



The Compass!

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

September 2019

Volume 47

#9

Next General Membership Meeting: Thurs., Sept. 26th, 8 PM

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



Fire Island Lighthouse Event, August 17th & 18th, 2019

Inside this issue:

- **Fire Island Lighthouse Pictures**
- **The Robot Apocalypse is Upon Us!**
- **Inside the Squirrel Cage (a column)**
- **KB6NU's Guest Column**
- **Babylon Village Fair Photos**
- **CW Slow Speed Traffic Nets**
- **Growing Up in New Joisey**



Long Island's Friendliest Amateur Radio Club!



President's Message



If you missed our general meeting in August, you missed a great talk with Leon KD2ONC and Jim W2KFV who both worked on the lunar module during their years at Grumman. The pictures they brought were great.

As I started this month's president's message Hurricane Dorian was beating the heck out of the Bahamas. I urge all of our HF operators to please monitor the hurricane nets on 14.325 and 7.268. If you can be of assistance, please offer your help to pass traffic if needed. We all know what happened when superstorm Sandy hit us.

To all our RACES members: please make sure you have backup power for stations. We will use digital messaging on 144.970 110.9 pl enc/dec messages will be sent in DOMx88 . If there is an activation by the town, callups will be on the 146.685 repeater and also on digital . This is hurricane season so with that in mind let us all be aware of what mother nature can do. To all our South Shore members, please make sure you have the 123.7 pl in your radios for 146.685. We also have the 440.850 repeater to use along with our 220 repeater. Staying prepared is key to providing effective communications when needed.

Once again public service events help us practice proper net procedures and messaging is the key to passing emergency traffic: listen carefully, write it down then pass it along.

Our info net features the weekly contest report by Sali K2RYD and DX report by Bob K2TV. Please join us on Monday nights as we list what is going on that week and also listen to Amateur Radio Newslines after the DX report.

September is here and the public service event season is here so please get involved and lend a hand at one or a few:

We have the Babylon Village Fair September 8th at Argyle Park in Babylon Village. We will need operators any-

time from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. We have been doing this public service event for 20 years or more. So, come on down! We will be on 147.535 simplex for the event all day. Bring your better halves along and let them browse the craft vendors. Check out the entertainment, get something to eat, take a stroll around Argyle Lake – that's always a nice thing to do. You can even bring a chair and sit in the shade. Just keep your eyes open for any emergency situations and give us a call, so we can assist whoever needs help. Please email me at w2hcb@arrl.net if you are available to assist with this event.

Jamboree on the Air is on October 18th, 19th and 20th, and Phil W2VU will need assistance. Please contact him if you can lend a hand. It is always great to see a kid's face light up when he talks to someone far away. Please contact Phil at w2uv@kd2gfo.com to help with this fun event.

On October 27th we have the Suffolk County Marathon. We need at least 30 operators on the course. It would be best if you have a mobile radio plus your HT. If you can assist, we truly need your help. We are still short 23 operators. Please email me at w2hcb@arrl.net to sign up.

On November 9th we have the Hope for the Warriors run. We will need a total of 30 operators on the course. Please go this link <http://www.ham.hopeforthewarriors.volunteer-hub.com> to sign up as a course marshal. There are no barricades to move; you just stand along the course, watch for injuries and if you are at a turn, guide the runners in the right direction. We have to be on site at Cedar Beach at 05:30 a.m. I know that's early but unfortunately that is what it is due to the closure of Ocean Parkway for the event. This year it will be a 5-mile run, a 10-mile run and a 1-mile walk.

We are selling our MA40 tower with the motor drive, marb base , and raising fixture. If you are interested please email us at info@gsbarc.org . We also have a 20-foot rooftop tower for sale. Please email if interested in that as well. Another thing we are selling is a Johnson Viking Ranger radio. It is in nice shape. It was recapped about 10 years ago. Serious inquires only please. This is a piece of history and is very clean. Please email us at info@gsbarc.org if you would like to have this gem in your shack.

Once again I cannot stress enough that you all pay attention during hurricane season. Keep an eye on the weather. You never know what might pop up from the severe thunderstorms and wind storms to tornados. Yes I said "tornados." As I was writing this message, a tornado was filmed out over the bay in the Mastic area. So stay prepared and ready. To those of our members who have to go out in those conditions please work safely. I hope to see you at the September General meeting and at public service events this fall.

73. John Melfi, W2HCB 📻

CW traffic nets for beginners

By Bill Fagan KB2QO



If you know Morse Code, and can send/receive at 10 to 13 WPM, you might want to consider taking part in the Empire Slow Speed Net (ESS), managed by none other than our own 2RN CW Net manager Anne Fanelli, WI2G. The net meets at 6 PM local time on 3569 kHz and is open to anyone from anywhere. There is a great sense of satisfaction in mastering the basics of CW traffic handling. CW also connects us with the very beginnings of radio (and some would say, digital) communication.

THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE RADIOGRAM									
NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HR	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE		
1	R	G	K4IUM	12	CARY NC		DEC 20		
TO		JOHN Q PUBLIC		THIS RADIO MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED AT					
		1234 MAPLE AVE		NAME		PHONE			
		ANYTOWN NC 27000		STREET ADDRESS		CITY AND STATE			
TELEPHONE NUMBER		919 555 1234							
ARRIVE	7PM	DEC	24	X					
LOOKING	FORWARD	TO	SEEING	YOU					
X	LOVE								
BETTY M PUBLIC									
REC'D	FROM	DATE	TIME	SENT	TO	DATE	TIME		

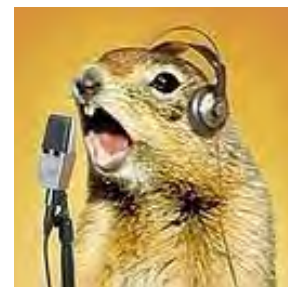
Form: Copyright 1995, American Radio Relay League. Used with permission.

In addition to managing ESS and our 2RN CW operations, Anne provides a monthly bulletin which always contains excellent tips on traffic handling and proper procedures, or opinions on current issues worth considering. I asked Anne some time ago if I might be placed on the mailing list for this bulletin and she was kind enough to include me. In response to a recent inquiry, she stated that she would be happy to include anyone on her mailing list who would like to receive the bulletin. I think anyone seriously interested in traffic handling would want to receive this excellent publication.

If you would like to be on Anne's ESS distribution list, or if you would like more information about participating in ESS, contact Anne at afwi2g@gmail.com. Thank you, Anne, for your great publication, and for all your contributions to our traffic-handling community. 🐿

Inside the Squirrel Cage

By Caryn, KD2GUT



Back in the bad old days of antenna TV, neighborhood hams ran the risk of becoming inadvertent stars of prime-time whenever they keyed the mic. The phone in our house would ring regularly when my brother was on the air and the kids next door were watching "Lassie" on Channel 2, Sunday nights. The beloved hero collie would open her mouth to speak and out would come the sound of my brother calling QRZ.

The advent of cable TV has rendered that scenario all but gone. Unfortunately, "Lassie" is long gone too.

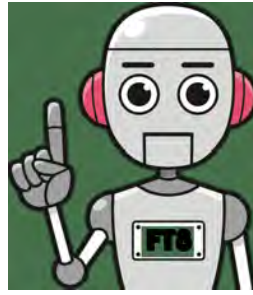
Not so long ago a friend overseas shared the news that his attempts at working other stations were being thwarted by the sounds of warbling and chirping. Have European nations grown so progressive that they've begun licensing their local avians? I mean, birds are already "on the air" so isn't this just a formality? Still, if they'd become lids with wings that would require further scrutiny.

No, these were not mockingbirds mocking the local hams: It turns out that this QRM was radiating from overhead wires that deliver residential cable and internet. Typically the installation of band pass filters would remedy the problem but in some instances no filters were installed.

So now when it is prime time to get on the air and grab that coveted DX, it's now the ham who's the victim instead of the perpetrator – at least until this issue gets resolved. If residential cable is showing reruns of classic "Lassie," you can be sure that somewhere a beloved hero collie opens her mouth to speak – and this time she's laughing. 🐿

Dxpedition To Use FT8 Robot?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



It's inevitable. At some point, machines are going to render humans irrelevant. It's been a recurring theme in science fiction since before I was born (1955), and there are numerous predictions of the Singularity, the point in time when machines will be smarter than humans, occurring between 2030 and 2045.

It may happen in amateur radio sooner than we think. A couple of days ago, one of my readers sent me a link to a blog post by John, AE5X: Automated FT8 "FoxBot" in upcoming DXpedition – confirmed (<https://ae5x.blogspot.com/2019/08/automated-ft8-foxbot-in-upcoming.html>). He wrote:

"A DXpedition to Tokelau will take place from 1 to 11 October and it will be your chance to work an FT8 robot operating in Fox/Hound mode.

"Stathis SV5DKL has been working on a 'FoxBot' for some time now, is listed as a partner to this DXpedition and has confirmed that the DXpedition will be using his FoxBot."

John has since updated this post, noting "The SV5DKL logo has now been removed and the DX team will be in 'full compliance' with the mode." Full compliance meaning following the rules set up by the ARRL DXCC rules.

The ARRL is, of course, against the use of robots. A recent ARRL Letter noted:

"ARRL has incorporated changes to the rules for all ARRL-sponsored contests and DXCC, prohibiting automated contacts and requiring that an actual operator is initiating and carrying out a contact. These changes also apply to Worked All States (including Triple Play and 5-Band WAS), Fred Fish W5FF Memorial, and VUCC awards. The changes are effective immediately and affect the rules for both HF contests, and VHF/UHF contests as

well as DXCC.

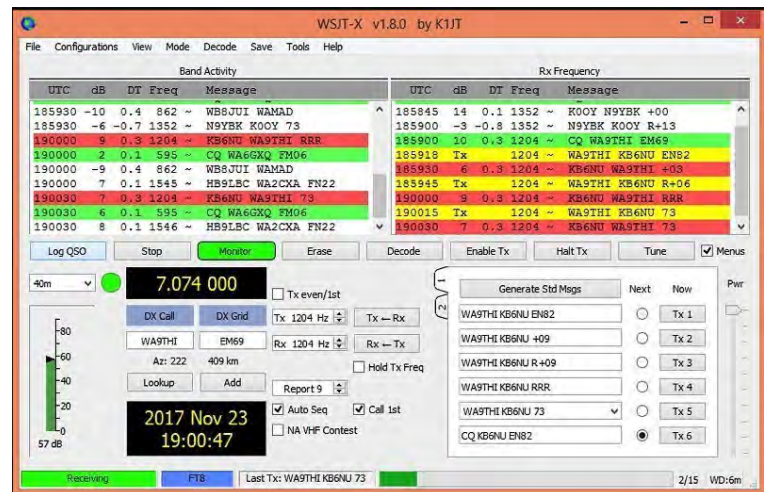
"A resolution at the July ARRL Board of Directors meeting pointed to 'growing concern over fully automated contacts being made and claimed' for contest and for DXCC credit. The rules now require that each claimed contact include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact. Initiation of a contact may either be local or remote."

As AE5X says, however, the use of FT8 robots in the future is a certainty. Sooner or later, some DXpedition is going to use an FT8 robot without saying anything about it. How is the ARRL going to know that a DXpedition is using robots if the DXpedition operators don't tell them?

I'm wondering when some DXpedition is going to give up on SSB and CW altogether. Why bother with those modes when you can make hundreds or thousands more contacts by just operating FT8?

Another thought just occurred to me. If the ARRL gets its way and Techs are awarded HF digital privileges, how long will it take for some enterprising Tech to make the DXCC Honor Roll using FT8 exclusively. Oh, the horror of it all!

—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 often appears on the *ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com)*. When he's not wondering when robots are going to take over the world, he likes to (manually) operate CW on the HF bands.



Growing up in Hillside, N.J.

By Urb LeJeune, W1UL [© 2019 All rights reserved]



I was born at a very young age and grew up in Hillside, N.J. which is a small town nestled between Newark and Elizabeth. At the time I was growing up, Hillside could be described as upper-lower class. The town was sparsely populated and urban sprawl bypassed this small town primarily inhabited by first- and second-generation Italians, Hungarians and Poles. The town's cultural centers were the Italian-American Hall, the Hungarian-American Hall and -- you guessed it -- the Polish-American Hall.

Hillside's claim to fame was Phil Rizzuto, the legendary New York Yankee Hall of Fame shortstop and Yankee broadcaster for 40 years. "Holy cow" was Phil's favorite expression when something really exciting happened. Phil lived in the Westminster section of town, a small affluent enclave bordering on Elizabeth.

The Elks Lodge sponsored a baseball league. It was somewhat of a precursor of the Little League with a major difference: anyone could play in the league if they were not on the high school varsity team. The Elks would kick off the season with a picnic where they served draft birch beer. What a treat! Phil would always come and hang out with the kids for the entire picnic. One-year Phil brought Yogi Berra with him. I was not a Yankee fan, but I was a catcher. I thought I had died and gone to heaven, being able to talk to arguably the best catcher in major league baseball. At the end of the season when the league gave out the trophies, Phil was there to distribute them with a kind word. They sure don't make many major league players like that anymore.

The Polish hall had a 14-inch TV set on top of a high cabinet. This was decades before the advent of color TV. There was Milton Berle, AKA "Uncle Miltie" on Tuesday night and the fights on Friday. They filled the large room to standing-room-only capacity to watch TV. If Joe Louis was boxing you had to arrive at the club at least two hours

before the fight to get a seat.

I lived in a farm house at the very edge of town. In the back of the farm were humongous wetlands. That was called a swamp in those days. One year my combination birthday and Christmas presents were a pair of binoculars, amplification factor of about two, and a Peterson's Bird Field Guide. I spend many hours exploring the swamp and bird watching, filling up several notebooks with sightings.



—When not writing newsletter articles Urb can usually be found working on his ham radio test preparation website, <http://ham-cram.com>. The site has three distinguishing characteristics:

- We don't study incorrect answers.
- We only study the questions most likely on the FCC test.
- It's free.

73 Urb W1UL 69 Years a Ham. 609-937-5487

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.

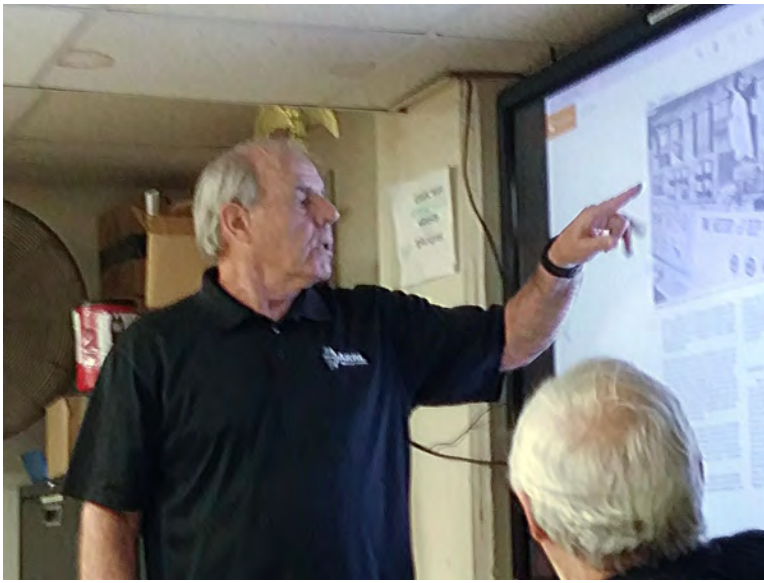
The next HRU 2020 Committee planning meeting will be held Tuesday evening, September 17th.

You can contact us on line at:

<http://hamradiouniversity.org/contact-us/>

We look forward to seeing you at HRU 2020!





K2M Wrap Up with former Grumman Employees Jim Mezey, W2KFBV (left), and Leo Gurinsky, KD2ONC at the August General Meeting

Babylon Village Fair Event Photos (9-8-19)







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

- September 28th
- October 26th
- November 23rd
- December 28th

2020 VE Session Dates

- January 25th
- February 22nd

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" 🗣️

