



The Compass!

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

January 2019

Volume 47

#1

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

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

Happy New Year 2019!!!

Inside this issue:


- **What the FCC Doesn't Want You to Know!**
- **12 Days of Christmas Special Event**
- **Review of the CT599 Dual Jambic Lever Paddle**
- **Inside The Squirrel Cage Column**
- **KB6NU's Guest Column**
- **New Field Day Raffle Coming!**



Long Island's Friendliest Amateur Radio Club!

President's Message



 GSBARC has been remarkable in all aspects from its teaching and its Elmers to our outstanding repeater and tech crew. It takes a tremendous amount of work to have our club be as great as it is. Many of you only see what goes on in meetings but there are many hours that board members spend working on club business each month. We have been growing and improving our HF stations and logging computers. So as we are getting ready for another year of special event stations, contests and of course public service events, I hope to see an increase in participation at each event we do in 2019 and beyond. To the many new members of our club welcome and I hope you get involved in the many activities we have to offer. To the executive board: you all have done an amazing job as always and I would to thank you all and I look forward to another great year with GSBARC. If you worked the 12 Days of Christmas special event station you were part of the more than 12,000 QSOs made. Salli K2RYD did an outstanding job making this on-the-air event a great one. We had stations from all over join in as part of the special event which was amazing. Salli, thank you for taking the lead in this great annual event on HF in all modes. To those who helped out -- thank you! More than 12,000 QSOs means it was an awesome job by one and all.

At our December general meeting we took a vote on our annual budget for 2019 which passed and has been updated on the club's website.

We also took a vote on some amendment changes. Two passed. Our dues are now \$35 for a full membership. As our club grows so does our operating budget – from the many repeaters we have and the cost of the internet at the EOC and insurance the budget always leaves us with very little at the end of the year. It is always good to have a little nest egg at the end of the year if we need it for equipment repairs.

Did anyone ever think that when the club began, we would have such a great club with all our HF equipment and antennas? Our club trailer has been improving every year. It has been a slow process but we are almost done. We have a killer Field Day crew. All the operators do a great job and our satellite station is awesome.

Our education system has been one of the great proponents of gaining members. Kevin AB2ZI has done an amazing job helping all to get their licenses and upgrades not to mention if you want to brush up on anything he has open invitation for us all to sit in on his classes. I think that the open houses are a tremendous success. The fact that we do them and invite anyone interested in amateur radio to come down and see that it has a lot to offer is major factor. Our club station is always ready for a demonstration and the expertise of our seasoned Elmers is one the best treasures of our club. As president of this club, I am happy to have several of the founding members of our club -- not to mention several past club presidents – with us and it gives me a sense that we did something right. The membership is active: we do events and contests, we have a busy GSBARC board, a repeater crew, antenna crew, trailer crew , IT crew, webmaster and a health and welfare crew.

Meanwhile, don't forget the 20th annual Ham Radio University (HRU) on Saturday, Jan. 5 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the LIU / Post – Hillwood

Commons Student Center, 720 Northern Blvd. in Brookville. Presented in cooperation with LIU / Post public radio station WCWP 88.1FM, HRU 2019 will offer more than 30 informational forums, three hands-on workshops, a lunch-hour keynote address by the new CEO of ARRL, Howard Michel, WB2ITX, and a VE session for all levels of Amateur Radio license exams. Complete details, including the forum schedule, can be found on the HRU website: www.HamRadioUniversity.org

Our club's Winter Night Out is on Friday January 25th at La Famiglia, 90 West Main St. in Babylon. The cost is not set as of yet but we know from the last time we were there we had a great meal and plenty of food and a great time! So I would plan on approximately \$75 per person I will send out an announcement on the GSBARC groups.io page as soon as we set up the menu. Hopefully I will get it done before the board meeting There will be some door prizes so try to make sure you come to a fun night out.

We had a great 2018. Let's make 2019 another great GSBARC year. Happy New Year to all our members and friends around the world. Let's hope for better HF propagation in 2019.

73. John Melji, W27CB 

How to Get the FCC to Mail You an Official Copy of your Ham Radio License!

By Kevin Morgan, AB2ZI



So, to save money back in 2015 the FCC ceased the mailing of paper licenses. When you got your first license, or renewed one that was expiring, you were given a link to download your license in PDF format.

There were 2 things you needed to know about this: first, the link for your official copy (the words “Official Copy” being overlaid at 45 degrees across the face) was only good for 30 days, thereafter when you wanted to download a new copy you used a link that brought you to a PDF of your license with the words “Reference Copy” printed across the face.

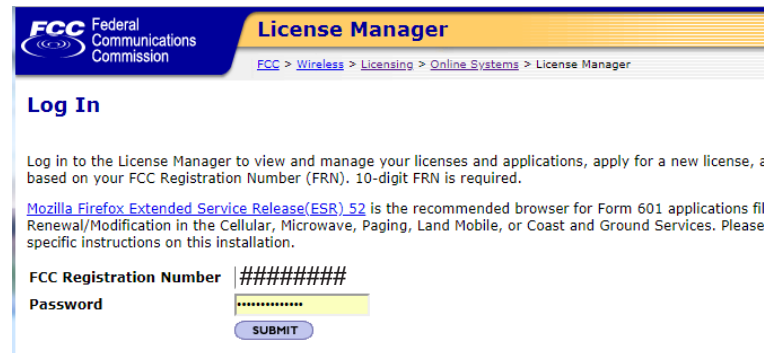
Back when the announcement was made by the FCC and the various VECs and other amateur organizations we were told that although the FCC was no longer *automatically* sending out printed copies, there was still an option for us to get the FCC to mail us one.

Well, good luck finding that information on the web site! As luck would have it, however, I was exploring the [FCC's Universal Licensing System](#) and decided to try something. I saw a link to apply for a duplicate copy of my license. After clicking on that link and answering various other questions that came up I was informed I just had to wait for approval of the application. It's important to note here that one of the more confusing questions that comes up is one about being exempt from fees. Even though there are no FCC fees for amateur licenses—with the exception, sometimes, for vanity calls—you still need to answer the question “NO,” but don't worry, you won't have to pay anything.

In a day or 3 I received word via email that my application for a duplicate had been approved and was given a link to download a new copy of my official license. I had been reporting my progress on the club's Groups.io group and

was disappointed and relayed as such to the group. But surprise! A few days later I received a letter from the FCC containing a printed copy of my official license. It was identical to the downloadable one but for one exception: on back was some official FCC notes. The license was on plain paper too, no more that fancy government stock with the dashes and vertical lines we used to get.

So if you'd like a printed copy of your FCC license just log on to the [FCC Universal Licensing System web site](#) and apply for a duplicate. Within a week you should have it, oh, and if you're smart you will save the PDF official copy to your computer as well so you can print it out whenever you need or want to.



Log in on the FCC ULS Page...

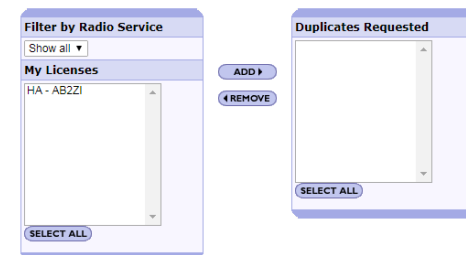


Once you're logged in you'll be on this page, choose Request duplicate as indicated here on the left...

Request Duplicates

Select Licenses

You have requested a duplicate of one or more licenses. Select the licenses you request dup. Licenses in termination pending status will not appear in this list. If a license is active but included on the application.



TP = This call sign or a component(s) of this call sign is in termination pending status for failure to r
* denotes licenses that have an international address. ** individually
Note: Updates must be filed for licenses denoted with
* denotes broadcast auxiliary licenses with a parent station in CDBS.

The next page has your list of licenses, choose your call and click on ADD, then continue... in no time you'll be on the way to receiving your paper license.

Good luck and 73!

Inside the Squirrel Cage

by Caryn, KD2GUT



Where's the best spot for a birthday party? Try 40 meters (or 20 or even 80). For one thing you don't have to feed any of the folks who show up. For another thing, you don't even have to KNOW the folks who show up. Hey, you don't even have to dress up for the occasion (or at all!)

Special Event Station K2B – “B” for birthday – had its origins in a Christmas birthday net Lou NO2C and I created somewhat informally on the GSBARC repeater after learning at a club meeting one night that we were both born on Dec. 25. So for two years, we had fun meeting up on 2 meters to mark our respective milestones. But for Birthday Celebration 2018 we decided that we were ready to go global.

So how do you get from “QRZ” to “Happy Birthday?” You start by carefully unwrapping the pileups and go searching for the surprise DX that's tucked inside. Then as the sun goes down, you clamp on the headphones and swear to yourself that advancing age has somehow stolen your ability to sort an “alpha” from a “delta.” After a while, even Plainview becomes a rare DX. Soon the birthday party games get under way and you're playing Hide and Seek a Clear Frequency.....bobbing for call signs.....and Pin the Tail on the QSB. Eventually the solar wind is so bad it threatens to extinguish the candles on your cake.

No matter: Despite it all, we accumulated more than 200 well-wishers between us and both had a very hammy birthday. We agreed it was a nice way to wrap up operating the previous activity: the ambitious and very successful 12 Days of Christmas special event station.

Look, no one said being a Christmas baby was easy. We are accustomed to being eclipsed by the season, of course, that comes with the territory. But we won't be eclipsed by the sun itself. So look out 2019: K2B is coming back, better than ever, wearing a birthday suit and a smile. ☺

Make Ham Radio A Habit

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



Every week, I get an email newsletter from Penguin Random House called Signature. Signature includes links to articles about books and writing. Being a writer, I clicked on the link to “5 Good Writing Habits You Need to Learn Now.” As I was reading the article, it occurred to me that the advice could also apply to amateur radio. So, with apologies to the author, Lorraine Berry, here are five things you can do to make ham radio a habit:

1. To get on the air more, or to do more building, set up a time to do it. If you enjoy getting on the air or homebrewing, but never seem to be able to find the time to do it, you need to put it on your schedule. Set aside the time a couple of days, or a week, or even a month in advance, and you'll be more likely to do it. If you set up a regular time every week, pretty soon it will be a habit.
2. If ham radio is important to you, create an environment that encourages you to do ham radio. To make ham radio a habit, you really need a place that's set up to do ham radio. If you have to dig out and set up your equipment every time that you want to get on the air, you're just not going to do it. You need a “shack” that makes it easier for you to engage in the hobby. Richards, K8JHR, gave me some great advice back in 2012 on where and how to set up a shack (<https://www.kb6nu.com/building-a-new-shack/>).
3. Create temptations that reward you for your new habit of ham radio. For me, being able to make interesting contacts, or building some new gizmo, is reward enough, but you may want to reward yourself with a beer or some ice cream after an operating session.
4. Make it easy to do what you like to do. This is related to #4. Your shack should have everything you need to easily do whatever ham radio activities you enjoy doing. If you enjoy operating, then it should have a nice operating desk.

Continued on page 7...

Product Review of the CT599 Dual Iambic Lever Paddle

By Bob Myers K2TV

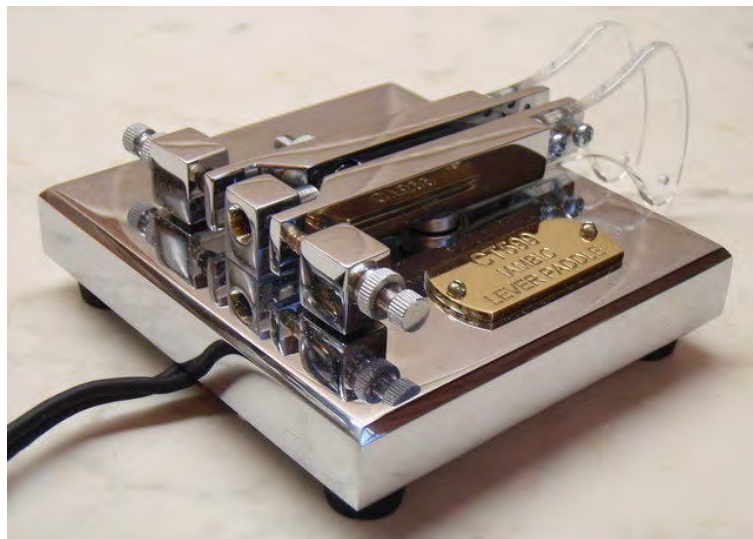


Having been an avid CW operator for most of my ham radio “career,” I progressed from a straight key to a “bug” and finally to an electronic keyer and paddle over the years. I do have a key collection of straight keys and paddles, but it is the paddles that I use every day. My Bencher paddle has been used for my day-to-day operating and has been a great instrument.

I was surfing the internet recently looking at keys and paddles and came across a CW iambic paddle made by Yuri UR5CDX in Ukraine. The pictures of the fine machining and finish on the brass keys had me interested. As I looked through the several keys made by Yuri, a CT599MX caught my interest. It was made of highly polished chrome-plated brass, used a magnetic return instead of a spring and the levers pivoted on ball bearings.



The key weighs 2 lbs., 11 oz. and measures 3 ¾ inches wide and 3 ½ inches long which is roughly the size of a Bencher paddle. The rubber feet and weight keep the key from moving around on the operating position. The key is supplied with a 5-foot-long cable and ¼-inch connector that fits most transceivers. No instructions are included as to how to adjust the key, but it is straightforward and searching the internet for adjustment information of a magnetic paddle will help.



Once adjusted to your liking this key has a really nice feel to it. Compared to the Bencher paddle which has “spongy” feel, the CT599MX has a solid “crisp” feel to it. I have to admit that it is one of the best paddles that I’ve tried and it looks great at my operating position too.

The price of the key varies as to where you buy it. Ebay has them at a reasonable price and the CT599 comes in two models, a polished brass version and a chrome-plated version. I chose the chrome-plated version which runs about \$10 more than the brass. You can also get your call on the key with a bolted-on nameplate for an extra charge. The shipping is fairly expensive at \$28 but the key is shipped registered airmail from Ukraine. It ships well-packed with the key bolted with screws to a metal plate and double-boxed.

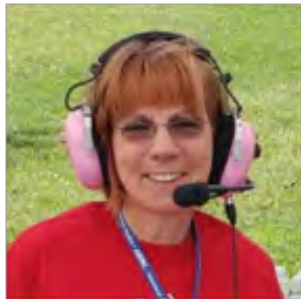


There are several designs and styles of keys on both the Ebay (search UR5CDX) and UR5CDX (www.ur5cdx.com) websites.

It would be nice if there were a dealer for the CT keys in the United States, but so far the best route to buy is on Ebay.📍

First Annual 12 Days of Christmas - 2018

By Salli, K2RYD



It all started February 2018 with a brief mention of a “12 Days of Christmas Special Event” by Kevin, AB2ZI. I thought, “What a great idea.” Where do we begin?

First, we had to get the 1x1 call signs for the 12 Days to be used from. Dec 26 through Jan 6. My idea for the 1x1 call signs would be based on the song, “The 12 Days of Christmas.” For example, W2P would be Partridge, W2T Turtle Doves, etc. I contacted the ARRL for the 1x1 call signs. However, I was told, several of the calls were being used by other Special Events. OK, what now? Lou, NO2C and I thought, why not do the “12 Days” before Christmas?

I again applied for the 1x1 call signs for the 12 days running from Dec. 14 through Dec. 25. Since Ladies Dancing and Lords a Leaping are both Ls, we used W2L and K2L. We used K2S for Swans A Swimming and already knew who would be getting that call: We wanted Phil, W2UV, to feel right at home since he uses K2S for JOTA. The event would start with SSB, then maybe we would add CW. Caryn, KD2GUT offered her OM, Rod’s graphic art services for the certificate that would be available for download at the end of the event. I gave him a rough idea and he ran with it. It is a B-E-A-utiful work of art. One contact would get you a certificate and all 12 contacts would get you a Clean Sweep.

A couple of weeks later, I received all the 1x1s that I needed. Now, who was going to operate? How many operators would I need? I know from experience with other events, the organizers had a tough time getting operators and the events were only for one or two days. This event is for 12 days at the busiest time of the year! Oh my, did I make a mistake? For the rest of the year, every chance I

got, I mentioned the event, and asked for operators. Seems silly asking for operators in June for December but hey, I needed at least 12. If I ran short, Lou and I could always operate multiple stations. I did receive several “definitely” from Caryn, KD2GUT, Mike, KC2SYF, Phil, W2UV, Bob, K2TV, John, W2HCB and Tom, KA2D.

Now it is December and I have eight operators including me and Lou. Where am I going to get more operators? Working other Special Events during the year, I got to know some of those operators. I reached out to Garry K9WZB from the Lake Havasu Lighthouse Event in Arizona. He was super willing to become part of the “12 Days” and even offered up his YL Sharon, K7WZB. I also reached out to Ria, N2RJ hoping she could point me toward more YL operators. She put me in touch with Andrea, K2EZ in NJ. We were now at 11.

Lou and I were invited to the BNLARC Holiday Breakfast. AH-HA! More potential operators. I nonchalantly started plugging my Special Event, and Lo and Behold I got a volunteer, Gary, KE2YK. 12 Operators, 12 Days. This would mean each operator would have to call CQ every day for 12 days. That is an awful lot to ask. I needed an operator cushion. I continued recruiting. It was getting closer to December 14, the start of the event. I was starting to sweat. Tom, KA2D led me to Jack, NU2Q who had already expressed an interest in becoming one of the operators. Welcome Aboard, Jack. Bob, K2TV, told us about Steve, WA2PQE in Oregon, a referral from “Last Man Standing.”

Caryn, KD2GUT set up an interview with Newsline. Lou was interviewed by Neil, WB9VPG who eventually became an operator. Neil’s contacts even included a few on satellite. I didn’t want to advertise the event in QST Magazine because I didn’t know at the time how many operators we would have or how much interest this event would generate. BOY WAS I WRONG!!

By the end of the first day we had more than 600 contacts, and not all 1x1 calls were on the air. Bob, K2TV, lost his voice from operating and had to switch to CW to keep going.

Several days into the event we received an email from John, W4JAM, the Virginia station for the 13 Colonies Special Event, and asked if we needed help. YES, YES, YES was our reply. To keep the numbers even, we used John on multiple calls over the rest of the event. A few days in, John K2IZ and Howard, WB2UZE joined on CW. We had a total of 18 experienced operators. I am keeping a list for the “2nd annual” and have other “13 Colonies” operators standing by.



Operators were sending their logs and numbers on a daily basis. Lou was keeping track of the logs and I was keeping track of the emails that were coming in (there were many) and the daily totals.

To my surprise, several of the operators were on the air daily, morning, noon and night. Mike, KC2SYF even operated from the beach in the wee hours of the morning to escape his S9 noise level! Is that dedication or what? Lou and Mike also worked on importing the logs into QRZ, then uploading them to LOTW based on grid square. Not an easy task.

We received many positive emails and several requests for a "2nd Annual 12 Days of Christmas." I even have commitments from some of the operators from this year. We made 12,200 contacts, a WAS, and worked more than 50 countries.

I would say this event was a huge success and can't wait till next year. Oh, by the way, my very special operators: Keep an eye on your mailboxes. Santa didn't forget you!! Happy New Year!! 🍷

Make Ham Radio A Habit... continued from page 4

If you enjoy building, then set it up so that all of your tools are readily accessible. The easier it is to do, the more likely it is that you'll do it. If you enjoy operating portable, then build up a kit that has all the stuff you need, and have it ready to go when you're ready to go.

5. Start with the Two-Minute Rule for new habits and continue from there. The "two minute rule" (<https://www.lifehack.org/articles/productivity/how-stop-procrastinating-and-stick-good-habits-using-the-2-minute-rule.html>) is a tool to help you overcome procrastination. The idea is to allot just two minutes to a task that you'd like to complete or a skill that you'd like to develop. It's a small commitment, but enough to get you started, and the idea is that once you're started on a particular task or project, continuing work on that task or project becomes a lot easier. Those two minutes could easily become a half hour or an hour once you've gotten the ball rolling.

Armed with this advice, I'm expecting you to be a more active ham in 2019. I'll be listening for you on 40m.

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). His wife sometimes thinks that amateur radio has become too much of a habit for him. 🍷

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 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

2019 VE Session Dates

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

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.



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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" ☺

