



The Compass!

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

February 2019

Volume 47

#2

Next General Membership Meeting: Thurs., Feb. 28th, 8 PM

• **GSBARC Free Amateur Extra Classes Start Tuesday night, Feb. 5th, 7-9:30 PM**

The Winter Field Day Issue

Inside this issue:

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Long Island's Friendliest Amateur Radio Club!

President's Message



Was the groundhog correct? Will winter really be shorter -- or not?

Well, Winter Field Day was just a few weeks ago and as you know I always thank those who help make the club as great as it is. I would like to thank Lou NO2C and Salli K2RYD for letting us use their great back yard for the event. As we set up the tower, we had an audience. Not a human audience - but the horses! Setup went great. Thank you to Mike KC2SYF, Ed KD2ADC, Leon KD2ONC, Lou NO2C and Salli K2RYD for retrieving the club trailers and equipment and also for setting the bulk of it on that chilly Friday afternoon. Thank you to Gary N2ADC for dealing with the very cold Saturday morning and working out all the kinks with N1MM and to John W2JGH who made his very first satellite contact. Great Job John!

We are very happy to let you all know that the upgraded trailer's feature -- the heat unit -- really took the chill out of the trailer. Speaking of the trailer, we do have to do some more upgrades as we discovered problems with some feed line ports and the lack of having extra ones to use. The plan is to install two ports for each operator position. There will be connections right at the operating position and there will be very flexible jumpers to connect to the radios. We will also be replacing the patch panel for the RF ports to allow space for filters and also other cable pass-thru. So, when the weather gets warmer we will start working on getting the trailer ready for Field Day.

By the way, the new computers and the radio setup was great: no laptops taking up space on the operating position which was awesome. One other upgrade we will be doing is a WiFi Bridge setup.

Our Winter Night Out was a great night. Congratulations to all who won a door prize. I would like to thank Spin KA2EGK, Ed KD2ADC, Greg K2KAF and Kristi

KC2TMB for donating some of the door prizes. Our membership has many people with many special talents. With all the different topics in amateur radio it sure is great to know that help is always there.

Our open houses are a great place to work on a project, get advice on antennas and radios and have some fun.

Ham Radio University was well-attended. Once again our club was well-represented. It was at HRU that we met Bruce Lipsky who told us about his brother Dr. William Lipsky AF2S, a Silent Key, who had a very nice antenna system that the family donated to our club. Thank you to the crew that went to go pick up the donated tower and antennas. We are in negotiation with the town to install the tower and antennas up at Town Hall. We will also have an on-the-air special event to memorialize AF2S. An infectious-disease doctor, he was also an avid DXer and a life member of the ARRL. The tower is a 72-foot motorized crank-up tower. We got a Mosley PRO96-2 6 element multi-band beam which covers 10,12,15,20 and 40 meters. We also got a Mosley Signal Master 30 meter full size 2-element beam. The rotator on the tower is an M2 Orion with two controllers. I would like to thank the Lipsky family for this wonderful donation.

I hope you had no issues during the nice cold weather. Fact or myth? I heard that a week of below-freezing temperatures can reduce bugs in the summer.

Speaking about the weather, we had a good amount of rain! Imagine if all that rain had been snow. So far we have been lucky this winter -- of course with my luck now that I said that we will get a blizzard.

I hope everyone involved in EMCOM has backup power for their home stations. Speaking of EMCOM W2JGH and I showed our portable station kits at the General meeting. These portable setups can be used for an emergency deployment and public service events as well as HF fun. Both of our kits are digital ready. We chose these cases because they come with a pre-wired DC distribution system and LED light as well as external speakers with headphone jacks. If operating from remote locations such as parks, having a system like this can make setup a lot easier. The case has holes for bulkhead connectors for the antennas. Think about this! All you have to do is set up the antenna, connect the feed line, power up and you are on the air. I am still tweaking mine as I might change one of the radios or both to see what works best. Thank you to Bob K2TV, Mike KC2SYF and John W2JGH for all the help with open houses. What powers the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club is you the membership! It is so nice to have a large membership: our club has now grown close to 200.

I hope everyone has fun working the parks on the air and contesting and chasing DX. Look for those DXpeditions and activations have fun. See how many you can work.

Most have great QSL cards or Certificates. There have been some good discounts on some of the HF radios as they get ready to release newer models. You can save some money and get the radio you always dreamed of having in your shack. No matter what you do in amateur radio one of best things is meeting so many people with the same interests that we all share.

73. John Melfi, W2HCB

The GSBARC 2019 Annual Field Day Raffle is Coming and This Year it's DIGITAL!!!

GSBARC is bringing its new Yaesu Wires-X repeater system on-line and there's never been a better time to get into the new digital modes than now!

The Grand Prize is a Yaesu FTM400XDR VHF/UHF Mobile radio featuring 50 W FM, C4FM FDMA w/ GPS for APRS(1200/9600 bps) and Micro SD

Second prize is a Yaesu FT2DR Dual Band 5 Watt C4FM/FDMA Digital Touch Screen Hand Held Transceiver

As always, tickets will be \$5 each or a book of 5 for \$20

Raffle drawing is during Field Day dinner on Saturday June 22nd
Winner need NOT be present to win!



GSBARC Members Among Founders Honored For 20 Years of Ham Radio University



New York City - Long Island Section Manager Jim Mezey, W2KfV (center) presented special recognition awards to the founders of Ham Radio University (www.HamRadioUniversity.org) to mark this year's 20th anniversary of the annual day-long amateur radio educational conference.



Included in the group were GSBARC members Tom Carrubba, KA2D and Phil Lewis, N2MUN (flanking W2KfV). The other founders were (l-r) Neil Heft, KC2KY, George Tranos, N2GA, Diane Ortiz, K2DO and Mel Granick, KS2G.

HRU was established in 2000 for hams in the NLI Section and beyond to share ideas, knowledge and fellowship.

Held each January, this year's event at LIU/Post college in Brookville drew more than 300 attendees for more than 30 presentations, forums and hands-on workshops.

GSBARC Polar Vortex DXPedition

By Lou Maggio, NO2C



This will be officially announced on April 1, 2019, but we wanted to give people a heads-up to prepare.

GSBARC has officially obtained the call K0K (K Zero K) for our planned trip to the Polar Vortex. We took advantage of conditions at Winter Field Day to train for the PV Satellite QSO.


Being a Polar Vortex, the satellites will be constantly visible to our antennas allowing 24-hour communications. When the temperature reaches Zero K, all motion stops, so it is easy to keep the antenna pointed at the satellite. We will use the custom-designed stationary Branch Mount for the Arrow antenna. The mount is available from DX Engineering or your local garden supply.

The digital transmissions will be limited to CW since it is way too cold for FT8. Your FT8ing finger might get frost-bitten waiting for a contact.

Our plan for keeping warm is to use an unlimited, renewable source of fuel, Baofeng radios. We will use each one for a single satellite contact then throw it on the fire. We have hams all over the area leaving their car windows open as collection points.



A question that is usually asked is “Do I need to get any inoculations?” The answer is no. Since nothing lives at these temperatures, you are safe ... wait ... WHAT???

Please consider joining us. Make your reservations through PolarPal. 

Amateur Radio (Illegally) Aiding Yacht Racers

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



The Golden Globe Race (<https://goldengloberace.com>), a 30,000 mile, non-stop solo yacht race to celebrate Sir Robin Knox-Johnston’s historic 1968/9 world first solo non-stop circumnavigation. There are 18 sailors in the race, which started on July 1, 2018 from Les Sables-D’Olonne, France.

Amateur radio is at the heart of the latest controversy surrounding the race. Scuttlebutt Sailing News reported (<https://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com/2019/01/21/maintaining-information-barrier/>) on January 21, 2019 (day 205 of the race):

“Sailors have been making use of the Amateur Radio net (ham radio) for decades, and while National telecommunication authorities have often turned a deaf ear to unlicensed operators using made-up call signs while at sea, warnings from a National regulator to Golden Globe Race skippers has created intrigue into an exciting finale for race leaders.

“Modern navigation and routing tools are restricted from use in the 2018-19 contest, limiting GGR skippers to the type of equipment available for the inaugural Sunday Times Golden Globe solo non-stop round the world race in 1968-69. That includes Amateur Radio.

“The skippers have been using this free communication system to gain weather forecasts and maintain contact with their teams, which is allowed under the Race Rules. However, it is the responsibility of each skipper to ensure that they abide by National and International regulations which Jean-Luc Van Den Heede and Mark Slats, in first and second in the race, have not been doing. [[Neither Van den Heede or Slats have valid amateur radio licenses...Dan]]

Continued on page 5...

“Said the warning, ‘You use an amateur callsign and are making connections with amateur radio operators. The call sign letters are not registered, and thus illegal. I ask you to stop. If you have a legal amateur callsign then I urge you to present it.’”

As a result of this warning, Slats is considering dropping out of the race, even though the race is nearly complete. Yachting Monthly reports (<https://www.yachtingmonthly.com/boat-events/golden-globe-race/golden-globe-race-slats-considers-quitting-comms-row-68574>):

“Mark Slats, who is less than 50 miles from Golden Globe Race leader Jean-Luc Van Den Heede, has announced he is thinking about retiring from the race after being banned from broadcasting on the Ham Radio Net.

“Race organisers said the Dutch skipper does not have the required licence, and has been warned by the Dutch authorities to stop broadcasting, which has left him unable to communicate with his shore team.

“Under the rules of the race, all of the entrants are able to use this free communication system to gain weather forecasts and maintain contact with their teams, but, it is the responsibility of each skipper to ensure that they abide by national and international regulations.”

It’s not only the yachters that are flouting the rules, it’s the amateur radio operators who are communicating with them. According to Yachting Monthly, OFCOM, the UK regulator issued the following warning:


“Fair warning both to unregistered GGR skippers and to legitimate Ham radio operators communicating with them. In Britain, the Ham Radio net is controlled by OFCOM, which recently revoked more than 500 licences for non-compliance. This includes communicating with unregistered Ham radio operators. The maximum penalty is 6 months in prison, a £5,000 fine and loss of their licence.”

This is a fascinating story, and I wish that I’d found out about this sooner. It would be interesting to listen in on some of these communications. One question I have is why these guys failed to obtain a valid amateur radio license? The Golden Globe Radio website notes, “[The race] will be sailed under the auspices of the Royal Nomuka Yacht Club in the Kingdom of Tonga. His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Tupouto’a Ulukalala is Patron of the Race.” They




probably could have issued valid amateur radio licenses to all the racers.

If any of you have heard the communications or know any more about the technical details, I’d love to hear from you.

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and one of the hosts of the No Nonsense Amateur Radio Podcast (NoNonsenseAmateurRadio.Com). When he’s not think about operating maritime mobile, you’ll find him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. 

Rufus Paul Turner, W3LF (SK), First African American Ham (1907-1982)

(Source: [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rufus_Paul_Turner)) Born on Christmas day in 1907 in Houston, Texas, Turner began working with crystal diodes at age 15 and published his first article on radio electronics at age 17. He attended Armstrong Tech in Washington, D.C. In 1925, still a teenager, he built what was then the world’s smallest radio set, and was awarded the second commercial radio operator’s license in the third district. His station, W3LF, was “the first radio station licensed to a black broadcaster in the U.S.” By 1928, he operated W3LF as a 15-watt station on Franklin Street NW in Washington, D.C. He also operated a station for his neighborhood church. 



Turner working on an early radio

Ham Radio University 2019



Dr. William Lipsky AF2S (SK), December 10, 1943 – November 19, 2018

Dr. William (Bill) Lipsky was first licensed in 1959 as WV2EFN and subsequently advanced to a General ticket as WA2EFN. As a teenager, he operated from his parents' home in Whitestone, NY with a 65 watt Viking Ranger transmitter, Hallicrafters SX-99 receiver and a homebrew cubical quad antenna perched on their roof. His favorite room in the house was his basement shack where the glow from the mercury vapor rectifiers in his rig cast a magic light on the scene. There Bill quickly secured his DXCC. He loved operating CW and never tired of chasing DX in the low bands.

While attending college in the 1960s, Bill worked for Hammarlund Company which was then a leading manufacturer of Amateur Radio receivers and transmitters. In their marketing operations division, Bill served as QSL manager for numerous DXpeditions supported by Hammarlund.

After a number of years in teaching, Bill entered medical school in the Dominican Republic and while there, operated as HI7XWL. A most memorable event of that period was in the summer of 1979 when Hurricane David struck the island. Bill, and a handful of other ham radio operators, provided the only means of radio contact in the aftermath of the storm's devastating effect on the island's communication systems. After returning to the U.S. in 1980, Bill became chief of infectious disease at a number of Long Island and New York City hospitals and also served as director of teaching services to their residents for more than 35 years.

As an avid DXer, Bill was a life member of the ARRL beginning in 1963. After securing his Extra license, Bill earned his new call as AF2S and rapidly advanced to the upper levels of the DXCC Honor Roll. In his final years Bill operated from his ham station in his Baldwin Harbor, N.Y. home and with a 72-foot tower in his backyard, he worked stations in more than 300 countries recognized by the ARRL.

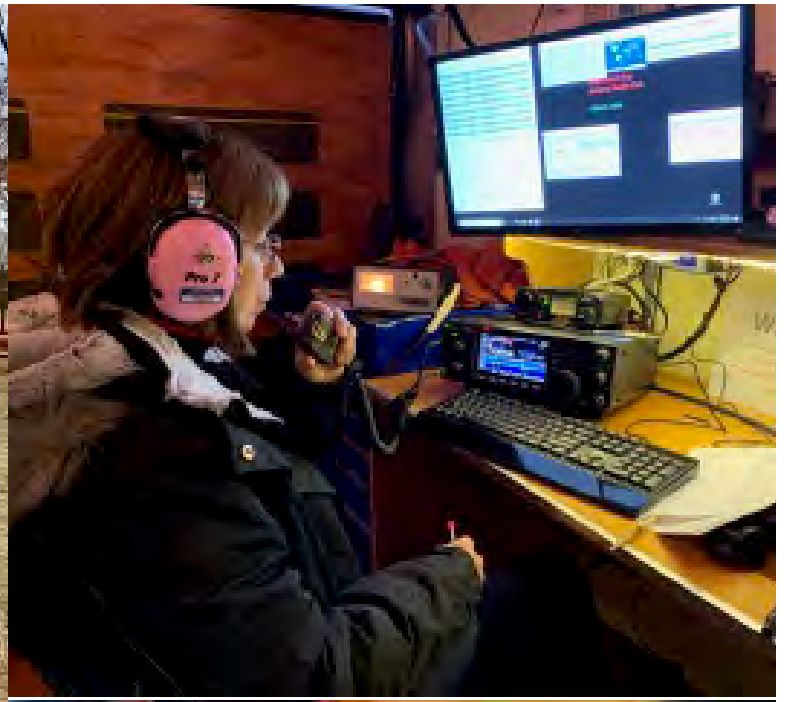
For Bill, the "magic" of ham radio endured until the final days of his life when he was still supervising the installation of a new antenna atop that massive tower in his backyard. In November of 2018, Bill became a Silent Key and his smooth CW "fist" and cheerful SSB ragchews will be missed by his all of his friends and the ham community as well. ©



Winter Field Day!



Why the long face?



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.

5PL)

Alternate Frequency—146.820 (136.5 PL)

New York State

RACES Net (HF)

Sundays 0900 Local, 3993.5 KHz LSB

2019 VE Session Dates

- February 23rd
- March 23rd
- April 27th
- May 25th
- June 22nd
- July 27th
- August 24th
- September 28th
- October 26th

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 CSCEs 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" ☺

