



THE COMPASS

Official Newsletter of the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club

June 2016

Volume 44

Issue #6

Upcoming Club Events

Next General Meeting:

Thursday, June 30th,
8 PM at the EOC

Next Special Event:

FIELD DAY!!!
June 25th & 26th

GSBARC's **FREE**
License Classes Tuesday
nights 7-9:30 PM.
Currently Running.
Technician License
Classes

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

2016 American Airpower Museum Event



2016 American Airpower Museum Event
See pages 6 & 7 for more photos...

Inside this issue of The Compass...

- American Air Power Museum Special Event Pictures
- Inside the Squirrel Cage
- KB6NU's Guest Column
- ...Field Day is Here!!!

Upcoming Special Events

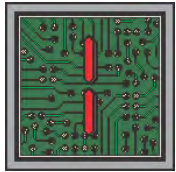
Field Day - June 25-26

Maggie Fischer
Memorial Cross Bay
Swim

Friday July 22nd

Fire Island Lighthouse
Special Event
August 20-21

President's Message



had a hard time starting this month's message with the loss of two our members: Terri K2TRC and Adam W2AEM became Silent Keys. W2AEM was our sergeant-at-arms. I can remember when he would quiet down the room when someone was talking and disrupting what was going on. K2TRC was always ready for fun and a great time no matter what we were doing – whether it was Field Day or the Lighthouse event. Those of you like me who went to the ARRL 100th Anniversary convention in Hartford will remember she was the life of the party. I know they will be missed -- but we will always remember them.

Ok, now I will go for it: **FIELD DAY IS ALMOST HERE.** We have a lot of work to do before it arrives.

We will have work parties at every Open House prepping and testing equipment: antennas, radios, laptops, logging software, etc . The six stations will be as follows: The phone side (aka Northside) will use Icom 756, 756 pro2 and a 7600. The CW side (aka Southside) will use three Icom IC7600 radios.

The VHF/UHF and satellite station will use the IC9100 radio with the newest antenna with auto tracking rotators which Ed KD2ADC has been working on for many, many hours.

We will have two new shelters for Field Day. They're 12 x 20 for a little extra room. Here's the timeline: Thursday the 23rd at 7 PM -- last minute details to be dealt with. Saturday the 25th at 5 AM -- for the very early crew, we

need to set up a shelter on the south side for K2BBQ, who needs to start smoking the feast for dinner. Then the 6 AM early crew sets up towers; at 7AM Northside Shelters and towers. Then tables, chairs and equipment.

We need as many people as possible. If you can handle the manual work, please do come on down for setup!

Operators, please take a look at the manuals for each radio so you know a few things about them.

CW station operators, you will be using the ICOM 7600. Phone operators, you will be using the Icom 756 Pro and Pro 2 as well as an IC7600.

AB2ZI Kevin has stepped up to the plate to help the Northside as their captain.

KB2AZY Rich is the safety officer.

KA2EJD will be the GOTA Coach and will be doing a demonstration on WinLink and APRS.

We also might be doing a demonstration of SDR with the Flex 6500 radio. That would take place at 9 AM on the 26th.

All stations are to be operational no later than 12:30 on Saturday the 25th.

Those who come down to operate, please be ready to call CQ at the stroke of 2 PM.

K2BBQ Rich is getting ready to smoke a great meal once again, so please pay your way if you want a mouth-watering dinner!

What do you need for Field Day set up crew? Sunscreen, gloves and closed-toe shoes. **NO SANDALS FOR SETUP!!**

Tower crew, please make sure you have a hard hat on.

Operators need sunscreen and snacks: Think energy food! (Nothing too messy.) Of course, if you're staying for dinner, don't snack too heavily!

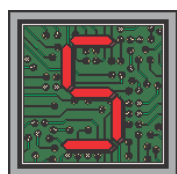
I need to know who will be there at breakfast on the 26th as I have to set it up with the deli. I will send out an email with the price per person as soon as I get it.

June 4th started off our big work parties outside. We emptied the trailer and tested all the HF feed lines. AB2ZI refinished the back operating position and KC2TTT repaired the AC vent and drain hose. WB2QGZ cleaned out the cabinets and did a great job. They look great! The

Continued on next page

Inside the Squirrel Cage

by Caryn, KD2GUT



Sometimes, you've got to give Push To Talk a rest. Calling CQ or busting through pileups – or trying, anyway – makes for a long day (or night). In those moments, there is something better to chase than DX: It's an old-fashioned ragchew, and sometimes the best ones belong to someone else.

There are days when I'd rather pick up my headphones than my mic. The fine art of listening has its rewards. Two months ago, I struck gold on SSB with a daytime ragchew on 7.225 between a young amateur in Virginia and a retiree who, as it turns out, was operating from a local shack in Levittown. The younger ham had lots of questions and, not surprisingly, the older ham – a retired electronics teacher named Art – had a lot of answers. I could have spun the dial and tuned in a chat from more exotic locales but this QSO radiated with something more than merely RF. I pressed the “lock” key on my rig and sat back, a fly on the wall of 40 meters.

I must have spent the better part of an hour with Art and his new friend. Propagation was favorable, they'd exchanged good signal reports – but they began exchanging something more, this young amateur and the retiree here in New York. The two shared details of their lives and, of course, the obligatory descriptions of their shacks. Soon, they were talking like the old friends they were quickly becoming.

Then Art, who said he was 88 years old, shared a bit more about himself, beyond his teaching career and his love of the radio hobby: he revealed how much he enjoys doing magic tricks

“You can amaze people,” he told his friend, “with a piece of string, a coin, a ball, whatever. You don't have to do a magic show to do magic. But you do have to have the gift

of gab.” After all, he went on, it's all about being able to entertain people. It's all about holding one's audience.

Could he have known I was among those in his audience that day and that he was indeed putting on a magic show? Could he have known that this performance went beyond entertainment? This show, built around a piece of wire and jolt of energy, was hardly an exercise in illusion. I had intercepted the very palpable connection that is the essence of amateur radio and always will be, no matter the mode. As long as there are transmitters and receivers, and amateurs in between, neither the gift of radio, nor the infinite gift of gab like Art's, will end up doing a vanishing act. ☺

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

two job boxes were inventoried by KD2GFO, KC2SYF, K2BBQ and KC2TTT. Thanks to KC2TTT for running to W2JGH to pick up a compressor so we could do some minor repairs on the trailer. K2ZMB was a huge help as always, from helping repairing the trailer to customizing the tie down straps. We, of course, needed a few supplies: Thank you, KD2GFO, for running out and picking up what we needed. K2TV was very busy setting up the three 7600 radios with the keyers and the laptops -- and thank you to AC2MI for assisting, and also KC2ZQO.

We tested the new Honda generator and it works great! Speaking of generators, we will need a supply of gas for them for Field Day. The dealer we bought them from suggested that we use high octane.

All the generators have synthetic oil in them and if we use quality gas we should have no issues.

Please email me if you can supply 5 gallons of 92 octane w2hcb@arrl.net

We are awaiting a few more Pelican cases for the radios. They should be here by Field Day.

A lot was done from 9 AM till 4:30 PM. That's right -- 7.5 hours of hard work!!

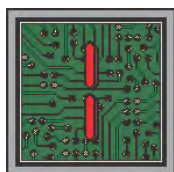
Our next work parties will be June 11th and June 18th and they will start at 9AM. We're also having work parties on Wednesday nights -- the 8th 15th and 22nd from 7 PM until 9:30PM. Thanks to all who helped out on June 4: K2BBQ, AB2ZI, KC2SYF, WB2QGZ, KC2TTT, AC2MI, K2ZMB, W2DVA, KC2WBD, K2TV

So get ready for a real fun Field Day!

John Melfi, W2HCB ☺

Design Advances Make Portable Operation Easier, More Fun

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



I've just returned from the Dayton Hamvention. Dayton was a blast as usual, and if there's one thing I took away from this year's event, it's that portable operation is not only becoming more popular, but more sophisticated as well. In fact, it's a virtuous circle. More sophisticated portable equipment is making portable operation more popular, which is spurring manufacturers to make more sophisticated equipment, which is making portable operation even more popular, and around we go.

This is perhaps most easily seen in the evolution of the Elecraft products. One of their first rigs was the K1, a small rig that was frequently toted out into the field, even though it wasn't really designed for that purpose. It had a small form factor, but had a conventional front panel layout.

The next evolution was the KX1. This CW-only radio was designed specifically for field work. It originally only covered 40m and 80m, and had a very limited front panel, but its built-in battery pack and KXPD1 paddle made it a great choice for portable operators when it was introduced in 2004.

A big leap forward was made when they introduced the KX3 in 2012. This radio combined a bunch of features never before found in a portable rig. The KX3 features an SDR architecture and covers all modes, including (SSB, CW, Data, FM, AM); used the same full-sized LCD display as the K3; has advanced DSP features; and can be connected to a computer via USB for firmware upgrades and for use with other ham radio software. The KX3 is so full-featured that many operators use it as their main rig with a suitable linear amplifier.

At Dayton 2016, Elecraft took this concept even further and introduced the KX2. It's about half the size of the KX3, but yet has almost all of the features of the KX3. There was a tremendous amount of buzz over this radio at Dayton among portable operation aficionados. The base price of the

KX2 is \$750, and with options, will cost you about \$1,000.

Of course, Elecraft isn't the only company competing in this market. LNR Precision sells a radio called the LD-5, and at Dayton, they introduced the LD-11, which like the KX3 and KX2 features an SDR architecture and covers 160m - 6m. This radio goes for about \$800, and has also proven to be popular among portable operators.

Dayton also had a number of exhibitors that supplied products other than radios to aid portable operation. There were several portable antenna manufacturers, including Buddipole (buddipole.com) and PackTenna (packtenna.com), and BiEnno Power (biennopower.com) was also there, showing off their new lithium-iron batteries.

While radios like the KX2 and LD-11, at relatively low prices, allow operators to easily get out into the field, portable operation would not be as popular as it is without organized activities. Programs like the Summits on the Air (SOTA, www.sota.org.uk, na.sota.org) and the National Parks on the Air (NPOTA, npota.arrl.org) make portable operation even more fun. These programs do this by providing a structure in which operators can find one another and gain awards for operating. SOTA did not have a booth at Dayton, but NPOTA was a big part of the ARRL section there.

If you aren't already a portable operator, you should give it a try! You don't have to invest a bunch of money in a rig to just try it. KX1s have been had for less than \$400, and simpler QRP rigs cost a lot less. Getting outside and operating in the fresh air is a lot of fun and could give you a whole new perspective on amateur radio. 📡

Dan is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, and you can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



Field Day Preparations Underway at the EOC— No Saturday Open Houses until July!



Don't forget... Field Day is the weekend of June 25th and 26th. Help is always needed for setup, take down and operating!

The 2016 Raffle prizes will be drawn Saturday evening during dinner. There are still some tickets left so it's not too late to improve your chances of winning.

We hope to see a good showing of the membership to this yearly fun event.



Club laptops at the EOC being loaded with logging software for Field Day 2016

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, (###) ###-####
- Div. 3—Town of Islip ARES/RACES
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: Joe Albertus, KB2IOE, 631-664-6709
- Div. 5—Town of Brookhaven ARES/RACES
EC/RO: Ted Debowy, AC2IR, 631-751-6576
- Div. 6—Riverhead ARES/RACES
EC/RO: < Unknown — no longer in state. >
- 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, N2NEI, 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 - 145.370 (136.5 PL)

New York State RACES Net (HF)

Sundays 0900 Local, 3993.5 KHz LSB

2016 VE

Session Dates

- June 18th
- July 23rd
- August 27th
- September 24th
- October 22nd
- November 26th
- December 17th

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".

The Prizes for our next raffle.



1st Prize: Rigol 1054Z Oscilloscope



2nd Prize (left) MFJ-269C Antenna Analyzer

3rd Prize (right) Extech EX330 Digital Multimeter

Drawing to be held Field Day, Sat June 25th during dinner.

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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Need Antenna Work?

Sign-up on the list at the EOC. Please supply as much information about your situation so the committee can be properly prepared with assistance and tools when they come to your QTH.