

January 2006 Vol. 60, No. 1

# The MODULATOR

Newsletter of the Baltimore Amateur Radio Club



# MIEMA Trip Report

**Also:  
BARC Bylaw Amendments, p.6**

Important information regarding distribution of The Modulator, page 14

# The MODULATOR

published by *The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club*

P.O. Box 120

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Club website: <http://www.baltarc.com>

Hamboree website: <http://www.ghc.org>

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Corresponding Secretary	Henry Lee III	KB1PE
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	Ed Kriston	N3CAV

## Committee Chairmen

Public Information	Doug Wittich	N3VEJ at arl.net	
Hamboree	Robin Schaefer	AA3SB at arl.net	410-247-0578
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License Testing	Rusty Schaefer	N3WKE at arl.net	410-247-0578
W3FT Trustee	Doug Wittich	N3VEJ at arl.net	
Membership	Hale Adams	N3NYC	
Program Chair & Legislative Affairs Director	Tom Coates	N3IJ at comcast.net	410-933-9344

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 at 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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# Upcoming Program Events

## January 18 What's Up Down Below?

Did you ever wonder what goes on below 500 kHz? Here are a few of the signals you'll find: European long-wave broadcasting between 151 and 300 kHz. A test frequency at 136 KHz for those with an experimenter's license. A license-free band between 160 and 190 KHz. In the high AF range, you might find signals to or from submerged submarines. And there's more. Henry Lee, KB1PE, has been presenting programs on this fascinating topic since the 1980s. He incorporates improvements continuously, so even if you heard his program before, come to the January 18 meeting for an update. Henry will also discuss design and construction of simple antennas that improve sensitivity and reduce noise. As always, doors open at 7 and the program begins at 7:30. Bring a friend, licensed or not!

## February 15 Katrina - What did we learn?

Tim Russell, WA7TOF, was in Mississippi with the Anne Arundel County Mobile Communications Command Unit that he helped design. If you attended the MEMA program December 3, you saw the MCCU. At the February 15 meeting Tim will tell us what it was like to put the unit through its paces, and what was learned in general by amateurs and agencies about emergency communications. Note: this program will be preceded by a minimal business meeting, just long enough to satisfy the by-laws, since the usual business meeting date will have been pre-empted by the **The BARC-It's FREE!!! Minifest** on Feb 1. Note: Tim travels a lot, and we may need to make a last-minute substitution as we did in November. On that occasion, the brave handful who showed up seemed pleased, even though the featured speaker wasn't available. If you would like to be the February alternate, please call Tom, N3JJ, at 410-419-8147.

## March 15 (Tentative) Home Made Station Accessories

Would you like to see what your fellow BARCers have built to increase their operating comfort or their station's effectiveness? Send nominations of potential speakers for that program or any others to Tom, at [n3jj@cmast.net](mailto:n3jj@cmast.net).

## **The BARC-It's FREE!!! Minifest**

February 1st at Timonium, in the exhibition hall. BARC will have a consignment table. Bring your items for us to sell. Let us know your asking price, and if you will accept a lower offer, limited to 10%, 25% or 50% off the asking price. We'll get the best price we can within those parameters, and you pay us 10% of what we sell your item for. If you wish to sell your things yourself get a table off the stack, and be sure to return them when you are finished. Also, be sure to take your trash with you when you leave, or we won't get the venue for the price we pay again!

## The President's Corner

I hope this letter finds everyone in good health as the New Year brings us new ventures, opportunities and challenges. On February 1, 2006, the BARC it's free mini-fest will be held at the state fair grounds in Timonium. It's time to clean out the shack, sell off some equipment and pick up those one of a kind items you have always been looking for but could never find. The February business meeting will be held on February 15 prior to the program meeting. I promise to keep the business portion of the meeting short so as not to impinge on the program.

Our principle objective for 2005 was to gain control of the club's finances and put in place a series of checks and balances. With that objective met, we will switch our focus in 2006 to increasing membership in the organization. I have asked Hale (N3NYC) and he has agreed to chair a Membership Committee. The committee will be tasked with increasing the club's membership roster 10% by the end of the 2006 calendar.

The 35th annual Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computer Fest (GBH&C) is right around the corner and it is not too early to lend a helping hand. Please consider volunteering even if it only for a couple of hours. GBH&C is our primary source of income; it supports our public service activities, the scholarship fund, the repeater network, and helps us maintain the meeting facility. So please, support the club, come out, lend a hand, and have fun. Contact Robin, [aa3fb@aml.net](mailto:aa3fb@aml.net) and plan to attend the next committee meeting.

I'm going to give everyone a break and keep it short this month. I hope to see you at the January program meeting, the BARC it's free mini-feast or at this month's Breakfast with the President. Until then...

*Remember, this club exists because of you and it cannot exist without you!*

**Joe Kryzstoforski, AJ3X**  
**President, BARC**

**Did you send your renewal from the November issue?  
Go to [www.baltarc.com/membership/](http://www.baltarc.com/membership/)**

# Bylaw Resolutions Proposed

The vote on these amendments is expected to take place on *February 15th, 2006* or March 1, 2006 at 7:30 PM at the BARC Meeting and Training Facility, 12360 Owings Mills Blvd, Owings Mills, MD 21117.

The Executive Board recommends the following changes to the Bylaws be adopted by the membership.

## ARTICLE VI , Paragraph B

**B: Dues** Membership dues, in an amount to be determined by the Executive Board and approved by the membership, shall be assessed annually and are payable during the renewal period of September through October. Reduced rates shall be assessed for members who classified as Retired, Student, or Family. Persons for whom payment of dues would constitute a hardship shall, at the discretion of the Executive Board, be exempt from the payment of dues. Life members shall be exempt from the payment of Club dues. New members shall have all initiation fees and dues waived for one year from the date of their application to the BARC.

*Change to:*

**B: Dues** Membership dues, in an amount to be determined by the Executive Board, shall be assessed annually and are payable during the renewal period of September through October. Reduced rates shall be assessed for members who are classified as Retired, Student, or Family. Persons for whom payment of dues would constitute a hardship shall, at the discretion of the Executive Board, be exempt from the payment of dues. New members shall have all initiation fees and dues waived until the next regular renewal period.

## ARTICLE II , Paragraph B

**6 New** Anyone meeting the conditions for Regular membership AND who shall have obtained their license within the last 52 weeks via any sponsored and operated amateur radio license testing program. Verification shall consist of the applicant's submission of either a valid, signed and dated Certificate of Successful Completion (CSCE) or an FCC Amateur Radio License. This membership category shall only be granted once and shall automatically expire one year following the date of initial issuance. The New Member membership shall automatically then convert to one of the other membership categories for which the member is qualified. Following the payment of all requisite dues and fees required, they shall receive all the rights and privileges

contained within the selected membership category. A new member may not hold office or serve on the Executive Board.

*Change to:*

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## **ARTICLE II, Paragraph B**

**2 Life** anyone meeting the conditions for Regular membership AND who shall have remained a member in good standing of the BARC for a minimum of five (5) consecutive Club fiscal years prior to the date of application for Life membership, and shall have attained the age 70 years or older as of the date of application. Life members receive all the rights and privileges contained with Regular membership.

*Change to:*

Strike Paragraph B 2 from the Bylaws, effectively eliminating the Life Membership.

## **Wording Change:**

The Board passed a resolution accepting a Bylaw change calling for the elimination of the Life Membership. If accepted by the membership all Life Memberships will be converted to Retired Memberships effective October 2006. To support the electronic publication of the Modulator the Board passed a resolution calling for a Bylaw change to replace the word "print" with "publish," when referencing distribution of the Modulator.

## Membership Fees Change:

The Executive Board voted on and unanimously passed a resolution calling for an increase in the club's membership fees effective with the start of the 2006-2007 fiscal year:

Category	Current	New
Regular Members	\$16.00	\$20.00
Student	\$11.00	\$10.00
Associate	\$8.00	\$10.00
Retired Members	\$5.00	\$10.00
Family Members	\$3.00	\$5.00

Membership fees from a single household address shall not exceed \$30.00 —□□

## Breaking News

**Bruce Fleming** N3EGF, the MDC Section Traffic Manager, is an SK. Bruce compiled monthly reports for all the nets in the section as well as all the personal statistics for net activity and PSHR (Public Service Honor Role) for every traffic handler in the section that submitted data to him.

## New Maryland Section Manager Named ARRL Field and Educational Services

*From the ARRL Letter; 12/23/2005*



Manager **Dave Patton**, NN1N, has announced the appointment of **Jim Cross**, W13N, of Laurel, Maryland, to succeed **Tom Abernethy**, W3IOM, as ARRL Maryland-DC Section Manager. Abernethy was elected ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director in November. Both Abernethy and Cross assumed their new offices January 1. Cross, who's been serving as the Maryland-DC Section Emergency Coordinator, will complete the remainder of Abernethy's term as SM, which ends in July 2007. A member and a past president of the Laurel Amateur Radio Club, Cross has served as Prince Georges County ARES Emergency Coordinator and RACES Radio Officer. —□□



# BARC Tour of Maryland Emergency Management Agency


*by Al W3YRS*

An action packed four and a half hour agenda attracted 58 participants from three states including the Eastern Shore (135 Miles), Western (146 Miles) and Southern Maryland. Some even drove in the day before and stayed overnight so they could make the 8:00 AM start time. After checking in, everyone socialized over coffee, juice and bagels, Hank Black, MEMA Communications Division welcomed the folks and introduced the BARC President, Joe K for his welcoming remarks who in turn introduced Tom Coates, the club's Legislative Affairs Director who briefly discussed introduction of our landmark State legislation to ease antenna covenants restrictions. After introductions all around, Hank Black turned the meeting over to Ed McDonough, MEMA Public Information Officer for the "MEMA 101 - What We Do" presentation. Most folks agreed that they never realized the breadth and depth of the agency's responsibilities. Few realized that the Governor may suspend select statutes in a declared emergency.

At 10 AM Warren Campbell, MEMA Deputy Director for Information Technology and "father" of WebEOC, demonstrated the powerful capabilities of this Internet based system which is available to all state agencies and jurisdictions. In demonstrating the major features of the system, he asked for a member of the audience to volunteer their address. When entered he displayed a satellite photo of it, the real time status of near by hospitals and many additional pieces of information. A very interesting discussion ensued when he was showing the capabilities of WebEOC to track deployable resources. The question was, could amateur radio emergency communications teams be added to the list of resources? Issues raised included the commitment of the team members for short notice deployments for long periods of time and the advantages of their link to government such as enrolled RACES members.

The amazing conclusion was the tour of the Anne Arundel County's Mobile Command and Communications Unit which Jim Weed, Anne Arundel County's Emergency Manager brought to MEMA for this tour. Its incredible capabilities were explained by several very knowledgeable presenters including Tim Russell, the ARINC engineer who played a major role in designing the unit. This photo shows the two racks of all kinds of remote controlled radios and computer equipment. Amateur radio capabilities included HF, 2M

and 440MHz voice and packet. Direct HF contact was made on 40M while the unit was deployed to New Orleans after hurricane Katrina

The participants were very pleased with the tour and were very appreciative of the Baltimore Amateur Radio Club for sponsoring the tour and for MEMA and Anne Arundel County's outstanding efforts to host the meeting 



*Tom, N3IJ, expounding concisely on legislation being introduced in the upcoming session of the General Assembly intended to prohibit **newly-formed** homeowners associations from exercising any control over Amateur Radio equipment.*





## SWL Festival

The 19th Annual Winter Shortwave Listener (SWL) Festival, sponsored by the North American Shortwave Association (NASWA), will be held on Friday March 3rd and Saturday March 4th 2006 at the Best Western in Kulpsville, PA (30 miles north of Philadelphia).

The Winter SWL Fest is the largest gathering of listeners to the radio spectrum in the United States and perhaps the world, and covers longwave, medium-wave, and shortwave broadcasts, utilities, pirates, VHF/UHF, FM, scanners, television and satellites. About 200 hobbyists and broadcasters from across the country and around the world attend each year. Activities include forums, silent auction, vendors, swap meet, guest speakers, banquet, awards, and door prizes that include top line radios. For more information on forums, activities, directions, registration and hotel, visit <http://www.swlfest.com>

**Thanks**  
**Ian, N3CVA**

## Terry Turchin, WA3DZZ, SK

It is with deep regret that the Pikesville Volunteer Fire Company announces the death of Life Member Terry Turchin. Mr. Turchin was also a Past Communications Chair and Technical Consultant for the Baltimore County Volunteer Firemen's Association and for the U.S. Navy-Marine Corps Military Affiliate Radio System.

A Fire Department Funeral was held at the Sol Levinson Funeral Home, 8900 Reisterstown Road at 1300 on Thursday, December 1, 2005. Interment was at the Beth El Cemetery, Liberty and Tiverton Roads, Randallstown.

There was a reception at the Pikesville Volunteer Fire Company following the interment.

The family has requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Pikesville Volunteer Fire Company, 40 East Sudbrook Lane, Pikesville, MD 21208 or to the Maryland School for the Blind, 3501 Taylor Ave., Baltimore, MD 21234.



*Photo taken from the funeral procession at Liberty Road and the entrance to the cemetery.*

# BARC Newsletter Mailing

This will be the last issue of the Modulator distributed fully by mail. We will be going to electronic distribution beginning with Volume 60 Number 2, February 2006 (*this issue is being mailed to every member because it contains by-law updates*). We will send an email to everyone we have an email address for, to advise that the electronic (PDF format) version is on the web page. There will be a version that can be printed double-sided and stapled into a booklet format, if you wish. For those who wish to receive The Modulator in the mail, we are asking for subscription fees. The Executive Board and the editor regret that economic circumstances of the club call for such drastic action. The rate has been set at \$12 per year for all club members. This is in addition to your membership dues, and is optional, necessary only if you wish to receive the printed copy of the newsletter in the mail.

If the following information on the address label on the cover is correct, there is no need to fill this part in, otherwise, please provide corrections

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## For Sale

Radio Shack HTX-202 2mtr hand held with speaker mic. - Best offer:

**Contact Kurt WA3IOY**

410-360-6894

[k.fritsch2@verizon.net](mailto:k.fritsch2@verizon.net)



## VE Report - December 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, December 3. Two people took exams for either their initial ham license or to upgrade their license.

### **The examinees achieved the following**

#### **Became new Technician Class licensee**

David Weiss KB3MYW

Corey Brown KB3MYX

#### **Overall, two tests were passed out of three administered:**

Element 1 (5 WPM CW): N/A

Element 2 (Technician Written): 100%

Element 3 (General Written): 0%

Element 4 (Extra Written): N/A

#### **Thanks to the Volunteer Examiners who made the session possible**

Hale Adams N3NYC

Bill Dobson N3WD

Jerry Matthews N3XWT

Robin Schaefer AA3SB

Rusty Schaefer N3WKE

First testing session of 2006 at the BARC facility is Sunday, January 8, 2006. Registration opens at 1:00 PM and testing starts at 2:00 PM. To preregister for the exam session, please send email to *n3wke at arrl.net* (or call Rusty Schaefer 410-247-0578).

#### **73 Rusty N3WKE**

VE Team Leader

# *The* **MODULATOR**

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

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

<b>Frequency</b>	<b>PL</b>
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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