



THE COMPASS

Official Newsletter of the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club

August 2017

Volume 45

Issue #8

Upcoming Club Events

Next General Meeting:

**Thurs., Aug., 31st,
8 PM at the EOC**

Upcoming Special Events

Fire Island Lighthouse Weekend:

August 19th & 20th

GSBARC's FREE License Classes Tuesday nights 7-9:30 PM.

Next Technician Class starts Tuesday, September 5th, and will run for 11 weeks and be followed by an 11-week General class & 16-week Extra class.

Open Houses on Wednesday nights from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. and also Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m

Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gsbarc

Don't Miss the Fire Island Lighthouse Special Event August 19 & 20 during International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend

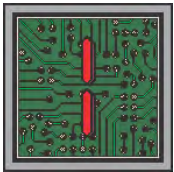


At the start of the Maggie Fischer X-Bay Swim-KA2CAQ

Inside this issue of The Compass...

- *Maggie Fischer Swim Pics*
- *K2LI Repeater changeover to WD2NY D-STAR*
- *Inside the Squirrel Cage*
- *KB6NU's Guest Column*
- *Park Fever is back!*

President's Message



would like to thank Bob K2TV and Kevin AB2ZI for running the July membership meeting. I unfortunately had an emergency service call out east in Speonk.

Traffic was a mess going eastbound as usual with the Hamptons weekenders plus the regular everyday commuters.

As most of you know, I work for a very big equipment company. We run all over from Long Island, New York City, New Jersey and points north—hundreds of miles a day.

Sometimes stuff like this happens and I am very grateful to have a very experienced executive board step in.

Since becoming the president of our great club, I have had times when I get stuck at work preventing me from getting to some meetings. It's nice to know all it takes is one phone call and it is covered. I was pleased to hear that the meeting went great and the vote on the Selden repeater was passed. Also the D-STAR repeater for Selden is ready. Pres, W2PW worked very hard getting it all ready and we decided to use the WD2NY call on it. The K2LI call is reserved for the analog repeater which we will eventually use again. At the board meeting, we got news of the D-STAR repeater's installation on Saturday August 5th thanks to Bill WB2QGZ and Pres, W2PW.

By the way, the D-STAR repeater frequency is the same as for K2LI. If you are on D-STAR, make the change in your radio and have fun. We are planning to put directions on the yahoo group on how to make the change.*

I would like to thank Tom N2MIG for once again taking care of the Cross Bay Swim. I know there was a problem and I would like to apologize to the operators who showed up and were left out. Believe me when I tell you this was not our fault in any way. I know you were there by 6 a.m. as requested but were left behind by the boats. I also know that the captains ran a net on marine frequency Channel 71 which is not supposed to be used for events like this. I don't why it happened -- but it did -- and I just want you all to know I was not happy about it. Hopefully this will get resolved for future Cross Bay Swims.

So, what else is going on? Well we have the Fire Island Lighthouse event on August 19th and 20th -- if you plan on attending, make sure you bring some important supplies with you. Bring a chair, sunscreen, snacks and something to drink. Walter KA2CAQ said the lighthouse staff is excited to have us there again we hope to have a big turnout. We are thinking of doing three stations and we plan on using the Icom 7100 radios.

We will also use N1MM for logging our contacts. Most of you who were at Field Day used N1MM and know how it works so we should have no issues.

Speaking of Field Day, all our information has been sent to the ARRL and in the fall they post the results. I hope you are excited to see it in QST to see how we did compared to the rest of the Field Day stations.

By the way, does your shack get messy? I know mine does with all the club stuff and Hope for the Warrior stuff. Not to mention when I do something I forget to put things back where they were. I am sure we have all been there. I've got an idea: let's have a messy shack photo contest!! Take a picture of your shack at its finest (meaning, of course, its messiest) and email it with pride to me at w2hcb@arrl.net no later than November 1. The winner gets.....well, it's a surprise.

Remember too we have the Babylon Village fair September 10th—a great event. Come and stroll around Argyle Park. All we do is observe the crowds and call in for medical aid or lost kid information.

I hope everyone's summer is going great. Some of us have kids headed to college soon. I know two of our younger members are headed off to college for the first time and we say "congratulations!" Jackie Fastenau KD2ENX is headed up to Binghamton and Gabbi Sartoretti KC2WUP is headed up to Geneseo. Our daughter Jennifer Melfi KC2TMA is headed back for her second year at Geneseo. Good luck to all of you in balancing out your studying and partying.

As you know, our daughter Kristi Melfi KC2TMB graduated from Geneseo and has joined the working world. Reality is settling in.

If you ever have any ideas on what the club should be doing, please let us know so we can look into it. We are always looking for new projects or events. If you have something you would like to share with the club on something you worked on or anything you did that is amateur radio-related, please let us know.

I will close with this: it is always fun to do special event stations and Field Day but we all need to do more public service events. Yes, I know many of you do but we need to get more operators involved in public service events. Especially new operators. "WHY?" you ask. Think about this: if we just stay in our shacks or only just do the fun events we are not in the public's eyes or in the eyes of public officials and services. So if we are not seen, we are forgotten about! So let's all make an effort to do a little more in the public service event department. Let's get new operators into getting on the air. If you hear a new call sign on the repeater, say hi and engage in a short QSO. There is nothing more frustrating for a new operator than to throw their call sign and get nothing in return. I think we should all do a little bit more to help everyone get more involved.

Here are some events coming up you can be part of:

- *September 10th–Babylon Village Fair*
- *September 16th–The Cow Harbor Run*
- *September 23rd–The Northwell Great South Bay Run*
- *October 20th–22nd–Jamboree on the Air*
- *October 29th–Suffolk County Marathon*
- *November 18th–Hope for The Warriors run.*

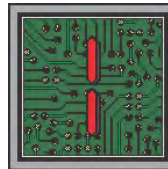
When you see the email reminders and request for help, please make an effort to help out. Also on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. the events get mentioned on our GSBARC info net. They are also mentioned on the county net on 145.330 at 9 p.m. I hope everyone will have a great rest of the summer. Anyone having antenna parties, now is the time to put them up or do some maintenance! Whatever you do for the rest of the summer have fun.

73. John Melfi, W2HCB 

**K2LI to WD2NY programming instructions are on page 5 of this issue.—Ed*

Inside the Squirrel Cage

by Caryn, KD2GUT



I've never been much for hero worship. I don't follow sports so it's of no consequence to me which gridiron great or titan of the tennis court endorses a soft drink, a pair of sneakers or even the best roll-on to arm your underarms with. I long ago dispensed with the childhood desire to morph into the only hero I ever had, Mel Brooks, after realizing that the transformation necessitated I conform to a few modest details – his receding hairline, among them—and a few immodest ones I won't mention.

Ham radio has changed all that. I've now become a camp follower for the likes of Marconi, Armstrong, Tesla and Morse. Their names quicken my pulse. I wish they could tweet, I wish I could follow them on Instagram and I want to be their Facebook friend. I want to put #hashtags in front of their names.

These men of radio were years before such social media and yet in many ways so much more beyond. Whether they created something, as Morse did, or discovered something, as Marconi did, they rose to be rock stars of radio generations yet to come. Or perhaps bedrock.

Unfortunately I cannot be among those in the mosh pit for any of their live performances. But today I can at least be in the pileup of grateful admirers. And I can take pilgrimages. I already have.

In May, I paid homage at the Voice of America Museum outside Dayton, Ohio, celebrating the power of shortwave as a means to transport truth, freedom and a bit of entertainment. There I paid tribute to Cincinnati inventor Powel Crosley whose crystal sets put affordable radios in the hands of America.

Continued on page 5

Ham Researcher To Investigate Effects Of Solar Eclipse

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



August 21 is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many in the U.S. to see a total eclipse. It's also an opportunity for a team of Virginia Tech researchers to study the effects of the eclipse on changes in the upper atmosphere that have an impact on HF propagation and the global positioning system (GPS). Backed by research funding from NASA and the National Science Foundation, the team is headed by Dr. Greg Earle, W4GDE.

The Virginia Tech team plans to gather data from a variety of sources, including radar systems, transceivers, satellites, ham radio, and GPS receivers, in order to analyze the effects of the solar eclipse on the conductive region of the atmosphere.

“Whether military radar, or consumer GPS signals, the eclipse is going to have effects on the medium that we would like to understand better, so that we can either mitigate them or use them to our advantage,” said Earle.

Here are a couple of links to news stories on the research team and the experiments:

- [Virginia Tech team prepares for special project during total solar eclipse](#)
- [Virginia Tech expert to study August solar eclipse effects on radar, ham radio, GPS](#)

Let's party!

In conjunction with the eclipse, the HamSCI and the ARRL are sponsoring the Solar Eclipse QSO Party. (SEQP). According to an article in the August 2017 issue of QST, the goal of the SEQP is to “flood the airwaves with contacts, all measured by the automated receiver networks of the Reverse Beacon Network, PSKReporter, and WSPRNet.” Once all the logs are in, researchers will analyze the data to see what effect the eclipse had on radio propagation.

A YouTube video of a presentation at Dayton on the SEQP can be found at:

<https://youtu.be/3EviY2Cuxpo?list=PLihPo8xWmo8-xDYAtP9BWX9QnhUoT7k4>


The SEQP will run from 1400Z—2200Z on Monday, August 21. This is well before the eclipse is due to begin on the West Coast. The reason it starts before the eclipse is to establish a baseline for radio propagation conditions.

SEQP organizers urge you to make as many contacts as you can on as many bands as you can operate. Like nearly every contest, contacts are not allowed on 60m, 30m, 17m, and 12m. CW, RTTY, and PSK31 are the preferred modes because automated receivers can record those contacts, but phone and other digital modes count, too.

An interesting twist to this contest is that, like Field Day, you can earn a number of bonus points, including:

- Operating outdoors (100 points)
- Operating in a public place (100 points)
- Operating a wide-band automated receiver at your station (100 points)

Hams have had a long history of supporting scientific research. They provided communications for some of the early polar explorations and listened for Sputnik as it flew overhead. The Solar Eclipse QSO Party continues this tradition, and it's going to be a lot of fun as well. Visit the [HamSCI website](#) for more information.

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, blogs about amateur radio at [KB6NU.Com](#), and is the author of the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides and the CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun With Morse Code.” You can reach him by emailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com. 



Path of Totality of the August 2017 Total Solar Eclipse across the United States

This month, closer to home, it's Nikola Tesla's turn. I'll be attending a screening in Stony Brook of "Tower to the People: Tesla's Dream at Wardencllyffe Continues."

Why chase this parade of pioneers posthumously? It's not like I can look forward to scoring an autograph, get a chance to say "thanks"—or even receive an endorsement for their favorite roll-on. I can't even shake their hands.

Still, every time I turn the dial on my rig or simply push one of its buttons, I know I'm making meaningful contact with one, if not all, of my heroes. Their genius hasn't receded and thankfully neither has my hairline. ☺

The K2LI Selden 440 Repeater is now the WD2NY D-STAR Machine

by Kevin AB2ZI

What you need to know to reprogram your radio(s):

The first thing you should know is that you will now need a D-STAR radio to use the repeater. There have been many issues with connectivity between Selden and Babylon with the link down more than it was up. Pres, W2PW, has "sold" the club his D-STAR repeater for \$1 and it is now installed at the Selden site. This is going to provide a much better extended range for GSBARC members to communicate across most of the Island.

WD2NY D-STAR was previously on 444.2375 MHz with a positive 5 MHz shift. This has now been changed to 445.725 MHz with a negative 5 MHz shift.

445.725 is the frequency that the K2LI analog repeater has been on. If you currently have a D-STAR radio with WD2NY programmed all you need to change is the receive frequency (from 444.2375 to 445.725 MHz) and leave all your D-STAR settings the same. Make sure your radio has automatic shift enabled (if that feature is available which it is on most of the higher end radios). Your radio should indicate the negative shift in that part of the band and you are good to go. If your radio is still showing positive for the shift, go in to your menu and change it to negative manually.

The D-STAR call menus for WD2NY are as follows:

- UR Call: CQCQCQ
- R1: WD2NY B
- R2: WD2NY G

73 and thanks to W2PW and WB2QGZ! ☺

Maggie Fischer Memorial X-Bay Swim Photos



Race Start Line - KA2CAQ.



Maggie Fischer Swim 2017

Maggie Fischer Swim Group Shot - NO2C



The Lost Boys - NO2C

Park Fever Is Building Again

By Lou Maggio, NO2C & Salli Rosato, K2RYD

As most of you know, several of us were very active chasing and activating NPOTA parks last year. While that was going on, an international organization, World Wide Flora & Fauna, was building its own program. There are some differences: activators submit the logs and the chasers do not have to do anything to qualify for their different level certificates. Once they reach the correct number of parks worked, the certificate is available for download. The certificates are free and are available in increments which means that once you reach a threshold, you qualify for the next one.

Because it is international, we get called by DX when we activate. One good thing is that most of the NPOTA contacts are already uploaded, so you start with credit for a lot of the parks you have already worked.

As far as popularity goes, NPOTA reached more than 1.3 million Qs during its year of operation. WWFF is currently at 9.3 million Qs. Salli and I are hearing more and more parks on every day. So join the fun. Go to the WWFF website and register. The site is <http://wwff.co/>. Activating is also a lot of fun and easy to do. The site has an announcement section where you can place your planned activations. I recommend you use their logging software FLE, which is available from their website. It is NOT N1MM and does not interface to the rig, but it does format the logs the way the WWFF likes to get them. They give special credit for "Park to Park" contacts and this program lets you log that.

Salli and I have activated several parks on Long Island and plan on doing more. At several parks, rangers, park police and park workers asked what we were doing. Salli and I came up with the following one page write-up that we bring and can hand out to anyone interested. I did get permission to use the club logo.

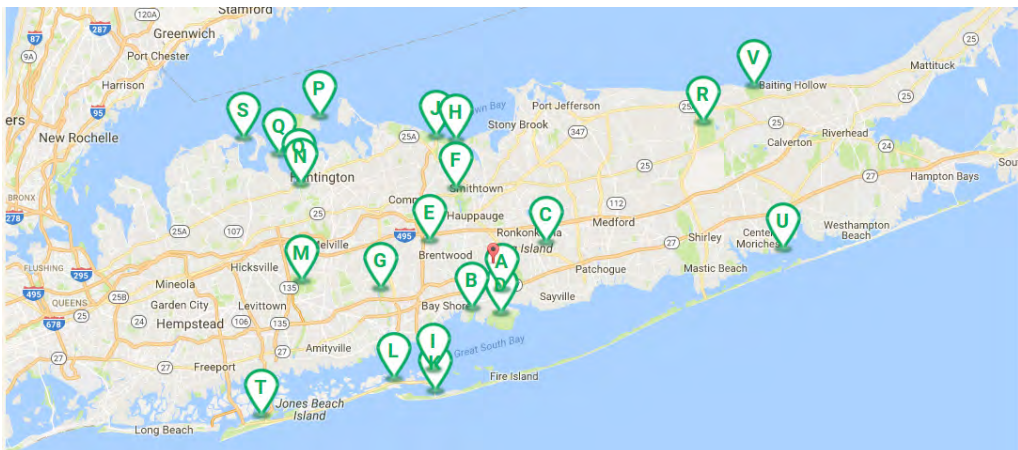
I will put a copy of the document in the Yahoo group files section, once we are done making changes to it.



World Wide Flora and Fauna in Amateur Radio

The WWFF program wants to draw attention to the importance of protecting nature, flora and fauna. In this spirit, amateur radio operators set up and operate their radio stations from designated nature parks and protected nature areas – generating attention for these areas while giving the ham radio community an interesting activity to contact. WWFF is an international and non-commercial program run by the coordinators of many national Flora and Fauna programs.

Parks on the Air – Long Island



A-KFF-2008 Bayard Cutting Arboretum	L-KFF-2128 Robert Moses
B-KFF-0478 Seatuck	M-KFF-2014 Bethpage
C-KFF-0481 Wertheim	N-KFF-2152 Trail View
D-KFF-2070 Heckscher	O-KFF-2038 Cold Spring Harbor
E-KFF-2018 Brentwood	P -KFF-0480 Target Rock
F-KFF-2024 Caleb Smith	Q-KFF-0856 Sagamore Hill
G-KFF-2013 Belmont Lake	R-KFF-2019 Brookhaven
H-KFF-2114 Nissequogue River	S-KFF-0477 Oyster Bay
I-KFF-2028 Captree	T-KFF-2086 Jones Beach
J-KFF-2147 Sunken Meadow	U-KFF-0679 Fire Island



The Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL-affiliated, special service club in the New York City/ Long Island Section of the Hudson Division.

Education:

- Technician classes start the first week in September.
- General classes start the second or third week in November.
- Extra classes start the first week in February
- All classes are held on Tuesday evenings starting at 7:30 PM.

Weekly Open House:

Saturdays – Noon to 2:00 PM. Weekly question and answer sessions plus specialized training and projects. Check on club’s repeater 146.685 with pl of 110.9 throughout the summer to see if there is an open house active.

Location of Meetings:

The location for all meetings and events listed above is the Babylon Town Hall, Emergency Operations Center, 200 E. Sunrise Hwy., in North Lindenhurst. The Emergency Operations Center is in the basement of Town Hall and access is via the rear of the building and down the stairs during the evenings and weekends. You must ring the top buzzer for entry.

For more information:

Web Site: <http://www.gsbarc.org>

Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 1356
West Babylon, NY 11704-0356



YAHOO!

GSBARC has a New Yahoo Group and the old one has been deleted

If you are a member in good standing and want to join the club's new Yahoo group, go to:

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/gsb-arc/info>

and click on "Join Group" Be sure to add a note when filling out your information with your call sign so we know who you are! ☺

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: Dennis O'Rourke, KB2ZWW, 631-728-5424

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: Nat Raynor, N2NEL, 631-324-3738

Div. 10—Shelter Island ARES/RACES

EC/RO: Neal Raymond, N2QZA, 631-749-9330

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

Notice: Beginning Sept. 7th, 2017 anyone convicted of a felony will be required to disclose the details on FCC form 605 and will be subject to further review before a license is granted.

2017 VE Session Dates

- August 26th
- September 23rd
- October 28th
- November 25th
- December 23rd

2018 VE Dates

- January 27
- February 24th
- March 24th
- April 28th
- May 26th
- June 16th
- July 28th
- 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.

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" ☺



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GSBARC Free License Class Schedule:

Technician: Sept. 5th thru Nov. 14th

Note: All Classes Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9:30 PM. Class text book is the current ARRL License Manual for that level. For more info email Kevin, AB2ZI at kmorgan6@optonline.net