



# The Compass!

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

December 2018

Volume 46

#12

**Next General Membership Meeting: Thurs., Jan. 31st, 8 PM**

**• GSBARC Free General Ham Radio License Classes Currently Running: Tuesday nights, 7-9:30 PM**



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**Long Island's Friendliest Amateur Radio Club!**

# President's Message



I hope you had an enjoyable Thanksgiving with family and friends. Our QTH was busy with all kinds of fun from going to the Queen movie "Bohemian Rhapsody" -- saw it twice, yes twice! Why? Well KC2TMA wanted to see it so we went again. We had a blast from the movies then going out with the kids while Jenifer was home. By the way her cooking was out of this world. Now she is back up at Geneseo. As we start off the month of December I would once again like to thank the membership for all their support for the executive board and directors. As president of our great club I often look back to see where we were when I first got elected president. We have all done a tremendous job. Think back to where we were before all the great things we now have. Just look at our club's trailer. It took a lot of work. To the crew that has been right there with me working on the trailer I thank you all very much. Another marvelous aspect of our club is that we have two HF stations ready -- always. Isn't it great to come to an open house and be able to play HF if you don't have a setup at your home QTH for whatever reason? We always look for new ways to improve our club so if you have any ideas please let us know. Did a lot of work to get the Fire Fighter ship on the air as W2LCW. If you missed it -- no worries, they will activate again soon. We are looking to take part in Winter Field Day again. This time we would be doing it outside we will be discussing this at our December meeting.

Ham Radio University will be on [Saturday, Jan. 5](#), and we would love to see a large GSBARC turnout. There are always a lot of great forums and you get to meet new people as well as catch up with the ones we have not seen in a while. I would like to take this time to congratulate Ria Jairam N2RJ on becoming the new elected Hudson director. She will be at Ham Radio University for you all to meet. I would also like to thank Mike Lisenco for his six years of service and dedication to the amateur radio community and fighting for antenna rights and other matters. Mike thank you! As we get ready for 2019 I hope all your antennas are in great shape and your gear is ready to get on the air for an emergency, public service event or for that DX call or

special event station or contest. Whatever you do play with -- have fun. Keep this in mind: If you need help with your station or antennas or you are planning an antenna install let us know. We have a great antenna crew that would love to help you from the planning and installation and even testing everything when done. If you can help out the club with anything, please let us know what you are good at and would like to help with. We are always in need of help for events and contests as well as helping other operators out when needed. Send us an email at [info@gsbarc.org](mailto:info@gsbarc.org) to let us know how you can help the club.

As we look into the future of our great club with all the things we have going on -- from repeater and trailer upgrades -- I would like to thank the members who have donated so much time and funds for getting the jobs done. Many of you don't know how much work goes into all the nice things we have and if it wasn't for some members donating money earmarked for projects they would not get done at all. As we continue to grow we have become a force to reckon with during Field Day. Once again we took first place in the 6F category and third overall in the Hudson Division. The shelter crew did an awesome job. Thank you for all the donated gas for the generators and to K2BBQ who once again knocked it out of the park to keep us well-fed. I would also like to thank my wife for once again picking up lunch for the setup crew for 10 years now and putting up with all the craziness of Field Day. Let's start talking about how we can improve anything for the site for 2019.

At our general meeting we will be voting on some proposed amendments to our bylaws. As we continue to grow our club footprint and having to maintain our repeater equipment our annual budget has gone up from when our club first started. If you are a member you will be getting the proposed amendments along with this newsletter. We hope to see you at the general meeting on December 27th to cast your vote on the amendments.

Are you dropping hints for your better half for that new Icom D-STAR radio like an ID5100 or ID-51A Plus or that new Kenwood HT the TH-D74 or an Open Spot 2? Maybe a new HF rig like an Icom IC 7610 or maybe an IC 9100? By the way if you are into satellites this is a great radio. The club has one and it works great. One thing I can tell you is that from owning many brands of radios there is a difference in quality and performance. Real radios cost more money. If you can swing it, you should save some money and buy a better-quality radio. You will be much happier with the performance. One thing to consider is that an HT is really not a good choice as a mobile radio. Trust me: I did it when I first started. It was not what I thought it would be. It was very short-range and I got a lot of complaints about noisy signals from my HT. Then I bought my first mobile radio and wow what a difference. I used a mag-mount antenna on the top of my first pickup truck and everything worked great. Then I got a new truck and went back to the door mount. It worked great lasted about four years. Then I had to replace it twice. I drilled a hole in the roof -- that was the best antenna situation ever. So here I am again. I replaced the old truck with new one, but I leased it so no holes in the roof for me! Back to the

door mount. The setup seems to be working great so far and it comes off with no issues. So use an HT for portable use and not in an automobile.

As far as an HF station, your radio is only as good as your antenna system so do not buy a \$10,000 radio if you can't put up a good antenna for it. You will be truly disappointed. I learned and what a difference. Although I don't get to operate as much as I like it is good to know that my antenna is ready and working great when I get the time.

One last thing when buying a new radio: I strongly recommend buying the programming software and cable for the radio you buy. Trust me – it makes a big difference. I also suggest using the RT Systems software only. From my own experience, I have found it makes setting up a radio a lot easier.

To all of you with younger kids or grandkids do not forget about the Santa Claus special event station on 3.916. Every year they give good little boys and girls a chance to talk to Santa at the North Pole! It is a magical experience on amateur radio! The Santa Net is on the air every night, November 23rd through December 24th at 7:30PM central time. To participate in the Santa Net, just have the kids prepared to tell Santa their top two to three gift wishes.

To be a pre-net check in please email [KE5GGY@gmail.com](mailto:KE5GGY@gmail.com) – the net starts at 7:00 pm central time.

Another fun event for the holiday season is the Twelve Days of Christmas event on the HF bands with many of our club members having December birthdays going on the air. The event was started by Salli K2RYD and she has been so excited about this event so please look for them on the HF bands. Also she needs operators please email her at [k2ryd@arrl.net](mailto:k2ryd@arrl.net) if you can operate She has 1x1 Special call signs for the event so let's make this a great event.

### First Annual Twelve Days of Christmas - Special Event

Salli, K2RYD, is looking for volunteers to operate using the 12 1x1 call signs she has reserved. The operation will be SSB.

You can operate anytime from Dec 14th to Dec 25th.

Salli will assign you the calls to use via email. All we would like is the total contacts made each day

emailed to Salli, [K2RYD@ARRL.NET](mailto:K2RYD@ARRL.NET) so we can be sure all calls are represented. Please confirm you can participate by emailing Salli, [K2RYD@ARRL.NET](mailto:K2RYD@ARRL.NET)

The more operators the merrier! We have plenty of calls and bands to go around.

On the final day of this event, Christmas Day, we are having a Christmas Birthday Special Event station hosted by Lou N02C and Caryn KD2GUT in honor of their mutual birthdays. All hams around the world –

and especially those locally – are welcome to listen for them calling “QRZ.” Frequencies will be posted at a later date.

Are you looking to learn or improve your CW skills? Check out the Long Island CW club at [www.Longislandcwclub.org](http://www.Longislandcwclub.org) started by Howard WB2UZE and Rich K2UPS. They have a great program for teaching and brushing up on your CW skills via the internet with beginner, intermediate and advanced platforms. They also provide live on-the-air QSO training sessions for all levels of proficiency. Together with GSBARC members they also do special event stations and always have a great time.

We are talking about another Winter Night Out in January. We had a poll on the [groups.io](http://groups.io) page and the results are in 98.8 in favor for La Famiglia in Babylon Village. We will set a date and post the price per person and send out a mass email to all our members as soon as we set the date. It will be a Saturday night. We have held two Winter Nights Out there and the response to returning was loud and clear: great food and not to mention plenty of food as well. There will be door prizes once again so I hope we get a large turnout for a fun night out with our YLs.

Once again Ham Radio University will be on January 5th -- please put in your calendar. It is a full day of learning, sharing and catching up It is at LIU/POST Hillwood Commons Student Center 720 Northern Boulevard in Brookville. The keynote speaker is Howard Michel WB2ITX the new ARRL chief executive officer. We hope to see a large GSBARC turnout for this great event. Some of our members are forum moderators check them out: Satellite for beginners Frank WA2NDV, Intro to VHF/UHF Bill WB2QGZ, ALL things Digital Pres W2PW. Are you an Extra class VE? If so there is a VE session from 1:30pm till 3:20pm hope to see you all there.

A good gift for the holidays is a club shirt with your call sign on it. Stop by Viking also known as [www.mrshirt.com](http://www.mrshirt.com)

They are located in Lindenhurst at 80 East Montauk Highway. They have all our artwork on file and they do a great job.

I wish all our members and friends around the world a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Festivus, Solstice, Yule, Pancha Ganapati, Malanka, Malkh and Dies Natalis Solis Invicti or whatever you celebrate with your families. I hope you all have a great time with all your friends and families throughout the holiday season.

73. John Melfi. W27CB ☺

# Activating the Fireboat "Fire Fighter"

By Howard Bernstein, WB2UZE



We had a very nice day on Nov. 17, 2018 in which a group of hams from the Long Island CW Club were able to activate the museum fireboat "Fire Fighter" located in Greenport. Fire Fighter is a living and fully functioning example of the "blood and guts" era of FDNY firefighting in New York Harbor. Present for nearly every maritime emergency in New York City's history during her time in service from 1938 to 2010 with the FDNY, Fire Fighter has seen both herself and her crew decorated for valor more times than any other fireboat. Her roles in some of the 50 major multi-alarm fires she battled during her career have become the stuff of legend among the marine community.

The weather was pleasant, company good and we had a scenic setup right in the wheel house of the boat. Charlie Ritchie, the boat's owner, was very accommodating and we were able to place the antennas and run cables without restrictions. We had the following equipment:

KX3 with 100w linear to 30ft Jackite pole vertical on CW (photo of Rich K2UPS setting up antenna)

IC-7100 100w with a Chameleon vertical on SSB (photo of antenna, with clover leaf rings, on top deck of boat)

Band conditions were actually OK yet there were not many hams answering our CQs even though the reverse beacons were copying us strongly. So on CW we hunted and SSB was able to generate some calls. We totaled 40 QSOs, yet we reached Europe, South America, Caribbean and the West Coast with ease.

We were asked to pass a Radiogram by member Jon K2KKH to his son N1ZZZ/mm via K6KPH in California (the only remaining vintage ship-to-shore NA station) and we did QSO KPH but unfortunately their op at the time was not receiving us well enough for traffic.

We stayed until 4 p.m. and felt like staying longer but since we were occupying the entire wheelhouse, decided to

call it a day. Conditions on 40m were getting much better by the time we broke down.

The photos of the day include a cute one of Iggy the cat jumping up on the SSB table near the computer to make a "CAT cable" (my joke at the time, sorry).

We would like to thank the following LI CW Club members who came out for the day:

Karen W2ABK

Peter AA2VG

Bob WB2ICQ

Gary KE2YK and friend Nehal N3HAL

Bill W2IIT


Lou NO2C and Salli K2RYD who took the lead on the setup of the equipment. We can always depend on Lou and Salli to be there for portable events with their gear.

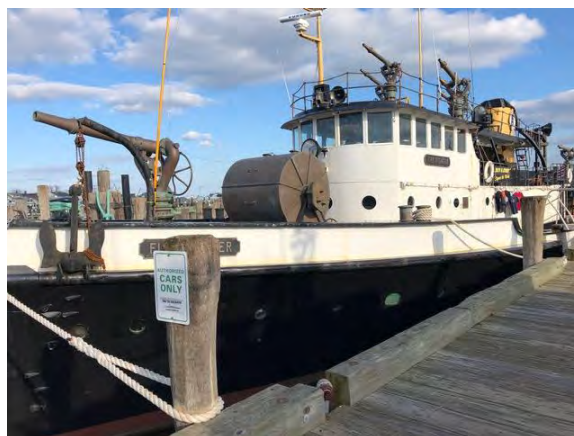
Rich K2UPS who at the last minute got all his gear together as Mike KC2SYF, our other dependable portable op, unfortunately was ill and could not make it with his gear.

Also a special thank-you to John Melfi W2HCB, GSB president, who loaned us the bandpass filters which are an essential part of these types of operations. John and GSB are always very supportive of the LI CW Club which is very much appreciated.

We put together a donation of \$160 for the boat and on top of this Karen, Lou and Salli and later John Melfi bought Fire Fighter T-shirts. Bill also gave a separate donation from his family.

So all in all the day was a lot of fun and very unique. We have asked Charlie if we can do Museum Ships Weekend in early June and if the boat is there, its a go (they might be in CT). We are welcome any time.

Short Video of the activation: Here is a link to our CW club file and look under "Fireboat photos" and the video is there: <https://tinyurl.com/CW-CLUB-FILES> 





**FIRE FIGHTER**  
HAS BEEN DESIGNATED A  
**NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK**

THIS VESSEL POSSESSES NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE  
IN COMMEMORATING THE HISTORY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DESIGNED BY NAVAL ARCHITECT WILLIAM FRANCIS GIBBS  
AND BUILT BY THE UNITED SHIPYARDS OF STATEN ISLAND  
IN 1938, FIRE FIGHTER SERVED NEW YORK HARBOR FOR  
MORE THAN SEVENTY YEARS. THE MOST POWERFUL  
FIREBOAT OF ITS TIME, IT FOUGHT THE S.S. NORMANDIE  
FIRE IN 1942 AND THE SEA WITCH/ESSO BRUSSELS FIRE IN  
1973. LATER IN ITS SERVICE LIFE, IT PUMPED WATER TO  
THE WORLD TRADE CENTER SITE AFTER THE 2001 ATTACK.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
DESIGNATED 1989



# Inside the Squirrel Cage

by Caryn, KD2GUT



If there is a rite of passage for everything, I suppose I could say my first rite of amateur radio passage came the day I passed my Tech exam. I advanced to General a few weeks later and my first QSO on HF had me baptized by electromagnetic waves: contact with Poland on 10 meters. My modest shack grew, radio by radio, and likewise, so did the entries in my log – a few more rites of passage: my expansion into PSK-31, my first pileups doing special event stations. Then came Ham Radio University, two Hamventions in Dayton, a few GSBARC Field Days, Lighthouse activations and public service events and my leap into DMR.

But I'm still a newbie. So the rites of passage keep coming. The latest one, however, took me by surprise just a few weeks ago. It arrived with a sickening “KERTHWHACK” at about 8 p.m. one mid-November evening when I had taken the night off from work and we were having an unseasonably early snowfall. The house shook – or maybe those were my molars registering on the Richter scale. A glance outside showed a gargantuan trunk-like branch from a very old evergreen on the northwest corner of the property had surrendered its grip on reality: The combination of wind and dense, heavy snowfall severed its already tenuous connection to the aging tree itself and the massive limb fell with the house in its sights.

I ran to the front door, afraid to open it. My roof, it turns out, was just fine: A heroic Leland Cypress had sacrificed its life by throwing itself in front of the errant limb. My arboreal savior had cushioned the 3-ton limb's freefall enroute to the roofline. But never mind the roof: In the darkness, my eyes were already scanning beyond. “MY ANTENNA! MY MAST!” My dual-band antenna, my connection to the UHF, VHF, IRLP, EchoLink, DMR universe and beyond had also been spared, as I learned the next morning. How do you spell relief? Q-S-L

Relating this story next day in an email to a ham friend in Germany, I received his response “congratulations” – not necessarily for dodging disaster (though he shared my relief over that) but for calling out my priorities much as a more seasoned ham might have done. I hadn't thought of that. I figured my next big moment might be my first QSO when I get better at CW. Or my first kit build. There is still so much ground for me to cover. With luck, most of it won't have too many inches of snow on top. ☺



# Big changes ahead for ARRL board

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



The results are finally in. No, I'm not talking about the national mid-term election results. As I'm writing this, some of those votes are still being counted. I'm talking about this year's ARRL board elections. ARRL members have spoken, and they have elected four new faces to the board in what was the most hotly-contested election in a long time.

Three of the five incumbents, plus an incumbent vice director running for the Northwest Division director position, were defeated by candidates calling for more transparency and for changes in the way that the ARRL operates.

Here are the results:

## Central Division Director

- Kermit Carlson, W9XA 1,898
- Valerie Hotzfeld, NV9L 1,755

## Hudson Division Director

- Ria Jairam, N2RJ 1,292
- Mike Lisenco, N2YBB 1,239

## New England Division Director

- Fred Hopengarten, K1VR 1,432
- Tom Frenaye, K1KI 1,383

## Northwestern Division Director

- Mike Ritz, W7VO 1,589
- Bonnie Altus, AB7ZQ 1,308
- Horace Hamby, N7DRW 495

## Roanoke Division Director


- George Hippisley, W2RU 1,891
- Dr. James Bohner, N2ZZ 1,365

In the only two contested vice director elections, Mark Tharp, KB7HDX defeated Daniel Stevens, KL7WM and

Delvin Bunton, NS7U in the Northwest Division and in the Roanoke Division, William Morine, N2COP defeated John Humphry, W4IM. All newly elected officials will take office at noon on January 1, 2019.

I was kind of surprised here that Valerie Hotzfeld, NV9L, failed to win in the Central Division. She has certainly made many contributions to amateur radio, both in the DX/contest community and on Ham Nation. Apparently, though, she made some statements that she was forced to retract, and that probably hurt her campaign, and as some pointed out to me, Kermit Carlson, W9XA, was well thought of in the Central Division and in the VHF/UHF community.

Overall, though, I'm very pleased with the results. Although some of the margins of victory were small—K1VR won by only 49 votes and N2RJ won by 53 votes—I think it's pretty clear that the members want change. Now, it's up to the board, including its newest members to effect that change. As always, I'm ready to help in any way that I can.

*When he's not keeping up with ARRL politics, Dan blogs about amateur radio, writes exam study guides ([www.kb6nu.com/study-guides](http://www.kb6nu.com/study-guides)), and operates CW on the HF bands, and lately some digital modes as well. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. Please email him your thoughts about the ARRL at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com). *







# Working Commercial Traffic from the Azores

By John Smale, K2IZ



I've seen a lot of articles about "The Night of Nights," the return of the historic commercial Morse Code station in California, a treasured annual ritual. I've sent in a couple of comments about operating commercial traffic from the Azores and I thought I'd pass it along to the SKCC brag page.

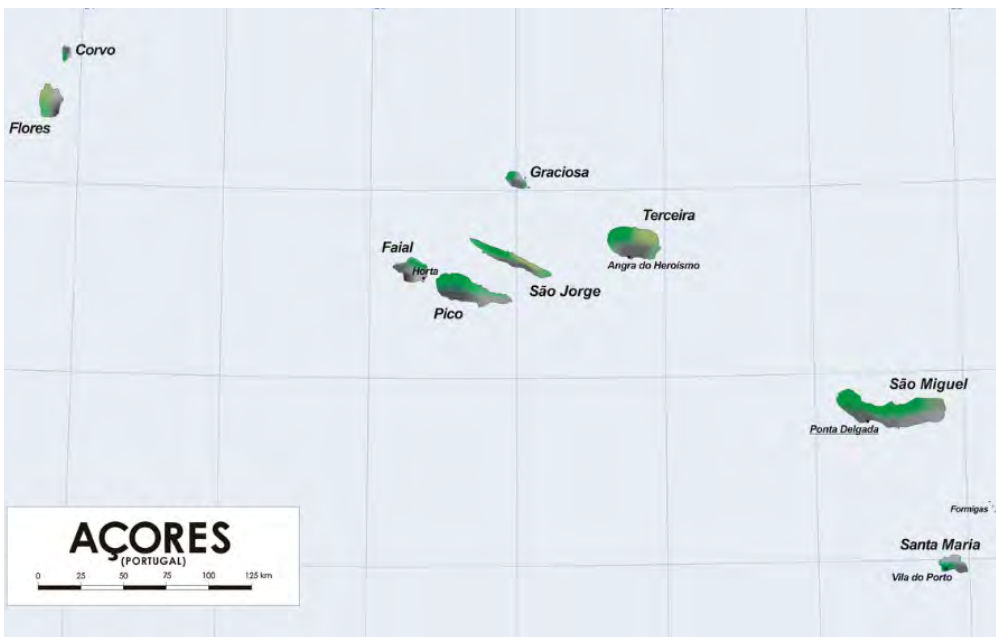
I had enlisted in the Navy in August of '65. I knew Code from the Boy Scouts and since I scored high on that test I was assigned to Radioman 'A' School in Bainbridge, Maryland. Our class started in the middle of November '65 and we graduated April 15th '66. We were given our "Dream Sheets" to fill out, indicating where we would like to go. I forgot what I put down but I remember the last choice was "shore duty, Europe."

Somehow that became Naval Air Facility, Lajes Field, Azores, a Portuguese passion. Nobody had heard of the place nor did they have any idea what went on there, I soon found out. We were scheduled to leave from JFK on a Pan American flight and the first stop was supposed to be Ponta Delgada on the island of Sao Miguel. Well, there were problems. First of all Pan Am insisted we were supposed to have passports, even though we were traveling in uniform. It didn't make it any easier with a bunch of Navy guys going to Morocco. They had to have passports and were traveling in civilian clothes. The Moroccan government didn't want to see any American uniforms. We finally got the passport situation straightened out: We didn't need to have them, our travel orders were enough. Then they announced the flight had been delayed, followed by another delay and then came the announcement that all members of our flight had carte blanche at the restaurants and bars. All of this came on top of having stayed

out until 0300 the previous night at a fraternity beer blast, getting three hours of sleep and then hopping on a plane from Columbus, Ohio -- wrong things to offer sailors. I have no recollection of getting on the plane. They told me it had stopped in Boston but all I know is I woke up looking out the window at the port side inboard engine with the big Pratt and Whitney logo and one of the stewardesses leaning over and asking me what I wanted for breakfast. Somehow I remained polite. Now the Army sergeant who was going to the same place was telling us we might be stuck on Sao Miguel for a couple of days until the Air Force sent over the shuttle plane. There was also a woman in our group with a couple of kids and she piped up: "That won't be a problem, my husband bowls with the shuttle's flight crew." Sure enough we landed and there was a C-54 waiting to take us to Terceira.

After we arrived we were processed in and my first stop was the Communications Center, located on the second deck of the NAF Hangar. It was quite large with at least 10 operating positions along with the TTY in the back. I found out the antennas for the receivers and transmitters were maintained by the Air Force, up in the mountains. I wish I had paid closer attention. I'm wondering how they communicated between sites and back to the Communications Center. The RMC pointed out to me that the busy circuits were 500kHz and the Air to Ground, used by the Hurricane Hunters and the P-3 Orion's and the Canadian ASW patrol planes, among other circuits we had a direct TTY link to the 57th Air Rescue Squadron and Coast Guard Governors Island in NYC. I also found out that we were not allowed to use our American call sign on CW (NAY), the Portuguese made us use one of theirs (CTE)

Note: About a year later, in 1967, the Spencer Davis Group came out with their hit *Gimme Some Lovin'* -- quite a few of the merchant operators we talked with said the base guitar line in the song sounded like it was our call sign, CTE.



The way it worked on an eight-hour watch was we would monitor 500kHz, a merchant ship would call and we'd send "down 468/474." We transmitted on one frequency and received on another, all by flipping a switch on the console. One thing we learned about merchant radio operators, most worked eight-hour shifts, Union rules, on our 1600-to-2359 watch (we were Zulu minus 2) the hours between 1730 and 1900 became known as "busy time." One ship would call, we'd shift, take his traffic and all of a sudden we'd find sometimes up to 20 ships calling us with traffic, we had a QRY list of international stations, Italian, English, American, Russian, Panamanian, German and so it went.

The traffic consisted of "OBS" and "AMVERS." OBS was weather reports that were relayed to Fleet Weather Center in Maryland and the "AMVERS" were Automated Merchant Vessel Emergency Reporting System reports, something like that. They consisted of the ships' last position when they sent the message, course and speed and a few other details. These were relayed to Coast Guard on Governors Island in NYC, these reports were combined to make a "Surface Picture," basically if there was an emergency they would know which ship was closest, did they have a doctor onboard and any other information that would be useful in an emergency.

We only had, thank goodness, one emergency; the MV Essberger Chemist, a German tanker, had an onboard explosion that split the ship in half. We heard the auto alarm go off during a silent period and copied the SOS.

Note: An auto alarm is 24 letter Ts sent in a row. This triggers off the auto alarms on any ship receiving and alerts the radio operator to return to the radio shack to copy an SOS. Silent Period is marked on every communications clock in red between 15 after the hour to 18 after the hour and 45 after the hour to 48 after the hour. During those two designated periods everyone stops sending on 500 kHz and listens for any possible distress traffic. That is the law.

A copy of the distress signal was sent to Governors Island with a request for a surface picture. It turned out there were no ships in the immediate area nor did anyone have a doctor on board so the Coast Guard requested we send the message to the 57th ARS across the runway. They immediately launched a Rescue C-130 with two para jumpers, the same guys who went in after the downed pilots in Vietnam. I'll tell you what, I'm OK jumping into a pool or a lake, I know the bottom is kind of close. These guys jumped into the middle of the Atlantic with the bottom a couple of hundred feet down. We used to buy those guys drinks whenever we ran into them at the bars.

They were able to give medical treatment until a ship with a doctor arrived and then they were given a ride back to our island by ship.

That's just some of the things we did. As I mentioned we had several operating positions in the Communications Center. We had a wide variety of keys, J-38s, Flame Proofs, all used by different watch standers, we had a Vibroplex™ Bug but one guy came on watch drunk, was fooling around with it, got mad and threw it against the wall. Chief wouldn't get another one, he said if we couldn't take care of the equipment, too bad, so I missed out on trying to get my Speed Key Certificate.

We also had keys at the aircraft positions and sometimes in the summer on 8984 kHz it was almost impossible to hear anyone because of the lightning crashes and static. So we would have to request the plane to switch to CW, even though they might have been a couple of hundred miles away. We could almost hear the scream from the Radioman – "Nooooooo!" but we did what we had to do to pass traffic. Some of the hurricane hunters had group counts of close to 100. They understood when they'd come to the Communications Center: We'd chat for a bit, tell them we'd meet them after we got off watch and the first round was on us. There was only one time we deviated



from that, we had one guy off an incoming P-3, he came into the Communications Center with his crypto gear that we would store, little guy, voice that sounded like Froggy the Toad. We were all busy and he started pounding on the counter top, demanding service, it took a couple of minutes but we took his stuff, told him what he could do when he got to the transit barracks. Couple of days later, I'm on the day watch, same guy comes in, starts pounding on the counter, this time the chief radioman told him to shut up, his plane taxis out and he comes up on voice for a radio check. I gave him an OK but as soon as we knew they were off and he came up to send a status report the chief told me to switch him to CW and send his report. He actually started arguing with me but I told him they were still under our control and he had to do what he was told. As soon as he came up on CW I challenged him for authentication. I knew he didn't have his pubs out and he failed the response time. I kept on challenging him until he got it right, then he started sending, talk about sending with his left foot, it was a struggle but we kept at him until he got everything right. As a side note, 10 years later I met this same guy, still the same personality. We were both working for the phone company. He didn't remember me, I always use to chuckle every time I saw him, after a couple of years I finally told him how I knew him. Good thing I'm 6-foot-7.

I spent 18 months there, I became good at Code and the only thing was I could only copy on a typewriter – mill. From there I went to a destroyer homeported in Newport, Rhode Island. It turned out that my 20-year-old self and the leading radioman were the only ones who could send and receive code. This really came to light when, after we passed through the Straits of Gibraltar all our RTTY crypto gear failed, I came off a 1600-2359 watch and we had a pile of outgoing traffic piled up, along with the fact there was no incoming traffic. Around 0300 they sent one of the guys on watch to wake me up. He told me I had to report to radio ASAP. It turned out that they had tried to send traffic to NAVCOMMSTA Rota Spain via CW but none of the guys on watch even remembered the Code and all we had was a J-38 key, probably installed when they built the ship more than 20 years previously. Rota (AOK) had sent a Z signal, ZBM-2, put a competent operator on this circuit.

I'll tell you what: a United States Naval warship that is out of communications is not a good thing. This makes the commanding officer, the captain, look bad, and when he looks bad he tends to seek out the source of what is making him look bad and takes the appropriate steps to make sure this situation is corrected to his satisfaction. This usually results in a lot of conversations with the involved parties and their only response is "yes sir!" Most of the conversation from the captain usually contains a lot of descriptive adjectives not used in polite conversations in polite society, references to the legality of one's parents' marriage at the time of your birth, things like that.

I cannot remember how many hours I spent sitting at that position, sending traffic with a straight key and then having to copy incoming traffic. But I will say this, we were in some moderate seas at the time, a Gearing Class Destroyer is 365 feet long and about 65 feet wide. They tend to move a bit: Try and imagine sitting at your operating position with your desk and chair bolted to a piece of plywood which is attached to a system of pulleys and ropes. Imagine being pulled up and down and twisted side-to-side while you are trying to send or receive and you very quickly find out what the handles on an R-390 receiver are for. The first is to help the techs pull it out of the rack and pick it up, second, but most importantly is hanging on for dear life! Some of the main reasons the chair and garbage can are also lashed to the legs of the desk, also another reason some J-38s have a double knob on them.

Now, 50 years later, I have come back to learning how to use a bug. I picked up a new Presentation Model and some of the club members and I are involved in getting our on-the-air bug fists readable. 🍌



*Lajes Field Air Base Azores*

# *Ham Radio University is January 5, 2019*

The new Chief Executive Officer of ARRL, Howard Michel, WB2ITX, will be the keynote speaker at the annual Ham Radio University (HRU) educational conference, which will mark its 20th anniversary on Saturday, January 5, 2019.

The event, which serves as the ARRL New York City/Long Island Section Convention, will be held in the Hillwood Commons Student Center on the campus of LIU / Post college in the New York City suburb of Brookville, Long Island from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm, with Mr. Michel delivering his remarks at 12:00 noon.

**HRU will include nearly thirty informational forums moderated by local experts in a broad range of Amateur Radio activities, including:**

- *Assembling an Amateur Radio Station*
- *Communicating through Amateur Radio Earth Satellites*
- *Remote Station Operating Over the Internet*
- *Emergency Communications*

**AND**

**Hands-on workshops on:**

- *Cable Theory and RF Connectors*
- *Ethernet Connectors*
- *Test Equipment.*

Presented in cooperation with LIU / Post public radio station WCWP 88.1FM ([www.WCWP.org](http://www.WCWP.org)), HRU 2019 is a day of activities at which some 300 hams will share ideas, experiences, knowledge and fellowship,

In addition to the forums and workshops, there will be a VE session in the afternoon for individuals who would like to take an FCC license examination to become a ham radio operator or upgrade their amateur radio license.

Ham Radio University is supported by numerous radio clubs and related organizations in the New York City - Long Island area. They will have displays in a Club Room and provide information about their licensing classes, public service events and other amateur radio activities.

Further information and the forum schedule is on line at:  
<http://www.HamRadioUniversity.org>

There will be free parking and a cafeteria will be open for breakfast and lunch.

***A suggested donation for attendees is \$5.00.***

# Proposed amendments to the GSBARC Constitution & By-Laws November 3, 2018

## (1) Proposed amendment to Constitution, Membership: Article 1.

Currently reads:

### **MEMBERSHIP: ARTICLE I**

**All persons interested in amateur radio communication shall be eligible for membership.**

**Proposed change:**

### **MEMBERSHIP: ARTICLE I**

**All persons interested in amateur radio communication shall be eligible for membership. *Persons under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian in order to attend any meetings or club activities.***

## (2) Proposed amendment to By-Laws, Section 3, item (a). Dues to amend rate increase as voted on by board of directors at the August board meeting.

Currently reads

**(a)** Full and Associate Membership dues are THIRTY dollars (\$30.00) per year. After June 30, dues for NEW joining members shall be one half the annual dues..

Proposed change:

**(a)** Full and Associate Membership dues are *THIRTY FIVE dollars (\$35.00) per year. After June 30, dues for NEW joining members shall be EIGHTEEN dollars (\$18.00).*

## (3) Proposed amendment to By-Laws to add item “d” under section 4, Governing Board:

Proposed change:

**(d) *The board of directors reserves the right to revoke membership from any member whose behavior or actions are deemed inappropriate or unacceptable by the board of directors.***

*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](https://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](http://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, W2ZY, 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 (136.5PL)*

*Alternate Frequency—146.820 (136.5 PL)*

### New York State

### RACES Net (HF)

*Sundays 0900 Local, 3993.5 KHz LSB*

## 2018 VE Session Dates

- December 22nd

## 2019 VE Session Dates

- January 26th
- February 23rd
- March 23rd
- April 27th
- May 25th

*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 CSEs 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](mailto:k2ryd@arrl.net).



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## Club Name Badges

Club name badges are available from *The Sign Man* ([www.thesignman.com](http://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" ☺

