

the milliwatt



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

May, 2016

BREAKING NEWS: MORE SPECULATION ON HAMVENTION SITE

We begin this week's newscast with breaking news. Just as Amateur Radio Newsline's deadline approached, a new published report has again revived speculation about the future of the financially troubled Hara Arena, where Dayton Hamvention, the world's largest gathering of amateur radio operators, will be held in a few weeks. The arena has been the host site for Hamvention since 1964. According to a Wednesday, April 27 report in the Dayton Daily News, the arena is among three venues being scouted as a possible new location for the Montgomery County Fair, which is held in late summer. John Friedline, president of the fair's board, was quoted as saying that the city and county will seek proposals to relocate the fair and redevelop its former fairground location on South Main Street. This news is the latest in a series of recent reports that have questioned Hara Arena's future.

It was not clear what impact, if any, the possible selection of Hara Arena as a county fairground could have on the struggling arena's bookings in the future.

Mayor Mary McDonald told the Dayton Daily News she would not comment.

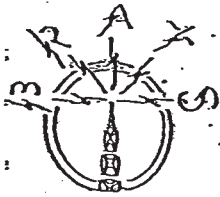
Amateur Radio Newsline will continue to follow this story. Meanwhile, Dayton Hamvention 2016 will be opening on May 20.

(DAYTON DAILY NEWS, MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAIR WEBSITE via ARNewsline))

Frustrated Funding, Breached Secrecy Foiled North Korea DXpedition, Group Leader Says:

A co-leader of the recent VP8STI/VP8SGI Intrepid-DX Group <http://www.intrepid-dx.com/> DXpedition, this week said "a surprising lack of support and lack of funding from some of the world's paramount DX foundations" thwarted his group's plans to mount a DXpedition to North Korea. In "The P5DX Story <https://n6pse.wordpress.com/2016/04/25/the-p5dx-story/>" posted on April 25, Paul Ewing, N6PSE, said that years of negotiations had finally yielded a written invitation from the Democratic Peoples Republic of North Korea (DPRK) -- the most-needed DXCC entity -- to operate there.

<http://n6pse.wordpress.com/2016/04/25/the-p5dx-story/> "We had hoped to be the first large DXpedition with clear and unambiguous proof that we were active within the country and with real evidence of permission," Ewing said in announcing the DXpedition's cancellation. (eham.net)



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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

We are back after missing the APRIL issue.
We were in the hospital for 3 weeks.
We are feeling better and thank everyone for
their concern. There are no March minutes since
The secretary was absent and according to him,
Nobofy took the minutes. If you are going
To Dayton, have fun... 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

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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 Infr
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, K9FXJ
Through December, 2017:
K2GZL, N3GXH

BRATS MEETINGS
4th Monday at 7 PM
Liberty Rd. Volunteer fire Dept.
10010 Liberty Rd. Randallstown
Date and place subject to change

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 25 April 2016
Monthly Meeting

OryxG, K0RYX, chaired meeting held at LRVFD.

/REPORTS

- Minutes: February meeting Minutes accepted, approved; no Minutes from March meeting.
- Treasurer: Treasurer's report submitted. Only recent expenses are meeting room rental.
- Repeater/Equipment: Rx replaced and antenna maintenance performed at northern Baltimore site. 156.7 PL added for that site, but likely will be added to remaining sites.

900MHz antenna at same site blew over during Winter after water had leaked out of base; no antenna or roof damage.

/OLD BUSINESS

- Events: NPOTA, Ft. McHenry, 30 April at 0900; turn right at main gate into reserved parking lot for event.
MS 150 Bike Ride, Easton, 4-5 June
Susan G.Komen Ride, [location?], 25 June
Field Day, 25 June. Aero Club's invitation remains open to us; Steve, KA3ZMN, likely to host at his QTH again this year.

/NEW BUSINESS

none

/PROGRAM

LTC Stephen Hamilton, KJ5HY, gave a Powerpoint presentation about West Point cadets' Balloon Satellite project and progress since 2011. A number of helpful hints were made available.

Ted, WA3AER,
Secretary

A FOUNDATION FOR MORE POWER

Big changes could be coming for hams in Australia. There's a push to give all classes more power. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jason Daniels, VK2LAW, explains: The suggestion from the Wireless Institute of Australia is a strong one -- a full 40 watts stronger, in fact, for Foundation license-holders. The WIA is asking the Australian Communications and Media Authority to approve an operating power increase for Foundation licensees from 10 watts to 50.

The WIA is also asking that Standard license holders be permitted to operate at 200 watts, up from the limit of 100 watts -- and that Advanced licensees be permitted to operate at 1,000 watts. The WIA presses its case, saying Foundation signals in particular are challenged in more congested regions of the country by competing RF noise levels. The WIA also points out that most commercial rigs already have a 50-watt capability. Foundation's comparable license level in the United States is the Technician class, where operators are given a maximum operating power of 1500 watts.

It's all in the name of good copy, of course. But the best reception the WIA is after right now, is the one these requests will ultimately get from the ACMA.

(WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA AR Newsline)

AN OLYMPIAN EFFORT IN BRAZIL

The Summer Games in Rio don't include radiosport, but things just got a little bit easier for radio amateurs who want to travel to, and work the bands, from Brazil.

Attending the Olympics and getting on the HF bands from Brazil shouldn't require an Olympian effort itself. The good news is that now it won't come to that. It's expected to be less of a struggle for radio amateurs to operate in Brazil during the 2016 Summer Olympics as a result of eased restrictions on the part of the Brazilian authorities. Regardless of whether an amateur's country has a reciprocal agreement with Brazil, authorizations for those hams will be simplified thanks to an agreement between authorities and the Brazilian Amateur Radio League, also known as LABRE. The radio league recently received permission from Brazil's telecommunications regulator, ANATEL, to handle the authorizations -- and without any fees.

Interested amateurs should email the radio league a copy of a valid passport, a copy of their amateur radio license, a list of cities in which you plan to operate, and on what dates, and include an email address. The documents should be scanned and sent to the radio league via email at executiva@labre.org.br.

When the paperwork arrives, you should be able to dive right in. Just don't use any of the Olympic-sized pools. (AR Newsline)

FIELD DAY June 25

Likely to be hosted at the QTH of Steve, KAZ3MN again this year. Aero invitation still remains,

ARRL DX BULLETIN

BAHRAIN, A9. A group of operators are QRV as A91HI from Hawar Island, IOTA AS-202, a new IOTA Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via M0OXO.

EASTER ISLAND, CE0Y. Martin, LU9EFO will be QRV as CE0Y/LU9EFO from May 6 to 13. Activity will

be on the HF bands. QSL direct vi F4BHW.

JAPAN, JA. Special event station 8J1ITU will be QRV from Kasumigaura City on Honshu Island, IOTA AS-007, from April 30 to May 31 to celebrate the anniversary of the International Telecommunications Union.

QSL via bureau.

BULGARIA, LZ. Members of the Bulgarian Radio Club Blagovestnik are QRV as LZ1867SEI during May to honor

Bulgarian Saints. QSL via bureau.

MOUNT ATHOS, SV/A. Monk Iakovos from the Koutloumousiou Holy Monastery is now licensed as SV2RSG and has been active on 40 meters using SSB. He also operates using CW.

QSL via SV1RP.

BELIZE, V3. Henk, PA0C is QRV as V31HV and his portable call sign during weekends from beaches south of the city. QSL direct

V31HV/P until October. Activity is on 80, 40, 20 and 15 meter bands using CW, SSB and JT65. He uses o home call.

VANUATU, YJ. Christian, HB9LCA will be QRV as YJ0CS from various locations from May 1 to 27.

Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using mostly CW with some SSB and JT65 QSL to home call.

More DX News

Chris HB9LCA will be working from Vanuatu as YJ0CS from May 1 through May 27, mainly holiday style and on CW. QSL to Chris' home call.

There is still time to work the Ukrainian team operating as ET7L in Ethiopia. They have been there since the middle of January and will remain there only for a short time longer. QSL cards go via ClubLog OQRS. (IRISH RADIO TRANSMITTERS SOCIETY)

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

May 6	NCCC RTTY Sprint
May 7-8	10-10 int'l sprint, CW ARI intl DX Contest F9AA Cup, PSK 7 th call area QSO Party Indiana, Delaware, and New England QSO parties
May 13-15	Volta WW RTTY Contest CQ-M Intl dX Contest Arkansas QSO Party 50 MHz Spring Sprint
May 21-22	His Maj. King of Spain CW EU PSK DX Contest
May 28-29	CQ WW WPX, CW

OPENING UP THE 60 METER BAND

Radio amateurs in Romania have been given the go-ahead to operate on 5 MHz for the next year, on a test basis that could determine whether the band is useful for carrying out emergency communications. The Romanian telecommunications agency, ANCOM, is allowing 3 kHz of the spectrum – between 5363.5 and 5366.5 kHz to be used for PSK, RTTY, CW and WSJT at no more than 15 watts. Romanian hams who wish to use this portion of 60 meters are required to register for the program, which will schedule the permitted operations on Thursdays at approximately 1600 UTC. (ARRL)

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 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.

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

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

BRATS MEETINGS

4th Monday at 7 PM
Liberty Rd. Volunteer fire Dept.
10010 Liberty Rd. Randallstown
Date and place subject to change

Milliwatt Swap Shop

Ads are free and get results!

Mail your ad to: BRATS, Box 5915

Baltimore, MD 21282-5915 or

email to w3gqxk@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, w3gqxk@verizon.net

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

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
w3gqxk@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>

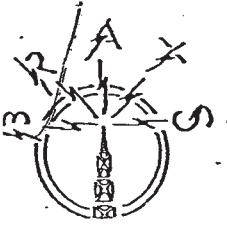
FCC Seeks Comments on Petition to Grant Lifetime Amateur Radio Licenses

The FCC is seeking comments on a *Petition for Rule Making (RM 11760)* that asks the FCC to grant lifetime Amateur Radio licenses. Mark F. Krotz, N7MK, of Mesa, Arizona, filed his request with the FCC last November. He wants 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. Krotz noted that the General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) already is issued on a lifetime basis, and he maintained that not having to renew licenses would lighten the FCC's workload.

"It would be mutually beneficial for the FCC and Amateur Radio operators to update Part 97 to grant operator licenses for lifetime, Krotz said in his filing. "The FCC would benefit by reducing administrative costs."

In 2014 the FCC granted lifetime credit for examination elements 3 and 4, but applicants seeking relicensing under that provision still must pass examination element 2.

Individuals may submit comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS).



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A New QST QuickStats Poll Has Been Posted

This month's QuickStats poll has been posted! Check the QuickStats page at www.arrl.org/quickstats and answer these questions . . .

- Have you ever used a drone to inspect your antennas or assist with an antenna installation? • Have you ever tried using an HF antenna at an ocean beach to see if the salt water improved its performance?
- Have you ever made a microwave contact using rain scatter propagation?
- Do you own a dummy antenna load?

Visit the **QuickStats** page and be sure to bookmark it in your browser. Results from this QuickStats poll will be published in the August issue of QST. (ARRL)

ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference Issues Call for Technical Papers

Technical papers are solicited for presentation at the 35th annual ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference (DCC), September 16-18 in St Petersburg, Florida. The submission deadline is July 31, 2016. Papers will also be published in the *Conference Proceedings*. Authors do not need to attend the conference to have their papers included in the *Proceedings*.

The DCC is an international forum for technically minded radio amateurs to meet and present new ideas and techniques. Paper/presentation topic areas include — but are not limited to — software defined radio (SDR), digital voice, digital satellite communication, digital signal processing (DSP), HF digital modes, adapting IEEE 802.11 systems for Amateur Radio, Global Positioning System (GPS), Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS), *Linux* in Amateur Radio, AX.25 updates, and Internet operability with Amateur Radio networks.

Submit papers to via e-mail to Maty Weinberg, KB1EIB, or via USPS mail to Maty Weinberg, KB1EIB, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Papers will be published exactly as submitted, and authors will retain all rights. Do *not* e-mail zip files, as these will be rejected by our servers. (ARRL)

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

Name _____ Call _____ e-mail _____

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