



The Compass!

Official Newsletter of the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club, INC.

August 2018

Volume 46

#8

Next General Membership Meeting: Thurs., Aug. 30th, 8 PM

• **GSBARC Free Ham Radio License Classes Will Resume September 4th**

Inside this issue:

- 2018 Cross Bay Swim Pictures
- KB6NU's Guest Column
- The Squirrel Cage (a column)
- Upcoming Events:
 - Fire Island Lighthouse Weekend August 18th & 19th



Long Island's Friendliest Amateur Radio Club!

President's Message



July was a real busy month for our great club from the Maggie Fischer Cross Bay Swim the USS San Diego Special Event Station. I hope you had the opportunity to operate as W2NMY.

Going back to the Maggie Fischer Cross Bay Swim, I want to thank Lou NO2C for the awesome job of coordinating the amateur radio end of the event. Also to Mike KC2SYF for assisting with the pre-set up and testing they worked on. Net control was the strongest it ever was. Thank you to all the operators who were there and gave a hand the day of the swim. I hope you had a great time. As you all know, we are always looking out to see what we can improve on. We have noticed over the last few years that laptops take up a lot of room in the trailer -- also on the north end during Field Day. We are looking into updating our IT situation. We are looking to get 8 Intel NUIC computers with solid state drives and 8 gigs of RAM, a fast stable processor and 24-inch LED monitors with keyborads and mice. The nice thing about these is they mount on the back of the monitor. The cost, of course, is not small. I am reaching out to see if we can possibly get a donation or a grant to cover this cost for us all to enjoy. Why? It will improve our set up time in any situation.

I also want to thank DX Engineering's Tim Duffy K3LR for his Skype presentation on his contest station during our July 26 meeting. Hope everyone enjoyed it.

The Fire Island Lighthouse activation is this month for International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. I hope to see a very large turnout. Please bring a chair, some sunscreen and something to drink. We will be running two stations, 20 and 40 meters, and we hope to have a lot of operators come down and get on the air from this great location.

Speaking of the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, Caryn KD2GUT tells us that Kevin, one of the organizers of this worldwide event, is throwing a challenge

out there to anyone to cares to jump at taking a guess. Kevin asks everyone to take a good look at the lantern in the logo used for the ILLW. Recognize it? Here's a hint, Kevin says: It's for a lighthouse in the U.S.

I hope everyone is having a great summer as you know the two zombies WB2QGZ and myself are always busy working crazy hours with very little sleep -- but we manage to do it and still have some fun:

So here are the activities coming up:

- August 18th and 19th Activation of the Fire Island Lighthouse for ILLW
- August 30th - General meeting with Ria Jairam N2RJ as our guest speaker
- September 9th - Babylon Village fair
- September 27th—Mike Lisenco N2YBB will be our guest speaker and it is also club officer nomination night
- October 28th - Suffolk County marathon
- October 25th – November 3rd - Hudson awards lunch need stuff for our annual mystery box.
- November 10th - Hope for the Warrior Run (we will need a large number of operators for this)

I cannot stress enough the importance of being ready if you are involved in any emergency communications. You all know too well what happens if your stuff doesn't work. Antenna maintenance is one of the most import things you can do to ensure that you will be heard. Another thing to practice is the key-up; wait then speak a number of times. You might hear only the suffix of a call. Just remember to key-up, wait 2 seconds then speak calmly. That will help everyone on the frequency.

Hey remember Joe KD2GAG? Get a load of this! He had been cast in a YouTube series as he announced on Facebook:

[Joe Schibani Jr.](#)

I am pleased to announce that I have been casted to play the role of the NJ Mafia Boss for the new YouTube Series "Mafia War Chronicles." The name of the boss is Paulie "BabyFace" Cavallo. Oh, and I am also the Assistant Director as well!

I wanted to thank the Executive producer [Jerry Dileo](#) and Director [Richard Mondacci Jr.](#) for giving this awesome opportunity. I'm looking forward to an awesome 3 seasons! We are going to have a blast on the set!

Please check out the Official Trailer. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3tGNbaMA5c>

<http://www.mafiawarchronicles.com/>

Continued on page 4

Get your free copy of *A Field Guide to Simple HF Dipoles*

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



A link to *A Field Guide to Simple HF Dipoles* (<http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/684938.pdf>) was posted to reddit recently, and I liked this document so much that I thought I would share it with you. It was originally written for the military, but is now available for free from the Defense Technical Information Center.

The preface to this document reads:

“Under project Agile, Stanford Research Institute has supplied several teams to assist operating personnel in improving the performance of field radio networks. In this work, it has been observed that U.S. military and civilian antenna manuals often contain misleading information regarding the operation of field antennas and tend to be overly complex. Consequently, this guide has been prepared to assist in training personnel concerned with the construction of simple HF antennas in the field.”

I must say that *A Field Guide to Simple HF Dipoles* does this very well. It not only explains how dipole antennas work, it also does a very good job of describing the basics of radio waves and propagation. And it does this without getting overly technical.

For example, below is Figure 10. It’s used to describe current flow in a dipole antenna.

The Field Guide reads:

“Electric current in a conductor consists of the flow of small particles called electrons. Figure 10(a) represents a dipole with electrons in it. When the transmitter is turned

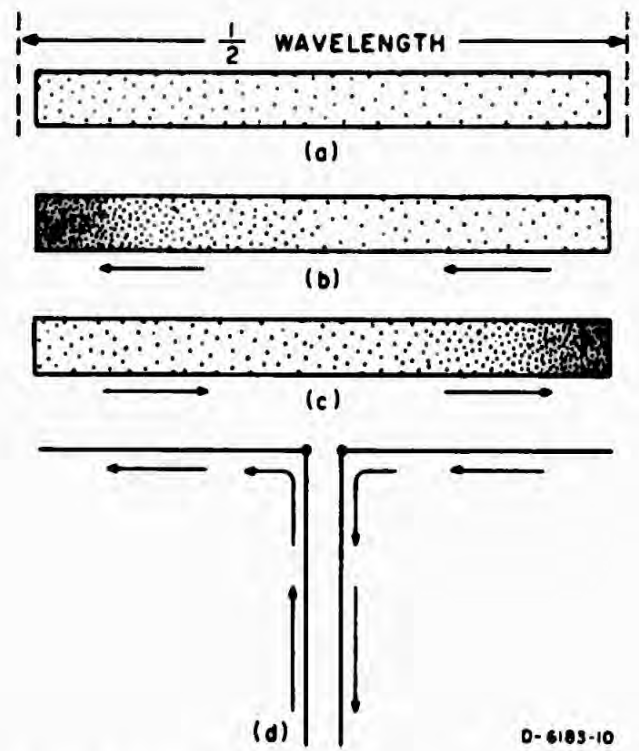


FIG. 10 CURRENT FLOW IN DIPOLE ANTENNA

off, the electrons distribute themselves evenly throughout the dipole, as shown. All electrons repel each other and try to get as far from each other as possible; that is how they achieve the uniform distribution show in Figure 10(a). When the transmitter is turned on, the electrons flow back and forth from end to end as shown in Figures 10(b) and 10(c). First the electrons flow to the left and crowded at one end as shown in Figure 10(b). Second, since the electrons repel each other, the push off to the right and get crowded together at the other end, as in Figure 10(c).”

It then uses this description to talk about voltage and current distribution along a dipole antenna:

“The difference between voltage (volts) and current (amperes) in a dipole is also illustrated by Figs. 10(b) and 10(c). You can see that the maximum flow of current is going to be in the middle of the dipole. An observer at the center of the dipole would see the electrons rush past, first one way and then the other. The center is the maximum current point. Very little current flows near the end of the dipole; in fact, at the extreme ends there is no current at all for there is no place for it to go. However, at the ends of the dipole, there is a great change of voltage; when the electrons are densely packed, this represents a negative voltages, and when there is a scarcity of electrons, it represents a positive voltage. Thus you can see that the voltage at each end swings alternately positive and and negative. An end of the dipole is a maximum voltage point.”

Continued on page 4

Inside the Squirrel Cage

by Caryn, KD2GUT



If you've ever volunteered for the Hope for the Warriors run, the Maggie Fischer Cross Bay Swim or the Suffolk County Marathon, you already know that ham radio is powered by a component you can't find in the DX Engineering catalogue or on the HRO product list: You won't even find it on a circuit board. It's the sound of many voices, operating in many modes, calling QRZ for a cause. This month, our club's activation of W2NMY honored the USS San Diego, the World War I ship that sank off the coast of Fire Island 100 years ago, following an explosion that's still the subject of unresolved debate.

Our operators honored the service of those who died, those missing and presumed dead and all those impacted by the tragedy when the ship took on water and succumbed to its fate. One century later, the facts of these brave souls' sacrifice was not lost on those who responded to our calls of QRZ and heard us talk about the Navy ship, its history and the six who perished on July 19, 1918.

Our contacts had their stories too: There was the Navy veteran in Virginia who wanted to talk about his father-in-law, a Pearl Harbor survivor. There was the Canadian whose fascination with shipwrecks led him to the hobby of diving. And then there was that one very hopeful QRP operator on the East Coast who was gleeful in his delusion that some miracle had occurred and he had actually made a contact, on less than 30 watts, into San Diego.

Thanks to the operators who answered the club's call by making their own calls this month, all 2,084 logged: John K2IZ, Howard WB2UZE, John W2HCB, Lou NO2C, Salli K2RYD, Mike KC2SYF, Phil W2UV, Walt W2TE, Frank WA2NDV, Bob K2TV and Tom KA2D. Public service isn't just about stepping up to help those who live among us; it's also about the extra effort we make to lift up the memory of those who have come before us. When we call CQ, we call their names too. 📻

President's Message... cont'd from page 2

Enjoy the rest of the summer around here it got a little crazier than normal with two new puppies running around. Yes I said "TWO." They are doing great; they've got a lot to learn but are getting there. Two black labs Summer and Maci – sisters from the same litter – lots of fun chasing them around.

73. John Melfi, W2HCB 📻

Simple HF Dipoles... continued from page 3

A Field Guide to Simple HF Dipoles is packed with all kinds of goodies like this. Download it (<http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/684938.pdf>) right now.


When he's not building dipoles or teaching ham radio classes, Dan blogs about amateur radio, writes exam study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides), and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him about your experiences with simple HF dipoles at at cwgeek@kb6nu.com. 📻



The Maggie Fischer Memorial Great South Bay Cross Bay Swim 2018

By Lou Maggio, NO2C



 SBARC was honored to supply communications support to the swim, both on land



and on the water with the Perimeter Boat GAB-SEA "All Hams on Deck"



One of the great things about our hobby of ham radio is the diversity of things we can participate in: We supply communications for parades, marathons, fund raisers and demonstrations.

Each one of us has an event that we find very compelling. In my case, it is the Maggie Fischer Swim. A little look into the history of the event will help you understand what makes people so passionate about it.

This year, John Melfi W2HCB, our club's president, asked me to coordinate the ham operators at the swim. I was very excited to have this opportunity, but my concern was that I do not speak "boat." Mike KC2SYF stepped up and offered to guide me through it. We were invited by Bob Fischer to the captain's meeting run by Morgan Mooney. The intensity of detail at the meeting just reinforced for me the importance of this event to the volunteers. I even learned what a flood tide was and how the swimmers would be affected.

Following the normal club process, I posted on the club's groups.io page some messages looking for volunteers, especially hams who would be willing to go on boats. Club members responded, and we soon had a full house. As people's situations changed and had to drop out, other hams stepped up to fill in.

Rumor has it that a new record was set on the Chicago-to-New York route, but that is just a rumor.

To illustrate the importance of the event, one of the hams that was going on a boat, Rick KC2RIL was brought in with a police escort!

We wanted to be sure our Net Control signal would overpower anyone doubling and would cover the area with a very strong signal. Mike and I worked out a setup using a 16-foot flagpole and an X50A stick. It was supported by a base that is held in place by the rear tire of my truck. Mike and Ben K2CPU came over and we tested the setup in my backyard. We were able to work simplex from Islip Terrace to Bob K2TV in Copiague.



Next up, the rig. John offered his Kenwood 50-watt dual bander to us. That -- coupled with the club's Honda generator -- gave us a very stable Net control station.

The plan was to set up a table with the club banner to publicize the club's involvement in this important event. That worked better than we planned. We had several people come over to see what we were about. Walter KA2CAQ became our spokesman and did a great job passing out information. Note for next year: We need to take literature, like K2TV suggested!

Continued on page 6...

Maggie Fischer... Continued from page 5...

Walter had come over from the lighthouse where he performed the important task of letting us know the race had begun and we were hanging out with Bob Fischer.



Starting Line at the Fire Island Lighthouse – Walter KA2CAQ, Leon KD2ONC and Bob K2ND

The hams on the control boats kept Net Control updated on swimmers.



**Control Boat One – Gary - N2ADC,
Control Boat Three – Rich – K2UPS**



**Control Boat 6 Rik – KC2RIL,
Finish Line – Eric – KD2GXN**

Sharing the Finish Line with Eric was ... The RACE Winner Christopher Arena– Note the new Record Time 1:38:59.64



Leon – KD2ONC, Rich – K2UPS, Salli – K2RYD, Gary – N2ADC and Lou – NO2C took pictures throughout. Click the below like to view them.

[Maggie Fischer 2018 Pictures](#)



The Great South Bay would like to thank Bob Fischer for allowing us to participate in this great event. 🙏





GSBARC is no longer using Yahoo Groups due to issues with the platform. We have transferred everyone over to <https://groups.io/>

If you were a member of any of the Yahoo groups just sign up for a free groups.io account and you will have access to the new groups. [Groups.io](https://groups.io/) has most of the same features as the Yahoo groups and some additional ones as well, like the ability to have live chats. ☺

Club Apparel

Want a shirt, jacket, hat, sweatshirt or t-shirt with a Great South Bay club logo? We now use *Mr. Shirt*, located at 80 East Montauk Hwy in Lindenhurst (www.mrshirt.com). Now you can get color matched backgrounds on your logo too. Check them out... ☺

ARES/RACES Information

- Div. 1—Town of Babylon ARES/RACES
Net: 146.685/R, Mondays 8:15 PM
EC/RO: John Melfi, W2HCB, (631) 669-6321
- Div. 2—Town of Huntington ARES/RACES
Net: 147.210 MHz +600/ PL 136.5,
Mondays 7:00 PM
EC/RO Steven W. Hines, N2PQJ,
<http://www.huntingtonnyaresraces.org/>
- Div. 3—Town of Islip ARES/RACES
Mondays 8:30 PM
EC/RO: John J Blowsky, KB2SCS, 631-467-2410
- Div. 4—Town of Smithtown ARES/RACES
Net: 145.430 MHz, PL136.5, Mondays 7:30 PM
EC/RO: Rich Johnston, KC2TON, 631-872-4039
- Div. 5—Town of Brookhaven ARES/RACES
EC/RO: Ted Debowy, AC2IR, 631-751-6576
- Div. 6—Riverhead ARES/RACES
EC/RO: Steve Casco, W2SFC, 917-701-3919
- Div. 7—Southampton ARES/RACES
EC/RO: Removed & Currently Vacant
- Div. 8—Southold ARES/RACES
EC: Don Fisher, N2QHV, 631-765-2757
RO: Charles Burnham, K2GLP, 516-779-4983
- Div. 9—East Hampton ARES/RACES
EC/RO: Eddie Schnell, WZ2Y, 864-973-9250
- Div. 10—Shelter Island ARES/RACES
EC/RO: Vacant (Neal Raymond, N2QZA, SK)

Suffolk County

ARES/RACES Net:

Mondays 2100 Local—145.330/R (136.5 PL)

Alternate Frequency—146.820 (136.5 PL)

New York State

RACES Net (HF)

Sundays 0900 Local, 3993.5 KHz LSB

FREE- Old Homebrew amplifier

Comes with two American made 572Bs. All original schematics 1961 QST. Needs repair of metering circuits--which I am no longer able to do. Impressive cabinet work. See photos K2OHK profile on QRZ.com.

Would happily GIVE to ham who would put it back on the air. —Ed, K2OHK 631 265 6463

2018 VE Session Dates

- August 25th
- September 22nd
- October 27th
- November 24th
- December 22nd

All sessions are at the Town of Babylon EOC at 10 a.m., located in the basement in the rear of town hall. Please bring photo ID, a copy and your original amateur radio license (if you have one), and any CSCE's you may have. Non programmable calculators are allowed. The exam fee is \$15 payable by cash or a check made out to "ARRL VEC".

Visit [FCC Universal Licensing System site](http://www.fcc.gov) to register for an FRN number to use on the paperwork.

The GSBARC Repeater List

- 146.685 W2GSB - shift 110.9 Hz Enc/Dec
- 223.860 W2GSB - shift 110.9 Hz Enc/Dec w/ ECHOLINK
- 223.860 - shift 156.7 Hz Enc/Dec Local use
- 440.850 W2GSB + shift 110.9 Hz Enc/Dec
- 446.775 KB2UR - shift 110.9 Hz Enc/Dec
- 927.3125 W2YMM - shift D606 Enc/Dec
- 440.250 W2TOB/B + shift DSTAR REF020A Babylon
- 445.725 WD2NY/B - shift DSTAR REF020A Selden

Grow Giant Vegetables with **MAGIC MANURE**, manufactured daily on the farm. 40- to 50-lb bags free for the taking, already bagged. Pick-up or Delivery to EOC available. References available upon request. Contact Salli at:

k2ryd@arrl.net.



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Club Name Badges

Club name badges are available from *The Sign Man* (www.thesignman.com) of Baton Rouge, LA.

The badges which are 1-3/4 in. x 3 in. If you visit *The Sign Man's* webpage you can order the badges by using a drop down selection on the orders page and clicking on "Great South Bay ARC—NY" ☺

