



**Baltimore
Amateur
Radio
Club
2011
Handbook**

Index

Club Officers 2
Committee Chairpersons 2
Club Phone Numbers 3
Club Web Sites 3
Club Mailing Address 3
Club Meeting Facility Address 3
Club Repeaters 3
Club's Purpose 3
Membership 4
Meetings 4
Scholarships 4
Modulator 5
Constant Contact 5
Training Classes 5
FCC Examinations 5
Greater Baltimore Hamboree & Computerfest 6
Mini-Fest 6
Club Equipment 6
Elmering 7
Library 7
Radio Room 7
Regular Nets 8
Reimbursements 8
Widows Assistance 9
Public Service 9
Repeater Users Guide 9-11
American Radio Relay League (ARRL) 11
ARRL Field Day 11
Emergency Service 12-13
Logging/Contest Software Web Sites 13
General Interest Web Sites 14
Manufacturer / Dealer Web Sites 15-16

The Membership

The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club has over 175 members of all ages and professions. A free limited membership is extended to new hams for up to one year if they are not currently a member of the club and successfully get their amateur license or successfully upgrade at a BARC sponsored testing session. Anyone who studies in a BARC sponsored class will also be granted a free limited membership. The classes of membership and current fees are Regular Member \$20, Student Member \$10, Associate Member \$10, Retired Member \$10, Family Member \$3 and New License Free.

The Meetings

The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club holds the following meetings at the club's meeting and training facility.

- 1st Wednesday of the Month – Club Business Meeting
- 2nd Wednesday of the Month – Fundraising Committee
- 3rd Wednesday of the Month – Program Meeting
- 4th Wednesday of the Month – Board of Directors Meeting

All meetings are open to club members and the public.

Every Sunday night there will be an on air meeting held on the 167.67 repeater at 7pm.

The Scholarships

The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club, each year, provides several scholarships to deserving amateurs attending institutions of higher learning. These scholarships are administered by the Foundation For Amateur Radio (FAR), P.O. Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738, or on the web at <http://www.farweb.org/scholarships>. The Foundation for Amateur Radio is a non-profit organization, incorporated in the District of Columbia. It is devoted exclusively to the scientific, literary, and educational pursuits which advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service. BARC currently gives away four \$1000 scholarships and is responsible for the Ernie Dobos scholarship, which is a \$1,500 annual scholarship.

The Modulator

The Modulator is the monthly newsletter sent to all members or households in the case of family memberships. The Modulator carries current local information about the club as well as important national information for use by members and local amateurs. All are encouraged to submit articles of interest to the amateur community for publication in The Modulator. Articles should be sent to the editor. The preferred method is by e-mail to ke3hay@gmail.com or mail to Newsletter Editor, C/O Baltimore Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 120, Resisterstown, MD 21136.

Constant Contact

The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club maintains a listing of club e-mails on Constant Contact. This list is not sold or given to any other organization. Constant Contact is a means of sending a bulk e-mail to all members. The club uses this to get information to all club members in a timely manner. By filling out your membership application you give the club permission to send you e-mail regarding club information via Constant Contact. If you select to have your e-mail address not published it is for the clubs' directory and NOT Constant Contact.

Training Classes

The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club from time to time sponsors training classes. They are normally conducted at the club's meeting and training facility. The club provides the necessary text book. Current information about class offerings is available at the club's web page at www.baltarc.com.

The Examinations

The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club participates in the FCC Volunteer Examiners program. The BARC VE Team is affiliated with the Laurel VEC. Exams are free. Exams are given at the club's meeting and training facility. Exam schedule can be found at the club's web page at www.baltarc.com. There are three written examinations; all multiple choice. Be sure to bring a photo ID, a copy of your current license, and your original license with you.

The Greater Baltimore Hamboree & Computerfest

The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club is proud to host the Greater Baltimore Hamboree & Computerfest (GBH&C). The Hamboree is one of the largest ham radio and computer shows in the U.S.A. It is held the last weekend of March at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium. The club's major fund raising event for the year is the GBH&C. Held every year at the Maryland State Fairgrounds. The club first sponsored show was Sunday March 30th, 1980. Planning and preparations for the next show are already under way. This event will once again be host to the ARRL Maryland State Convention. This year's dates will be March 27 and 28, 2010. Please contact the Hamboree Event Chairman if you wish to be involved in the planning and running of the event. All members and non-members are welcome. For information on the event please check out the web page at www.gbhc.org.

The Mini-Fest

The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club hosts the "BARC-It's Free-Mini-Fest", a small hamfest that has no cost, tickets, reservations, or other formalities. The Mini-Fest is normally held in place of the January program meeting at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium. This year's date is Wednesday, January 27th beginning at 3pm until 9pm.

Loaning of Club Equipment

The Baltimore Amateur Radio club owns a variety of UHF, VHF and HF equipment including antennas, power supplies, tuners and test equipment. This equipment is primarily designed for use during club sponsored activities and public service events. In addition this equipment may be utilized on a limited as-available basis by individual club members. Use of the equipment must be coordinated through the club's equipment manager. This equipment is not meant to be utilized on a regular or full time basis by any individual member. Members will be held responsible for any damage to or loss / theft of equipment utilized for non-club sponsored events. Under NO circumstances will ANY equipment be taken out of the Radio Room. Failure to adhere to these provisions will result in loss of membership in the club.

Elmering (Mentoring)

The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club has a mentor program. This program is established to provide mentors (elmers) for new hams just entering the amateur radio ranks. Senior members are asked to join this service and be available to help with the indoctrination of those new members who request to be assigned a mentor. Amateur radio tradition is passed on to the new hams by those who have the advantage of experience of operation for several years.

Library

The Baltimore Amateur Radio club has an extensive library located in the back of the meeting and training room. All club members have access to the library. The library has thousands of magazines like QST dating back to the 20's, CQ, Ham Radio and 73 magazines to name a few. The library also has hundreds of reference books like antenna books, handbooks and circuit design books. All library material may be used by club members. You may even check out material by notifying the club's librarian. Please bring all materials back as they are not intended to become personal property. Any member who fails to return material can be subject to removal from the club.

Radio Room

The Baltimore Amateur Radio club is proud to have a top notch radio room. This room is accessible to all club members 24/7/365 provided the club has not scheduled an activity. Access to the Radio room is granted after the club member is given a brief overview of the equipment. At no time should equipment leave the radio room. If in the use of operating equipment it should malfunction regardless of the reason please leave notice in plain view at the equipment. The radio room currently has 3 HF stations with amplifiers, 1 VHF FM station and 1 UHF, VHF, HF station. The antennas consist of a 2 meter 13 element beam, a 6 meter 3 element beam, a HF beam for 10 thru 40 meters, a window antenna for 10-160 meters and a vertical for 2.6 and 440. All stations have computers set up and access to the internet along with 2 stations having digital capability.

Regular Nets

The Baltimore Traffic Net (BTN), part of the Amateur Radio National Traffic System (NTS) provides message handling and delivery to anywhere within the United States. Fully supported by BARC this net provides not only a service to both hams and non-hams, but provides a training ground to assure that the Amateur Radio Service is prepared to support emergency traffic handling. Please check in and learn to handle traffic. Net Manager, Net Control, and procedure training provided. Open to all hams. The net operates daily at 6:30PM local time on the club's 146.67 repeater.

BARC Monthly Net – On the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM the on-the air meeting of the Baltimore Amateur Radio club meets. Welcome to all amateur operators. Keep up on club events and chat with other hams and club members.

Reimbursements

Reimbursements to members who expend personal funds on behalf of the club shall normally be made only with a receipt that shows the items, the cost and the name and address or telephone number of the seller. A copy of a store receipt, showing the name of the store, is required for all retail purchases. Expenses must be within budgeted amount for the category. Purchases made from non-retail entities must be accompanied by adequate identification of the seller and the items purchased.

Items purchased outside of contracts or schedules must be pre-approved by either of the President, Vice-President or Treasurer. This approval may be verbal, and should be noted on the "request for reimbursement" or "chit" sheet.

Widow's Assistance

The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club provides a service of assisting families of Amateur Radio operators who pass or no longer are involved in the hobby. The Widow's Assistance chairperson will meet with the family and assist in the disposal of the amateur equipment. Any monies received will be given back to the family.

Public Service

BARC supports the Amateur Radio Service goal of providing quality public service, typically in the form of communications support to other public service and charitable organizations. The club has appointed a Public Service Chairperson to coordinate train and supervise our public service events. Although from time to time we will coordinate our activities with the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) organizations, it is our primary goal to support requests with volunteer members from the BARC club. All members are welcome, and encouraged, to support our public service activities. Please contact the Public Service Chairperson directly or ask a club officer for further information.

Repeater Usage Guidelines

The repeater has a primary input frequency of 146.07 Mhz and output is 146.67. The output PL tone is 107.2.

Introduction

The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club at present has repeaters on the 146, 224 and 449 MHz bands. The remainder of this guide deals with the use of BARC repeaters. Due to the geographical locations of the repeaters, many people are able to monitor our transmissions. It therefore behooves us to use the repeaters in such a manner that our machines will continue to be an example of good operating procedures. In order to encourage a high standard of operating practice on the BARC repeaters, the following is to be used as general guidelines for use of the repeaters.

The FCC requires control stations to monitor the repeaters to insure compliance with the rules. We would not like to hear illegal or sloppy

operating habits on our repeaters, because such problems could cause FCC actions against us or the Amateur Radio Service in general. Please remember how close Baltimore is to Washington, DC. The control stations will knock down the repeater when questionable action occurs. The policy is to act first and ask question later. In most cases, we will try to contact stations off-the-air, rather than discuss any difficulties over the repeaters.

In general, the club does not desire to be restrictive about how the repeaters are used. Repeaters are part of amateur radio, and ham radio is a hobby and should be FUN. Being overly restrictive can only reduce the pleasure we all get from operating on the amateur frequencies. However, common sense requires that some basic guidelines be followed. Much has been said about some repeaters being "ragchew" and others being "calling" repeaters. Our repeaters fit into neither of these extremes. The most important thing to remember is common courtesy. There are literally hundreds of hams using our repeaters; please keep this in mind. Any individual who "hogs" a repeater channel for hours on end and prevents other hams from using the machine is robbing other hams from enjoying the same communication privileges he is exercising. Standing by for breakers, unfortunately, is not always sufficient to alleviate the problem. Most repeaters users are not going to break into a conversation merely to start a different casual conversation with someone else. If a group desires to conduct a long discussion over the air, a recommended procedure would be to chat for 10 minutes or so, then to clear of the repeater for five minutes. If no one else uses the repeater in that time, then feel free to continue for a little while. Have some regard for others who may desire to chat with someone other than yourself. Surely the time of day has a lot of influence on how long someone should chat; please use good judgment on how you would feel were you listening and not chatting.

Club officials do not wish to set down rules and regulations stating how long anyone may talk, given various time periods. Keep the busy hours in mind, and let's not categorize the repeaters as "ragchew" or "calling", but merely as repeaters. Be friendly, courteous, and remember that we are all in this hobby for its enjoyment together. Part 97.87 of the FCC regulations state that an amateur station shall be identified with its call sign at the end of a QSO and at intervals not to exceed 10 minutes during the QSO.

The practice of transmitting the call signs of one or both stations each time you begin or end a single transmission is unnecessary, time consuming and tedious. We need to conserve our valuable resources;

air time. Under all circumstances, IDENTIFY YOURSELF whenever you transmit, even if it is only a "kerchunk".

FCC regulations prohibit the transmission of: obscene, false, unidentified or interfering transmissions or signals. BARC has an active program for locating stations intentionally transmitting such garbage. Our policy is that offenders shall not be warned and all information shall be turned over to the appropriate agency, such as the FCC, for enforcement. When hearing such illegal transmissions the best policy to follow is to refrain from transmitting unless informed otherwise. Any tracking information gained is always solicited and appreciated, and should be given to the repeater committee chairman or other club officer.

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL)

The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club is affiliated with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). The ARRL is a worldwide organization that was created by hams to support ham radio. Besides publishing it's journal QST, the premier amateur radio magazine, ARRL provides technical assistance, dispute resolution, educational programs and many other services. In addition, the ARRL supervises the Amateur Radio Emergency Services, (ARES), a part of the ARRL Field Services. ARRL may be reached at www.arrl.org or at 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club has been affiliated with the ARRL for over 50 years and is currently a special services club with the league.

Field Day

The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club participates in Field Day, an annual contest which demonstrates the club's member's abilities to set up amateur stations and operate under emergency conditions, without the use of commercial power. Field Day is held each year on the fourth full weekend of June. Actual operation begins at 2PM Saturday until 2PM Sunday. All modes of communications are used, i.e. voice, Morse Code, PSK and RTTY. Should the need arise, the club is prepared to provide emergency communications on a variety of frequencies and in a timely manner. Emergency communications provision is one way in which amateur radio can justify the use of the airwaves. Amateur radio emergency communications have proven to be of great help in many of this country's most needy times.

Emergency Service

The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club has a long history of strong support for the emergency communications component of public service. Because the club serves an urban/metropolitan area, there are many opportunities locally to serve in this capacity. Baltimore has two local Emergency Operations Centers (EOC's; command and control centers which are activated in times of disaster); one for Baltimore County and one for Baltimore City. Additionally, Baltimore hosts two more EOC's of regional importance. The state command-and-control center, Maryland Emergency management Agency (MEMA) located in northwest Baltimore County and the Central Maryland Chapter of the American Red Cross (which is a regional chapter for disaster relief in the two-state area of Maryland and Delaware) has its EOC in northwestern Baltimore City.

Each of the governmental agencies (Baltimore County and Baltimore City, and MEMA) has, as authorized by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) under part 97.407 of the CFR, formed its own RACES group, each with its own Races officer. These groups of volunteer amateur radio operators each serve their own respective homeland defense emergency management agencies under direction of their Races Officer. Regional RACES activities are coordinated state-wide on a voluntary basis by Section Management volunteers of the Maryland-DC Section of the ARRL. RACES activities include monthly exercises, occasional half-day or day-long activations for major drills or exercises and emergency responses

There are two additional components of the emergency service organization in the Baltimore area, both of which are functions of the ARRL Field Services Organization. The first is ARES which consists of amateur Radio operators who have registered their qualifications and equipment for volunteer service when disaster strikes. ARES serves all the "clients" other than Emergency Management/Homeland Defense agencies, including the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, local hospitals, airports and so on. Training for emergency service is an important function of ARES, and in the MDC Section there is an understanding that training of ARES and RACES volunteers know how to properly handle traffic and net procedures.

The second League Field Service component of the emergency response plan is the National Traffic System (NTS). NTS volunteers handle formal messages (radiograms), carrying birthday greetings, holiday messages, and similar "traffic" on a daily basis as a public

service. In addition to its routine, daily, operations, the NTS can be activated to provide round-the-clock emergency communications support in the event of a disaster. All of these components would be brought into play during a disaster.

As an ARRL-affiliated club, the Baltimore Amateur Radio Club has over the years provided leadership and support for emergency service communications activities in the Baltimore metropolitan area. Many club members have served over the years, and continue to serve.

If interested please contact the Emergency Coordinator or RACES officer for your area.

Logging and Contest Software Web Sites

AC6V	http://ac6v.com
Buckmaster	http://buck.com
Century Club Logger	http://www.alpinesoft.com/ascenturyclublogger.html
CT	http://k1ea.com
DXSoft	http://www.dxsoft.com
Easylog	http://easylog.com
E-QSL	http://egsl.cc
Ham Radio Deluxe	http://www.ham-radio-deluxe.com
LOTW	http://www.arrl.org/lotw
Morse Cose	http://www.nu-ware.com
N1MM	http://pages.cihome.net/n1mm
N3FJP	http://www.n3fjp.com
Net Logger	http://netlogger.org
QSL Wizard	http://www.alpinesoft.com/agslizard.html
TRLOG	http://trilog.com
Write Log	http://www.writelog.com

Web Sites Of General Interest

Amateur Radio News Line	http://arnewsline.org
ARRL	http://www.arrl.org
ARRL Atlantic Division	http://www.altdiv.org
ARRL MDC Section Page	http://www.arrl.mdc.net
Echolink	http://www.echolink.org
E-Ham	http://www.eham.net
FCC ULS	http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm
IRLP	http://www.irip.net
QRZ	http://www.qrz.com
QSO Net	http://qsonet.com
QTH	http://www.qth.com
Special Event 1X1 Calls	http://1x1callsigns.org
Vanity Calls Sign Look UP	http://vanityhq.com

Manufacturers and Dealers Web Sites

AES	http://www.aesham.com
Alinco	http://alinco.com
Ameritron	http://www.ameritron.com
Astron	http://www.astroncorp.com
Austin Amateur Radio	http://www.aaradio.com
Barker-Williamson	http://bwantennas.com
Belden	http://belden.com
B-Square	http://b-squareengineering.com
Buddipole	http://buddipole.com
Burghardt	http://www.burghardt-amateur.com
Butternut	http://bencher.com
Buxcomm	http://www.packetradio.com
Cable Experts	http://www.cablexperts.com
Cedar City Sales	http://www.cedarcitysales.com
Comet Antennas	http://cometantenna.com
Cushcraft Antennas	http://cushcraft.com
Diamond Antennas	http://rfparts.com
DX Engineering	http://dxengineering.com
Elecraft	http://www.elecraft.com
EZ-Hang	http://ezhang.com
Flexradio	http://www.flexradio.com
Force 12	http://force12inc.com
Gap	http://gapantenna.com
GLA Antennas	http://www.texasbugcatcher.com
Glen Martin Engineering	http://www.glenmartin.com
Ham Radio Outlet	http://www.hamradio.com
Ham Station	http://www.hamstation.com
Hamsticks	http://www.hamstick.com
Heil Sound	http://heilsound.com
Hi-Q Antennas	http://hiqantenna.com
Hustler Antennas	http://dxengineering.com
HY-Gain	http://www.hy-gain.com
Icom	http://icomamerica.com
Jun's Electronics	http://www.juns.com
K1CRA	http://www.k1cra.com
Kenwood	http://kenwood.net

KJI Electronics	http://www.kjielelectronics.com
Larsen	http://www.larsen-antennas.com
LDG	http://ldgelectronics.com
Lentini Communications	http://www.lentinicom.com
Memphis Amateur Electronics	http://www.memphisamateur.com
MFJ	http://mfjenterprises.com
Mirage	http://mirageamp.com
Mosely	http://www.mosely-electronics.com
MZ	http://www.mzinc.com
Norms Rotor Service	http://www.rotorservice.com
Outbacker	http://www.outbacker.com.au
Palstar	http://palstar.com/palmain.htm
Par Electronics	http://www.parelectronics.com/index.html
Polyphaser Corp	http://www.polyphaser.com
Quick Silver	http://www.qsradio.com
R&L Electronics	http://www.randl.com
Radio Works	http://www.radioworks.com
Radioware	http://www.radioware.com
Radiowavz	http://www.radiowavz.com/index.htm
RF Connection	http://www.rfc.com
RLM Electronics	http://www.rlm-electronics.com
SGC	http://sgcworld.com
SGC	http://www.sgcworld.com
Sign Man Of Baton Rouge	http://www.thesignman.com
Smiley Antennas	http://smileyantenna.com
Solder-It	http://www.solder-it.com
Tar Heel	http://www.tarheelantennas.com
Telewave	http://telewave.com/index.html
Ten-Tec	http://tentec.com
Texas Tower	http://www.texastowers.com
Timewave	http://www.timewave.com
Universal Radio	http://www.universal-radio.com/index.html
Vectronics	http://www.vectronics.com
Vibroplex	http://www.vibroplex.com
VIS Radio	http://visradio.com
WB0W	http://www.wb0w.com
West Mountain Radio	http://
Yaesu	www.westmountainradio.com
	http://yaesu.com