



# The Compass!

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

**October 2019**

**Volume 47**

**#10**

**Next General Membership Meeting:  
All Hallow's Eve! Thurs., Oct. 31st, 8 PM**

- **GSBARC Free Technician License Classes Running, Tues. nights, 7- 9:30 PM**

## **Inside this issue:**

- **N2ZN Gets Married!**
- **The Squirrel Cage - a column**
- **Museum Radios**



**ARRL Section Manager Jim Mezey, W2KFV,  
Presented The Club With a New ARRL  
Special Services Club Certificate**



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



# President's Message



October is here but the weather has been that late-summer type of cool in the morning: It starts around 50 degrees then goes up to 78 or so. Working outdoors for 28 years now I find that weather is weather to me. I don't mind the cooler weather. It is much easier to work when it is cooler out. Same goes for antenna work! Get it done before the snow and real cold weather arrives. There is nothing better for a ham radio operator than playing radio when it is 20 degrees out and you're in your warm shack and the antennas are working perfectly. There is nothing worse than hearing that rare DX station that your antenna doesn't want to tune, and you lose the chance to work it. A little maintenance now will pay off in the cold weather for us all.

It seems like new radios pop up not too long after we all buy a radio, right? No worries because as many of you all know, you don't need that \$10,000 rig. It would be nice if we all won the lottery and were millionaires. Many of us start with a basic rig and then upgrade. As I upgraded, I sold some of my earlier radios in order to buy the upgraded ones. So if you hear of a radio for sale in our club, it just might be the right radio for you to get started in HF. Or it might help expand your VHF and UHF stations. I know some of our members enjoy those boat anchor radios and I will tell you that those radios -- after they clean them up, replace a few capacitors and tubes -- still work great! To all of you who have the time to do that -- my hat is off to you all for keeping a part of radio history alive.

When I was a kid I remember one of my neighbors told me something "There is nothing ... than the glow of the tubes warming the shack and creating a romantic atmosphere." I never forgot that saying. I had been riding by his house one day on my bike and asked him what the big antenna was for when he said "come on in." He fired up a huge radio and I heard a South African station coming out of that 15-inch speaker. It was one of the coolest

things I heard. He called the station and it came right back! I wish I could remember his call sign but I do remember his station: It was a 50-foot windmill tower with a huge log periodic antenna. His basement was filled with cabinets lining the walls holding huge transformers and tubes. His operating positions were a small shelf near each cabinet with an Astatic Silver Eagle Model D-104 microphone and a J30 Key. He had no computers -- just clip boards with each station and a log book. Each cabinet was a radio, amplifier and matching network, then another cabinet where all his feed lines went to a massive relay network. The antenna was fed by hardline except for the last top 8 feet. There were no worries about whether you were using the right antenna: he had fully automatic antenna switching. That setup filled the basement! Imagine: a separate amp tuner and radio for each band! It was wall-to-wall radio fun. If my memory is correct, I believe he was an engineer for Grumman or Republic (I can't remember which).

Right after that I remember bugging my father for a radio. That Christmas I got a Hammarlund HQ170. I spent the next day outside with my dad running a wire up into the trees and then it all started. That radio heard stations from all over the world. I had to turn knobs to tune in a clean SSB station -- and I listened to a lot of AM stations from all over the world. I would send in for their QSL cards. It was pretty cool to get mail from all over the world when you were 10 years old.

Let's talk about repeaters now. How many modes are there? It never stops! How many HT radios are you going to buy to keep up with it all - it is getting crazy. When they come up with the mode that will brew a hot coffee or serve me a frosty beverage anywhere I am then maybe I would consider it. Kidding aside, don't get crazed about it all. As new modes pop up don't stress out. I know that D-STAR is great mode and IRLP and Fusion are also great modes. They can open you up to some great cross country and worldwide QSOs using repeaters. If that is what you like, have fun. If you're looking for your very first radio, make sure you get the one that does the things you like to do. A great radio is one that does a few modes -- so always investigate before you buy.

With fall having begun, please be careful when driving. It gets darker sooner. Watch out for kids and animals when you are driving!

Let me also remind you that public service events are always a great way to help the community. We all strive to provide support for many events all over the Island. I know many of our members have done events such as Operation Santa, The NYC Marathon, The Long Island Marathon, The Cow Harbor Run, The Suffolk County Marathon, and The Hope for the Warriors run. I want to thank every one of you who have been part of these events for many years. This year the Suffolk County Marathon is October 27th and we still need operators for this event. Please email me

at [W2HCB@ARRL.NET](mailto:W2HCB@ARRL.NET) if you can help. Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone runs it every year. He is huge supporter of amateur radio so when you are on a post for this event, he will see you. Trust me on this: many politicians will see us at public service events and that helps us out when we need their help. We really need at least another 10 operators for October 27th –if you are someone who has signed up I will be emailing you all the information a week before the marathon.

The Hope for the Warriors Run is November 9th at Cedar Beach. You must register in order to be part of this event. Use the Hope for Warriors link at <http://www.ham.hopeforthewarriors.volunteerhub.com> Please sign up as a Course Marshal. Once you have done that please email me at [W2HCB@ARRL.NET](mailto:W2HCB@ARRL.NET)

Our net control operators would like to hear more of you on the Monday night Nets. Please check in to a net once in while. We can use some net control operators too. We would love to get more check-ins on the 10 meter net on Tuesday nights. This net is a sort of round table telling everyone about your weekend or contest or project you might be working on.

On October 26th we conduct our annual SET. The drill will start at 08:30 a.m. I sent out a posting on the groups.io page with the format for this year's SET. This is a scored SET so the more operators and messages sent -- and modes -- the higher our score. We will do voice and digital drills.

Attention RACES members- this is from Monroe County via KD2DO

*\*Simulated Emergency Test\**

Many communities throughout the state will be operating Oct 5 and 6 as part of various emergency exercises. On Saturday, Oct. 5 starting at 10 a.m. in Rochester (Monroe County), we will be deploying an HF station to a park near the shore of Lake Ontario. We will be stringing antennas from trees and running strictly on battery power. It will be like a mini Field Day. It is primarily a training exercise. We would like to make contact with the Albany RACES HQ if possible.

We will try the voice net frequency 3993.5 kHz and the digital frequency of 3583.5 using Olivia 8-500 offset 1500 Hz. We will make voice calls (LSB) on the hour and half hour and digital calls at the quarter hour and three quarter hour marks. In addition to contact with Albany HQ we want to reach as many of the other RACES stations as possible who regularly check into the Sunday morning net.

This HF station will be operating with the call *\*K2JD\**

If you have not signed up for the Groups.IO page yet, please do so at <https://groups.io/> This is how we send out notices of meeting changes and events as well as reminders of Nets.

Once again as I always say whatever you like about amateur radio have fun with it. So to all the park chasers, special event chasers, hard core contesters , DX chasers, rag chewers, weak signal hunters and satellite operators. To all the boat anchor operators I hope you all will share your restoration stories in our newsletter. It would be great to see “before” and “after” pictures of a restored vintage radio.

Halloween is approaching - don't forget to get treats for the kiddies. Just a friendly reminder to renew your club dues when you get a chance to do so. We value your membership. We hope to see you at our general membership meeting on October 31st -- will it be spooky or a fun trick or treat? Only you will know if you come. I hope you all have a great month ahead.

*73. John Melfi, W2HCB* 

## Congratulations! Ken & Julie



Congratulations to Ken, N2ZN and  
his new bride Julie  
September 27th, 2019

# Inside the Squirrel Cage

By Caryn, KD2GUT



In amateur radio, there are bugs you want and bugs you'd rather avoid. You may not welcome any bugs in the software for the codeplug of your DMR handheld and you certainly don't want to find any in that nice new FlexRadio you've just invested a few mortgage payments in. On the other hand, what Morse Code enthusiast can resist a classic Vibroplex, a time-tested name that even gave radio the Lightning Bug, a fortuitous addition that ensured efficient communications during the first World War?

Then – just in time for Halloween – there are bug-bugs: These crawl onto the scene complete with a small antenna array and - just in time for Halloween – their very own exoskeleton. But here's a question not even your most experienced entomologist, exterminator or even Extra Class licensee could answer: could this work as a dual bander or is this some variation on a center-fed model? One ham on social media suggested "fan dipole." Meanwhile, I was left wondering that if this were some clever kind of beam, where would you stick the rotor? (For that matter, into which end of this thing do you insert the feedline?)



Another ham on social media may have come closest to the truth: if you live in a gated or organized housing development, here's one promising way to fool the HOA with a little natural decor. Clearly we don't want anything crawling around in our shack that causes interference or even crunches underfoot. But could we suspend our disgust

long enough to load this thing up on 80 meters, cut through the giant pileup and score that rare DX? I'm working on the answer to that so....in the meantime, please don't bug me. ☹️

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## For Sale

### Yeasu FT 950

Perfect condition, with all manuals.  
Used maybe 10x, tiny, very tiny scratch on top cabinet, top left, While removing unit from shelf.  
Comes with, never used IR, never even plugged in, CW filter, made by Collins, YF - 122CN, new in box! And hand mic and all manuals.

Palstar Ext sport, cherry, brand new, never plugged in! All 5 star reviews.

Vibroplex, chrome, iambic keyer, BY-2...  
Perfect condition, hardly used !

Ct 599, chrome iambic paddle , never used, perfect!  
Beautifully made!!

Baofeng BF F8HP with Charger, etc..used once!  
Bought an Icom D Star which I use occasionally.

MFJ low pass filter, MFJ 704, never used!

Gordon West  
CW long play CW learning course. Audio CD's.  
0-5 wpm  
AND 5-16 wpm  
I have 2 sets, never even opened!!  
I bought one set and other was a gift .

ARRL, Extra Class, spiral bound license manual, expires, June 20, 2020.  
Perfect condition!

All reasonable offers accepted!  
Unfortunately my medical condition forces me to sell.  
All offers considered, but please, do not take advantage of my situation.  
I am going on 69 years of age, ham since novice, WN2ROX when I was about 12 y/o.  
Love the hobby but these must be incredible!

Thomas Pallan, M.D., WB2JSY  
[Doctp12@aol.com](mailto:Doctp12@aol.com)



# Museum Radios

By Bob Myers, K2TV



The Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club recently obtained three antique pieces of early 1920's radio equipment which is being donated to The Babylon Village Historical Society Museum.

Figure 1 is an early crystal radio with a tube amplifier built into the cabinet. The galena crystal on the front of the cabinet is adjusted using what is called a "cat's whisker" that acts like a detector to detect radio signals. A set of headphones was plugged into the radio to hear the transmission.



Figure 1

Figures 2 and 3 show a 1921 Westinghouse RC (RA-DA) three tube regenerative receiver manufactured by the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company of East Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This unit was also sold under the Radiola name and was one of the first commercially produced radios.

Figures 2 & 3 (below)



The radio receiver is a two-section receiver housed in a single wood enclosure. The section on the left is the "RA" unit and functions as the tuner of the radio. It contains a variometer for tuning in the radio stations and the tickler variometer for controlling the regenerative feedback. The section on the right is the "DA" unit and functions as the detector amplifier. It contains the three tubes - one type UV-200 for the detector and two types UV-201-A for the first and second audio amplifiers. The combined RA-DA receiver is known as an "RC" receiver. A separate accessory known as an "RT" (not shown) was available to increase the selectivity of the receiver. The RT unit is a variometer similar to the RA unit and will help pull in distant radio stations in the presence of local stronger radio stations. There is a little door on top of the DA unit that opens to provide access to the three vacuum tubes.

On a metal plate on the the right side of the cabinet it says the following: "Westinghouse Detector Amplifier Type DA, Style 307190, Licensed for Amateur and Experimental Use Only, Serial 140878." On a metal plate on the left of the cabinet it says "Westinghouse Receiving Tuner Type RA, Wave Length 180-700 Meters, Style 307189."

Figure 4 is a Western Electric 7A amplifier for those who wanted to hear the radios through a speaker. The speaker would be a horn type speaker (Figure 5) and would allow the radio signals to be heard by everyone in the room.



Figures 4 & 5

All these units were battery-powered and were quite costly to use as the batteries were very expensive.

It is important to note that limited radio broadcasting started around 1921/1922 by some amateur radio operators as there were no formal rules against playing music at that time. These units were made for experimental and amateur radio communications use but also bought by those who wished to hear the early radio broadcasts. Most of these early broadcasts were done by amateur radio operators who would play phonograph records on their stations for the entertainment of listeners. It was not illegal at the time for amateur radio operators to broadcast music and other programs. Many of these stations would later become full-time commercial broadcast stations. 📻

## 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, 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

## 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" ☎



## 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



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# 2019 VE Session Dates

- October 26th
- November 23rd
- December 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 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.

# SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendar for Ham Radio University 2020—to be held on Saturday, January 4, 2020, at LIU/Post in Brookville, Long Island.

The HRU 2020 Committee has held its first meeting and is looking for volunteers to help in the planning process.

Please let us know if you would like to become a member of the Committee -- and/or have suggestions for forum topics and moderators.

The next HRU 2020 Committee planning meeting will be held Tuesday evening, September 17th.

You can contact us on line at: <http://hamradiouniversity.org/contact-us/>

We look forward to seeing you at HRU 2020!

