotel, 1414 S Patterson Boulevard, Dayton. MFJ's first product was an audio filter, that Jue began manufacturing in a small hotel room in downtown Starkville, Mississippi. Today, MFJ manufactures more Amateur Radio products than any other company in the world under the Ameritron, Hy-Gain, Cushcraft, Mirage, and Vectronics brands. For more information, visit the SWODXA events page. (ARRL news)

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

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

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