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The MODULATOR

Newsletter of the Baltimore Amateur Radio Club



Happy 4th!

Election Notice, page 13

The MODULATOR

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P.O. Box 120

Reisterstown, MD 21136

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	Bill Dobson	N3WD	
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Items for *The Modulator* should be sent by the 5th of the previous month, to:

Editor

The Modulator, 3607 Klausmier Rd

Baltimore, MD 21236

or email to modulator@baltarc.com

The club meets at 7:30 pm the first and third Wednesday of every month in the club facility at 12360 Owings Mills Blvd., 3/10 mile south of Bond Ave. See ADC map page 16-D8
Complete directions web page <http://www.baltarc.com/directions.htm> or call the Club Facility at 410-526-4263

VE Testing First weekend of each month. Contact Rusty, N3WKE at arl.net

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Maryland Hamfest and Computer Fest

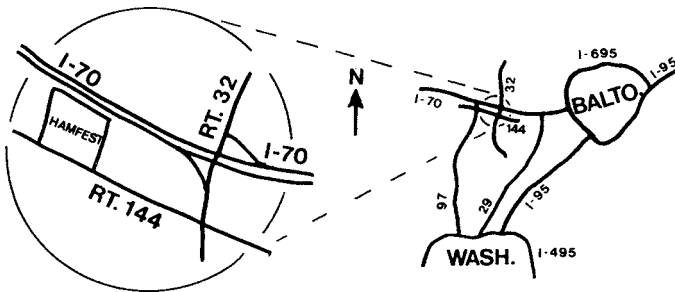
sponsored by the Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society

Sunday, July 24, 2005

New Location: Howard County Fairgrounds,
Off I-70 at Rt. 32

Grounds open for Tailgating at 6:00 am

Accessible to the handicapped • Kids under 12 Free



- Prizes
- Free VE Exams
- Refreshments
- 300 Tailgating spaces (first come, first served, NO reservations)
- Rain or shine
- Good Food
- Outdoor exhibit areas
- Computers
- Giant Flea Market

Free VE exams at 9:00 am only, check-in at 8:30 am

Pre-Registration Required

To register call 301-572-5124 between 6 pm and 9 pm,
or email creewb3gxw@aol.com

For more information contact:

BRATS • PO Box 5915 • Baltimore, MD 21282 • 410-461-0086 voice or fax

<http://bratsatv.org> • email brats@bratsatv.org

The President's Corner

Joe, AJ3X is currently tied up with some family emergency activities, so there's no letter from him. Were he to write one, he would tell us some of the following and a whole lot more:

By the time you read this, Field Day will have been passed. We hope you had a chance to get out to the Hannah More Park to operate or at least visit with us. **Ed, K3CAV** and **Bill, N3WD** have done quite a lot of preparation work, so we hope the results show well for their efforts. Bill, N3WD has been appointed as interim treasurer until the September elections. We wish Bill all the best in this role, and we thank him for stepping up to it.

Tom, N3UJ has been doing great with our programs planning. **Bob Zimmerman, KB3WD** captivated over 30 people at the May meeting with his discussion of life in zero gravity on the space station. The June meeting was an awesome view of the MEMA (Maryland Emergency Management Agency) headquarters.

We've had a couple public service events, March of Dimes and the Veteran's Run. I certainly appreciate all those that got up early on Sunday mornings to come downtown to help us out with these events. Watch for information on the Hadassah Race for the Cure, it's coming up soon.

It's time for club elections, and the separate article in this issue explains the process to vote. We are fortunate for many things. First, we have had good service from several who have chosen not to run again, and we thank them for their service. Second, we have a couple positions for which there are multiple nominees. This means that voting will decide the officers for the coming year for some of these positions. Please attend the September business meeting (Sept 7) or secure your absentee ballot.

It's hurricane season, so be sure that your emergency radio gear is ready for ARES call-up, and that you have proper supplies for your family. Also, Skywarn is getting started again in the Baltimore Metro area. Watch for stories and news about this worthy program.

We all wish Joe the best of luck as he takes care of his personal business, and we look forward to his letter next month.



The Editor, N3VEJ

Rochester Hamfest 2005

N3VEJ reporting

The Rochester Hamfest was held on June 3-5, it's customary first weekend in June. **Jim, WB3DJU**, **Bill, N3WD** and **Doug N3VEJ** made the trip up early on Thursday to help with setup and the vendor and VIP reception table at the Holiday Inn Holidome, the HQ hotel for the hamfest. There were many forums, including an interesting one on the Official Observer Pro-



The Holiday Inn Holidome, host hotel of the Rochester Hamfest.

gram, the usual section management, MARS and QCWA meetings and a couple of great presentations by Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML. Steve leads the efforts of 400 amateurs to support the New York City Marathon. Professionally, he is an engineering manager at ABC-TV. In 2003, he worked on the Super Bowl coverage, which became the topic of his second presentation. There was also a Skywarn training class. All forums were held in the dome, an arena on the county fairgrounds. The dome also houses the commercial vendors and the testing sessions. Testing was offered most of the day Friday and Saturday.

Over at the hotel, our reception table was set up in the lobby. This afforded great opportunities to sell the GBH&C to incoming vendors. We also had a chance to see other hotel activities, such as the Cisco meeting. Outside the hotel, Cisco had a mobile demo van. Jim, WB3DJU, made friends quickly, so that he could get on the van to see the gear. Jim is a little partial to Cisco, since one of his sons works for Cisco in California. After that, Jim headed off to the dome to help with setup, and Bill and I settled down to the registration desk. In the background, we had jackhammers running from 10 AM until 4 PM. The Holidome is undergoing renovations, including revising the two-level floor in the atrium area under the



Smoke alarms at the Holidome brought the local fire department to investigate. There was dust in the detectors from the construction.

glass dome. As a result of the construction, the air circulation was turned off. When it was restarted at 5 PM, smoke detectors tripped, and we all got to go outside and look at the fire trucks that came.



WA2YEK, Lee Van Grol, recipient of the Chairman's Award.

Friday evening was the hamfest banquet, where 75 were served prime rib and all the trimmings. The program was conducted by Dick Goslee, KG2I. The scholarship was awarded, the club did their ritual handover of the gavel to the new president, and there were two special presentations. First, the chairman's award was presented. Harold Smith, K2HC, General Chairman explained that this award is not given every year, but is totally decided by a committee of one, K2HC alone. This year, the award went to Lee Van Grol, WA2YEK. Lee has been Harold's office staff for many years. The hamfest office is combined with Harold's business, The Comm Center. Lee is the voice that people hear when they call the hamfest. From our experience over the last several years, I can attest that this award is well deserved. The other very moving event was to honor Ed Holdsworth, N2EH. For many years, Ed was EC of Monroe County ARES. Due to a stroke, his activities have been limited lately. He was awarded the appointment of "EC Emeritus".

As for the selling, it was a bit smaller than last year. Rains on Saturday morning held down the tailgating but those that stuck it out had a great mid day and afternoon. The dome lost a big dealer to the show in Dallas, which changed their date this year. Another local dealer was rumored to become ill, and missed. Ham Station from Evansville Ill. was very busy, and had a nice display of new and consignment equipment.



General Chairman, Harold Smith, K2HC, chats with a visitor over lunch.

In the end, Chairman Smith, K2HC said with a grin "we made money". 

Other Rochester Highlights



Jim, WB3DJU visits the Cisco Networking demo van.



K2MP, Ed Gable and BARC's N3WD, Bill Dobson check cards for ARRL awards at Rochester.



Jim Mozley W2BCH and John Johnston, W3BE, President, QCWA. President, QCWA Baltimore Chapter #20 shown meeting and greeting at the QCWA booth.

Gas Morse

Contributed by Don Friedmann, W3QYL

Time: 1300, just before the Club's Volunteer Examiner (VE) exam session on June 4, 2005

Place: just outside the Training Center's door; in front of the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BG & E) gas meters

Weather: clear; pleasantly cool

Surroundings: Quiet, with occasional low level noise from arriving member's and visitor's cars. And, occasional low-level audible Morse-like code

Participants: Rusty, N3WKE, and Don, W3QYL

Action: Don walks from his parked car towards the Training Center's door and passes by the BG & E gas meters. The meters are at eye level and mounted on the building's wall. Suddenly, Don hears what he thinks is International Morse code at about 900 Hz. He stops and tries very hard to decode the signals; he fails to read any words. Then, with no warning, the sound stops. Don, as with any other good ham with patience, waits for any repeat. In about a minute or two the same sound starts again. And, again, he cannot make any sense of the sounds- what a puzzle!

Good old Rusty now arrives, parks his car, and starts walking toward the door. Being of sharp mind and keen eyesight, he sees Don's focusing on the meters' assembly. When Don tells Rusty about the sounds, Rusty thinks for about two seconds and immediately solves the puzzle. SURPRISE, he tells Don that a faulty meter internal gas flow impeller is making the sound. Don is amazed at such an obvious answer to the puzzle. So, if you come to any meeting at our Center, forget interpreting the external sound of Morse code from our gas meters, and just enjoy the happenings in our Center.

Don and Rusty then walk into the room and carry on with their VE duties

Conclusion: In our parking lot, keep your ears open for audible Morse code but don't be surprised if nothing heard makes sense.



Do You Know Whether or Not To Report This Sighting?



Skywarn

Skywarn is being re-activated in the Baltimore Metropolitan area. Watch for news about it. Turn to 147.03+ in the event of severe weather. Check in to the Baltimore Traffic Net on 146.67- to learn of the next spotter training class. We're hoping to have one by September in the metro area.

Upcoming Program Schedule

Tom Coates N3JJ

July 20 ARRL/FAR night. ARRL will be represented by Tom Abernethy, W3TOM, the Maryland-DC Section Manager. FAR will be represented by Dan Blasberg, KA8YPY, its president. Thanks to **Bill Dobson, N3WD** for arranging this program.

August 17: BARC Repeater: **Phil Hebert, N3CDY** will describe the features of the W3FT repeater system.

Both programs start at 7:30 in the club facility.

Public Service Event Highlights



May 1st March of Dimes Walk-America was cool, but dry.



Water Station on the Veteran's Run, May 25th.

May Program Highlights



May Program meeting speaker, Bob Zimmerman, KB3IWD, is the author of Leaving Earth, plus other books and many articles on space exploration.



Steve, KA3ZMN and Harry, N3JYP chat at the May Program meeting.

Election Notice

The June business meeting included the Nominations Committee Report and Slate of Officers for the September election. The slate is therefore published in this issue, in accordance with the bylaws. See below for important voting information.

Slate for 2005-2006

President:	Joe Krystoforski, A3x (incumbent)
Vice President:	Hale Adams, N3NYC (incumbent)
Treasurer:	Bill Dobson, N3WD (Acting) Steve Kennick, WA3SOR
Recording Secretary:	Norm Lorenzen, KB3KZG Doug Rambo, N3WZY
Corresponding Secretary:	Henry Lee III, KB1PE
Members at Large: (Vote for two)	Al Fitzsimons, W3YRS Steve Rifkin, KA3ZMN (incumbent) Ed Kristen, K3CAV Jim Green, WB3DJU (incumbent)

Voting will occur at the business meeting on September, 7, 2005 at 7:30 PM. You may vote in person or by absentee ballot. To request an absentee ballot, do so by August 1st and send email to *elections2005@baltarc.com* or write to:

Baltimore Amateur Radio Club
Nominating Committee
PO Box 120
Reisterstown, MD 21136-0120

The absentee ballots must be received by September 1st at PO Box 120, using the same mail address as above.

From "Myles Carpeneto" K3VTT

For those who yearn for the days when tubes, not transistors, were tops, here is the webstore address where you can buy the stuff that will let the world know where you stand.

<http://www.cafepress.com/cp/store.aspx?g=gekaultstore32489>

For Sale

Kenwood MC520 DM hand mic, back lite, no's \$20

Power Kraft table saw w/base and rollers \$75; companion jig saw 15" throat \$40

Tektronix 604/716M, x-y scope \$40

WWII hi-power ant. tuner; vac variables, roller inductor \$110

Azden DM-10 headphones new in box \$15

Telex C-1320 head phones \$15

Pan-a-dapter; BC 1031C \$40

Tektronix 105 square wave generator \$20

Complete UHF rpt'r system w/2 motorola handhelds, 1 mobile xcvr \$150

W2IHY 8 band audio equalizer w/noise gate \$150

Champion Auto ignition analyzer \$20

Call **Ted, W3OWN**, 410-668-5580 Please leave a message if you get the answering machine.

I would like to advertise a free-standing aluminum Universal Tower for sale. It is 50 feet high in 10 foot sections that nest together. I am asking \$400.00

My call is **KB3DA** and email is *tlpca at cscomLL* 410-944-2106

Kenwood AT200 Antenna Tuner; mint condition \$150

National Speaker \$50

Call **Doc Sanders W3FYA**, 410-484-1103

Today is Wednesday 15 June 2005 and already 154 stations in 31 countries have confirmed their participation in the International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend 20/21 August 2005. A list of the stations with QTH and QSL information can be found at http://illwret/2005_list.htm

If you are joining us in the fun of the weekend please listen out for other lighthouse or lightship station. We wish to remind non-US CW stations to operate above 14.225 to allow access by Advanced Class US amateurs. Operations below 14.225 just eliminate the potential for some US hams to work the LH stations.

Last year there were 376 lighthouse/lightship stations QRV during the weekend. So come and join us in the fun of the weekend and make a total of over 400 lighthouse/ship stations. An entry form can be found on the web page *illwret*



VE Report - June 2005

A Laurel ARC Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (LARC VEC) affiliated testing session was held at the BARC Meeting and Training Facility in Owings Mills, MD, on Saturday, June 4. Four people took exams for either their initial ham license or to upgrade their license

The examinees achieved the following

Became new Technician Class licensee

Mike Dye KB3MIZ

Upgraded to General Class licensee

David Roberts KB3MGU

Upgraded to Amateur Extra Class licensee

Randy Dorman KB3INO

Stuart Kelly K3MAK

Overall, three tests were passed out of eight administered:

Element 1 (5 WPM CW): N/A

Element 2 (Technician Written): 100%

Element 3 (General Written): 100%

Element 4 (Extra Written): 100%

Thanks to the Volunteer Examiners who made the session possible

Hale Adams N3NYC

Lee Benson W3FQE

Don Friedmann W3QYL

Doc Sanders W3FYA

Robin Schaefer AA3SB

Rusty Schaefer N3WKE

Next testing session at the BARC facility is Sunday, July 3, 2005. Registration opens at 1:00 PM and testing starts at 2:00 PM. To preregister for the exam session, please send email to n3wke@arrl.net (or call Rusty Schaefer 410-247-0578).

73 Rusty N3WKE

VE Team Leader

July 31st: Hadassah Race, Rash Field to Ft McHenry, 6:30 to 10 AM. Call 443-794-0735 or email pubsvc2005@baltarc.com to volunteer. At least 11 are needed.

The **MODULATOR**

The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 120
Reisterstown, MD 21136-0120

The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club
Repeater System **W3FT**

Frequency	PL
146.07/146.67	107.2
222.64/224.24	107.2
444.625/449.625	107.2

simplex: 146.55

web: <http://www.baltarc.com>

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