

# the milliwatt



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

May, 2015

## FCC CHAIR CONFIDENT IN NET NEUTRALITY

The FCC's recent net neutrality rules will likely stand up to any legal challenges. This according to one of the principals behind the recent Commission action. FCC chairman Tom Wheeler remains confident that the net neutrality rules the agency passed last month will survive upcoming challenges in court. He crafted the prediction on March 27th while speaking at the Ohio State University. Moritz College of Law as a presenter on the topic of the Future of Online Regulation. According to Wheeler, the open World Wide Web or net neutrality guidelines give the Federal Communications Commission authority to stop service providers from blocking or throttling content customers want to access. It also stops service providers from seeking payments in exchange for more rapidly delivery. This is a practice known as paid prioritization.

Last year, the federal court tossed out the FCC's prior open Internet guidelines with the argument that the FCC was trying to impose typical carrier-like regulation without stepping up and saying that these are frequent carriers. According to Wheeler the agency has now addressed that issue. This gives him self-confidence going forward that the FCC will prevail.

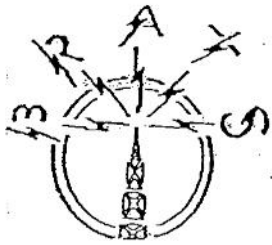
U S Telecom and Alamo Broadband have already filed separate suits in federal court asking that the new guidelines be set aside since claiming that the FCC acted beyond its authority to impose them. (heraldrecorder.com)

## APRIL 1ST HAM TOWER COLLAPSE IN VIRGINIA

A mother and her two children were trapped in their car on March 31st in rural Virginia. This after an 80 foot amateur radio tower fell onto their vehicle on April 1st.

Spotsylvania County Deputy Fire Chief Joseph Sposa noted that the tower also fell partially onto a home causing some minor damage to the roof. No one in the home or the vehicle was injured. County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management crews were able to stabilize and remove the debris to free the trapped passengers. Officials believe high winds in the area caused the tower to collapse. The owner of the tower was not named in any news report. (Fredricksburg Today)

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## 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

I am sorry to say there will be no BRATS  
Maryland Hamfest this year. The first one was  
held in 1978, 37 years ago. Things are very  
different now. Everyone has a cell phone.  
Many people order "stuff" on line and have it  
delivered by UPS or Fedex. It is sad that  
no one stepped forward to volunteer to run  
the hamfest, or even to work at it, even if we  
did have someone who would volunteer to run it.  
I guess things are changing, but it is still sad.  
Maybe next year!  
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 at 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, 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 Bulletin

Sun 8 PM BRATS ATV net

AS Needed: Skywarn

### BRATS Board of Directors

Through December, 2015

K2GZL, N3GXH

Through December, 2016

W3MSR, K9FXV

### Regular Monthly Meetings

Second Monday of each month,

7 PM at the Pikesville Library

1301 Reisterstown Rd., Pikesville

### Next BRATS Meeting

Monday, May 11, 7 PM

Pikesville Library

1301 Reisterstown Road

## BRATS

### Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society MINUTES of the 13 April 2015 Monthly Meeting

OryxG, K0RYX, chaired the meeting.

#### /REPORTS

- Minutes: Minutes from the March 2015 meeting accepted, approved.
- Treasurer: Treasurer ill. Report to be mailed and voted upon at May's meeting.
- Repeater/Equipment: Worked on ADSB box. 220MHz at NW remains down; and Heaver remains problematic – off line until noise issue can be addressed. No action on 900/1200MHz notice; no plans in sight to use 1200MHz. KenM, K3UQQ, proposed purchasing ATV receive preamp (SSB Electronic SP-7000 (420-430MHz, \$274). It will replace the preamp that used to be in service, but croaked. Board vote required; may be done via email. Ken is also looking into getting on-carrier audio functional. MarkR, W3MSR, located contact info for GSH facilities manager. Proposed sending a letter and doing a follow up call to inquire about using Nextel room space for our equipment. Oryx will follow up with GSH.
- Events: MS Bike Event, Easton, MD, June 6-8. 15-20 volunteers needed. Please contact [brats@bratsatv.org](mailto:brats@bratsatv.org) to volunteer.

#### /OLD BUSINESS

- Hamfest 2015: Lacking a Chair and volunteers, there is no 2105 hamfest. Oryx will contact fairground to remove us from its schedule.
- Space Search: Nothing suitable located thus far.
- Online Membership System: System has been set up and tested on our Web test site; ready to go live. Expect to transition to main site before May 1.
- Meeting Room: TedB will proceed to reserve the room for 2015-2016.

#### /NEW BUSINESS

- SK: We sadly report the passing of "Doc" Frank Barranco, N3FBQ.

#### /PROGRAM

Worked on Pi2 video check out for balloon project. Demo'd lo-res video display; hi-res video in progress.

**Ted, WA3AER, Secretary**

## 2015 BRATS MARYLAND HAMFEST CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF INTEREST!

This year's hamfest, originally scheduled for July 19, has been cancelled due to lack of any member stepping up to run the hamfest, and lack of several members to work at the hamfest. This is the first year since its inception in 1978 that we will not have a hamfest. We hope to be able to resume this annual tradition next year!!!

## **UK FULL LICENSE HAMS GET 70 MHZ DIGITAL SPECTRUM**

Radio amateurs in much of the United Kingdom and Crown Dependencies will soon have access to an extra 1 MHz of VHF spectrum from 70.5 to 71.5 MHz for digital experimentation by only by special permit. This as telecommunications regulator Ofcom has agreed to the use of this spectrum by radio amateurs for digital experimentation. But there are some strings attached.

Access to this part of the spectrum will be authorized under a Notice of Variation, time-limited to 12 months and available to UK Full License holders only. Amateur Radio use of this spectrum will be permitted on a non-protection, non-interference basis. If use by hams is shown to cause interference access will be removed immediately.

Ofcom will also retain the right to reallocate this spectrum at 70.5 to 71.5 MHz should there be a demand for this part of business radio or other or new services. In the event of this happening, Ofcom will not consult on this decision but it will provide Amateur Radio users with 12 months' notice before such reassignment. Such a notification period will be publicized on the Ofcom website. (ARNewsline)

## **SOUTH AFRICA HAMS GAIN FULL KILOWATT PRIVILEGE**

Hams in South Africa have been granted a transmit power increase to a full kilowatt. For decades the maximum South Africa output power was limited to 400 watts peak envelope. A workgroup was established to campaign for higher power. After negotiating for several years, South African telecommunications authorities were satisfied that the call was well motivated.

The updated regulation was then published in the South African Government Gazette and the new 1 kilowatt output power privilege became effective on April 1st. (ZS6FDX)

## **TEN-TEC AND ALPHA PURCHASED FROM RF CONCEPTS**

Not even a year after TEN-TEC and Alpha Amplifiers merged under the RF Concepts banner, the companies have once again changed ownership. This as RKR Designs LLC of Longmont, Colorado, announced on April 2 that it has acquired the two brands. RKR Designs leadership includes Ken Long, N0QO, Richard Gall, and Rich Danielson. Long has over 20 years in the electronics and Amateur Radio industries. He will serve as President and Chief Executive Officer of the new company. Gall and Danielson of QSC Systems in Longmont have been a successful contract manufacturer for over two decades. That company has been building Alpha amplifiers for more than 5 years and boards for TEN-TEC gear since RF Concepts bought the company last year.

RKR Designs LLC is a privately-held company and the terms of the acquisition of the assets of RF Concepts was not disclosed. A media release says that RKR plans to expand the product lines while continuing to service their customers. (RKR press release)

## ARRL DX Bulletin

**BHUTAN, A5.** Operators JA3ARJ, JA3IVU, JH3AEF and JH3LSS will be QRV as A52ARJ, A52IVU, A52AEF and A52LSS, respectively, from Dochula Resort from April 30 to May 5.

Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

QSL A52AEF via JH3AEF, A52ARJ direct via JA3ARJ, A52IVU via JA3IVU, and A52LSS via JH3LSS.

**SABLE ISLAND, CY0.** Aaron, VA1AXC is QRV as CY0/VA1AXC until the first week of June while on work assignment. He is generally active using SSB mainly on 20, 17 and 15 meters, and possibly 60 meters, in his spare time.

QSL via JE1LET.

### OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC

**CREDIT.** Guinea, 3XY5M, 2015 operation; Nauru, C21EU, 2015 operation; Eritrea, E30FB, 2015 operation.

## WA7BNM Contest Calendar

May 1, 8, 15	NCC RTTY Sprint AGCW QRP Party
May 2-3	10-10 Spring Contest, CW 7 <sup>th</sup> Call Area QSO Party Indiana QSO Party Delaware QSO Party New England QSO Party
May 4	RSGB 80m Club Champ, SSB
May 7	NRAU 10m Activity Contest
May 9-10	Volta WW RTTY Contest CQ-M Int'l DX Contest 50 MHz Spring Sprint
May 13	RSGB Club Champ-Data
May 16-17	His Maj, King of Spain Contest
May 17	WAB 7 MHz Phone
May 21	RSGB Club Champ. CW
May 23-24	EU PSK DX Contest Baltic Contest
May 27	UKEICC 80 m Contest
May 30-31	CW WW PWX Contest, CW
May 31	SARL Digital Contest

## DX UP FRONT: MELVILLE ISLAND IN AUGUST

VE3LYC says that he is planning to activate Melville Island some time between August 3rd and the 10th but the exact dates have not yet been announced. Melville Island lies in the eastern Timor Sea off the coast of Australia's Northern Territory. It is west of the Cobourg Peninsula and north of Darwin with a tropical climate. According to a report in the Ohio - Penn DX newsletter VE3LYC says that landing permission and logistics have been granted. Full details will be announced in the near future on a dedicated Webpage to be created for this operation. (OPDX)

## ILLW USA ENTRY IS REGISTRANT NUMBER 200

The 200th entry for this year's International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend has gone to the United States Point Fermin lighthouse in California that the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary will put it on air as W6A. The square cylindrical wood tower rising from a 2-story wood Italianate Victorian keeper's house has a very interesting history. It was built in 1874 of lumber from California redwoods. In 1941 it was extinguished due to the Pearl Harbor bombing, amid fears that the light would serve as a beacon for enemy planes and ships. It was restored in 2002 at a cost \$2.6 million, is on the National Register of Historic Places and open to the public. Point Fermin takes the number of confirmed United States Entries in the 2015 International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend to 23. There are more than 200 from almost two dozen countries with four months to the event scheduled to be held on **August 15th and 16th.** A dedicated website with an online registration form is at [www.illw.net](http://www.illw.net) (VK3PC)



## Hamfests

**Saturday, May 2:** Hagerstown, MD  
The Great Hagerstown Hamfest  
Washington Co. Ag. Center, Rte 65,  
South Sharpsburg Pike.  
301-791-5841; Herman, K2AVA

**Sunday, June 14:** Manassas, VA  
Prince William County Fairgrounds  
Manassas, VA; info via email:  
chairman@manassashamfest.org

**Sunday, June 21, 2015:** BARC  
Tailgate fest at Arcadia Vol. FD  
grounds, 16020 Carnival Ave, Upperco  
MD 21155. A few miles north on Rte. 30  
From the top of I-795. 8AM to 12 Noon.  
Contact Bill Dobson, N3WD

**Sunday, July 19:**  
**NO BRATS MARYLAND HAMFEST!**  
Nobody stepped forward to volunteer to run it,,

### **GLOBAL AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY CONFERENCE CANCELLED**

The ARRL reports that the sponsors of the 2015 Global Amateur Radio Emergency Conference or GAREC 2015 have announced that the event has been cancelled due to a lack of interest. Seppo Sisatto, OH1VR, said GAREC 2015 registrations were too few, and the decision was largely financial. GAREC was set to mark its 10th anniversary this June in Tampere, Finland, where the first GAREC was held. (ARRL)

## BARC VE Exams

Saturday, May 2  
Sunday, June 7  
Sunday, July 12  
Our Savior Lutheran Church  
141 Lavern Ave., Lansdowne  
Walk-ins accepted;  
Register at 1:30, exams start at 2PM  
No one admitted after exams begin

### 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

### **ART BELL W6OBB RETURNING TO INTERNET RADIO**

Art Bell, W6OBB, has announced via Facebook and his website that he will be back on the Internet airwaves this summer. According to Bell his new show called Midnight in the Desert and will premiere in late July. Bell says that Midnight in the Desert will run from 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. Pacific Time Monday through Friday. Also that it will be available worldwide on the Internet in 64 Kilobytes per Second stereo via Tune In. He says that Tune In has a free app available for download right now. For updates on Art's new show you might want to visit his web page at artbell.com or sign up to his page on Facebook. (W6OBB via Facebook, 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 [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 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>

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>

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!

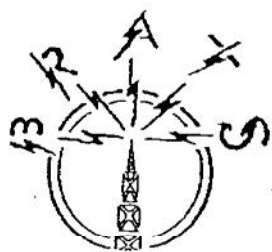
Your ad would have appeared here  
if you sent it to us. Send your ad to  
[w3gxxk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gxxk@verizon.net)

### Next BRATS Meeting

Monday, May 11, 7 PM  
Pikesville Library  
1301 Reisterstown Road

## PROPAGATION: HB9AW 60 METER CW PROPAGATION BEACON

HB9AW is a Switzerland-based 60 meter CW beacon project that sends its call sign at 10 watts out followed by five dashes, each lasting five seconds. The first dash is sent at the same 10 watts followed by the next at 5 watts, then at 1 watt, 100 milliwatts and the fifth dash at 10 milliwatts. The HB9AW beacon can be found on 5.291 MHz occupying a narrow bandwidth of only about 100 Hertz. So far over 2,000 reports have been received from all over Europe, and the beacon has also been heard in the Americas. Those wishing a reception report can do so on-line at [www.hb9aw.ch](http://www.hb9aw.ch) (RSGB)



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**May, 2105**

## **BRATS Meetings**

Monday, May 11,  
June 8, 7:00 PM at the  
Pikesville Library  
1301 Reisterstown Rd.  
Pikesville, MD

## **BARC Meetings**

Wednesday MAY 6  
June 13 and 17 at  
Wegmans 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

## **TAPR AND AMSAT JOINT BANQUET IN DAYTON ON MAY 15**

The joint Tucson Amateur Packet Radio and AMSAT Hamvention Banquet will be on May 15th in the Jefferson Room of the Kohler Presidential Banquet Center in Kettering Ohio. This year's featured speaker will be Michael Ossmann, AD0NR, who will discuss his "Adventures of a Hacker Turned Ham". The Amsat News Service describes Ossmann as someone who grew up as a computer nerd embracing the hacker ethos. Eventually he became very interested in the security of wireless systems such as remote keyless entry, garage door openers, Wi-Fi, and Bluetooth. He designed Ubetooth One, a Bluetooth sniffer that was successfully funded on Kickstarter tickets to this event are available only on-line at [tinyurl.com/amsat-tapr-dinner-tickets](http://tinyurl.com/amsat-tapr-dinner-tickets). None will be sold at the door. (ANS)

## **3A90IARU FROM MONACO SPECIAL EVENT STATION**

And be sure to listen out for special event station 3A90IARU In Monaco through June 30th. This station is also in celebration Of the 90th anniversary of International Amateur Radio Union. Operations will be on all bands and modes. QSL via 3A2ARM, direct, by the bureau or electronically using Logbook of the World. (Southgate)

Renew: Regular \$15; retired/student/disabled \$10; Family \$20		
Name _____	Call _____	e-mail _____
MAIL TO: BRATS, P.O. Box 5915; Baltimore, MD 21282-5915		