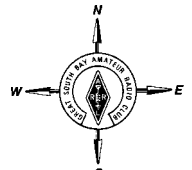


THE COMPASS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT SOUTH BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 1

“..serving the community through Public Service.”

January, 2003

GSBARC 2003 OFFICERS

President: Walter Wenzel, KA2RGI
Vice Pres: David Wandell, N2UHR
Treasurer: Tom Carrubba, KA2D
Corr. Secretary: Scott Verity, KC2FBV
Rec. Sec: PattyLynn Wandell, KC2AUX
Director 1: Dom Stengele, WA2UJI
Director 2: Frank Spinazzola, KC2EGK
Director 3: Phil Lewis, N2MUN
Director 4: Charles Rousselet, N2MZK

UPCOMING EVENTS

GSBARC General Meeting

Thursday Jan 30, 2003 – 8:00 PM
Thursday Feb 27, 2003 – 8:00 PM
Thursday Mar 27, 2003 – 8:00 PM

GSBARC VE

Sunday Feb 23, 2003 - 12 PM
Sunday Mar 23, 2003 - 12 PM

GSBARC Executive Officers Meeting

Thursday Feb 13, 2003 – 8:00 PM
Thursday Mar 13, 2003 – 8:00 PM

GSBARC Open House

Saturdays 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

NETS

Newsline Report - Dave Wandell, N2UHR
Monday 7:00 PM 146.685/R

Club Info Net - Dave Wandell, N2UHR
Monday 7:15 PM 146.685/R

DX/Contest Info - Phil Lewis, N2MUN
Monday 7:15 PM 146.685/R

TOBARES Net - Rotating Net Controls
Monday 8:15 PM 146.685/R

Swap 'n Shop Net - Bud Eagan, WA2QAV
Tuesday 7:30 PM 146.685/R

10 M Net - Brian Keegan, N2NGE
Tuesday 8:00 PM 28.320

New Years Eve Net
Dec. 31 12 Midnight 146.685/R

REPEATERS

2 M 146.685/146.085 PL 110.9
1 1/2 M 223.860/222.260 PL 131.8
70 CM 440.850/445.850 PL 114.8
70 CM 447.625/442.625 PL 114.8*

*Repeater owned by Chris Baumgartner, WA2AMX

President's Message

By Walter, KA2RGI

Some Thoughts on 2003

Here we are the start of another year. The economic conditions do not look to good, but I am sure things will work out in time.

The things we have to keep in mind are those things that mean something to us. These things give us the reason to carry on and they help us overcome our daily obstacles. With a good outlook on our life's we can handle anything and overcome any obstacles that can arise. The main reason why we often do not get involved with something is because we are awkward because of either a lack of knowledge or not enough desire to research something out and get accurate information.

If we keep our goals in sight on any subject and work to achieve them we will win out EVERY time. I do not want to sound like I am preaching here but I firmly believe that if we have faith in our abilities, we can achieve what ever we desire to. This goes for our way of life, our relationship with our families, our religion, and our time of recreation and enjoyment.

As I look forward for this year I am confident that with a little more help from the membership we can achieve many things we want as an organization. The main thing to remember is that it will only happen if you stand up and help in what ever way you can. Let 2003 be the year you help out with something within the club and support our efforts.

The first place to start is to renew your club membership. The next is plan to attend the monthly General Meetings, and plan to assist with at least one function during the year. We also have the Open House Meetings on Saturday's to help answer any question anyone in the club may have about Amateur Radio.

Let's all work together to help GSBARC to maintain the bright light of support and friendship it has developed over the years.

To those that have been there over the years I say thank you, and to those that are just coming on board I say Welcome and I do so with open arms.

73,
Walter, KA2RGI

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

BABYLON TOWN HALL EOC, LINDENHURST, NY

Thursday December 5, 2002

Meeting called to order by KA2RGI at 8:00 PM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

President	KA2RGI	Walter Wenzel
Vice President	KC2EXP	David Wandell
Recording Secretary	KC2AUX	PattyLynn Wandell
Corresponding Secretary	KC2FBV	Scott Verity
Treasurer	KA2D	Tom Carrubba
Director 1	WA2UJI	Dom Stengele
Director 2	KC2EGK	Frank Spinazzola
Director 3	N2MUN	Phil Lewis

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Director 4 N2MZX Charles Rousselet

OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT:

KB2SIE, KC2EXO, WA2QAV, KC2KMD, KB2TXZ, KC2EGK

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tom, KA2D

\$1472.17 in checking account

\$2769.17 in CD

\$4241.38 Total as of 11-29-2002

CORRESPONDENCE: Scott, KC2FBV

Condolence Cards to KB2ZGS & KA2KYP

QSL cards, Dues Renewals, Newsletters from other clubs

APPAREL: KC2EGK, Spin

4 Jacket orders

Restock order to be given to supplier for 3 each size for a total of 12 shirts, and hats.

CLUB STATION & EQUIPMENT: Walter, KA2RGI

Club radios returned from Skywarn Recognition Day

TS 430 on loan to N2UHR

DX & CONTESTING: Tom, KA2D

Latest DX and contest info is presented on Monday Club Net.

Tom gave info on upcoming events and contests.

Tom noted response to Skywarn Recognition Day was poor.

167 contacts total. NWS is planning on installing dipoles for HF operations.

EDUCATION: Phil, N2MUN

March new classes will start. Still deciding if it will be a Tech or Gen class.

Saturday mornings KA2RGI is running specials sessions to assist persons with code during open house through Jan.

FIELD DAY: Doug, KB2SIE

Need Chairpersons

Doug, KB2SIE volunteered to be a chairperson.

Equipment checks need to be performed now!

HAMFEST: Walter, KA2RGI

New OUTDOOR Hamfest. Just before our last meeting we secured the location of the Sunrise Mall for the Outside

Hamfest. We are working on a date that will not conflict with other events in the area.

LIBRARY: Dom, WA2UJI

No Change

MEMBERSHIP: N2MIG, Tom

No Change

111 total. (91 full paid, 11 family, 9 complimentary)

NETS:

Newsline:

2 Club Net: OK 12-13 avg. check ins each week.

DX Info: Phil is looking for a replacement wants to step down.

Swap n Shop: OK 6-8 check ins weekly

10 M Informal: 12+ check ins

NEWSLETTER: Walter, KA2RGI

Nov. Issue was Phil's last newsletter.

Looking to see if anyone is interested in being editor of newsletter, If so contact KA2RGI.

Homepage / WEBSITE / DX CLUSTER: Tom, KA2D

KA2D says the webpage is updated regularly. It currently contains the latest Compass. Site is getting 20-25 contacts regularly.

Cluster Telenet is working OK, had some issues w/ RF side.

REPEATERS: Walter, KA2RGI

144 – touched up deviation settings All seems ok now

220 – repeater is at Walt's house for final checkout

440 – All OK

VE SESSIONS: Tom, KA2D

The next session will be held on Jan. 19th at HRU.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Nothing to report

ARES/RACES: Walter, KA2RGI

Feb 20, 2003 next Basic Skywarn Training Session anyone planning to attend needs to pre-register.

The Holiday party will be held at the EOC on December 19

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next HRU 2003 meeting will be held on Mon. Jan. 13, 7:00 PM at the EOC

GUEST SPEAKERS & PROGRAMS:

Dec - Holiday Party at EOC

Jan – The DX Cluster and its operation by Tom, KA2D

A motion to adjourn was made by KC2EXO and seconded by KC2EGK Meeting was adjourned at 9:40PM

Respectfully submitted by
PattyLynn Wandell, KC2AUX
Recording Secretary



GREAT SOUTH BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

BABYLON TOWN HALL EOC, LINDENHURST, NY
 Thursday December 19, 2002
 Meeting called to order by KA2RGI at 8:00 PM

President wished everyone the best of the new year.
 Reminded everyone of the New Years Eve Net.
 Asked if anyone had business for the Club.
 None response given.
 A motion to adjourn was made by everyone present.
 Secured the meeting for Party at 8:05 PM

Respectfully submitted by
 PattyLynn Wandell, KC2AUX
 Recording Secretary



ARES & RACES RENEWAL TIME

Town of Babylon Amateur Radio Emergency Services is reminding persons who are part of ARES and or RACES to renew their memberships. This can be done via the TOBARES Web site at www.tobares.org.



GSBARC COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

- Club Apparel** – Frank “Spin”, KC2EGK
- Club Station/Equip** – Walter, KA2RGI
- DX/Contesting** – Tom, KA2D
- Education** – Phil, N2MUN
- Field Day** – Doug, KB2SIE
 Additional Chairperson Positions Open
- Hamfest** – Walter, KA2RGI
- Library** – Dom, WA2UJI
- Membership** – Tom, N2MIG
- Nets**
 - Newsline Report** – Mon 7:00 PM – Dave, N2UHR
 - 2M Club Info** – Mon 7:15 PM – Dave, N2UHR
 - 2M DX / Contesting** – Mon 8:45 PM – Phil, N2MUN
 Looking for new person*
 - 2M Swap & Shop** – Tue 7:30 PM – Bud WA2QAV
 - 10M Informal** (28.320) –Tue 8:00 PM – Brian, N2NGE
- Newsletter** – Walter, KA2RGI looking for new editor*
- Home page/ DX Cluster** – Tom, KA2D
- Repeaters** – Walter, KA2RGI
- VE Sessions** – Tom, KA2D



GSBARC 2003 BUDGET

Based on actual numbers from club accounts

INCOME

DUES -projected 100 members	2500
Raffles	<u>250</u>
	2750

EXPENSES FIXED

Annual PO Box Rental	50
Bank - Monthly Service charge	60
Club Equipment Insurance	155
Club Liability Insurance	325
Membership MetroCor	20
Internet Domain Name	35
Membership ARLHS	15
Donation, Newsline	50
Donation, eHam (VE and SE calendar)	25
Donation, QSL Net (backup web host)	<u>25</u>
	760

Projected	
COMPASS /print/postage	337
Misc Printing, club brochures, info, educ	50
Field Day 2003	350
Annual Picnic 2003	200
Fire Island 2003	50
Annual Holiday Party 2003	100
Repeater Fund 2003	500
Health & Welfare 2003	50
MISC 2003	<u>100</u>
	1737

NOTES:	Projector Fund (plus can)	180
	QAV EQ fund	65
	In 2002 GSB spent approx 3404	

Apparel Sales, Book Sales are small profit.
 VE = even

The above budget was presented to the GSBARC Executive Board during the January 9, 2003 meeting.

The budget was unanimously approved by the board and is presented here as notification to the membership for approval at the January 30, 2003 meeting.



GSBARC VE SCHEDULE 2003

January	Jan 19 * HRU2003 Oyster Bay	July	July 27 * New Technician test effective July
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			1, 2003
February	Feb 23	August	Aug 24
March	March 23	September	Sept 28
April	Apr 27	October	Oct 26
May	May 25	November	Nov 23
June	NO scheduled VE this month Visit Field Day -6/28-6/29 Babylon Town Hall East Lawn	December	NO shelled VE this month <i>Season's Greetings</i>

The GSBARC VE Team can now process renewals, see the last paragraph.

Tom KA2D
ARRL VE Liaison
GSBARC
To ALL ARRL VE Teams 2003 ARRL Test Fee = \$12
Dec 16, 2002

Dear ARRL VE:
Effective January 1, 2003 the ARRL VEC test fee will become \$12 (up from \$10 in 2001-2002) for calendar year 2003. ARRL VE teams must charge this fee to each person seeking a new license or upgrade at ARRL test sessions. The fee is charged (just once) to any person taking any one, two, three or up to four elements in one sitting. If an element is failed, the person may retake the test if the VEs have a second test version on hand, if the VEs agree to allow a retest time permitting, and once the applicant has paid a second test fee (enter the results as a new examinee making a new entry on the Candidate Roster.

Also effective January 1, 2003, if your team receives renewal or address change requests from non-examinees, be aware that ARRL VEC will process these for FREE to ARRL members, or for a fee of \$12 for non ARRL members.

73 and Happy Holidays
Bart Jahnke W9JJ



SWAP & SHOP

For Sale By Tom, KA2D

Hy-Gain HAM IV rotor/black control box -USED -\$225.00
Hy-Gain HAM IV rotor/black control box -REBUILT -\$375.00
Rebuilt by Norm's Rotor Service 9/02 - all new SS hardware
MFJ Antenna Tuner 949E -\$120.00

300W PEP/meter, dummy load, switch, balun
MOSLEY PRO-57B 5 band HF Yagi antenna -\$275.00
20-17-15-12-10 Meters
Maldol HS-790 DUPLEXER (NEW) -\$35.00
(16-150Mhz) (410-460)
Contact Tom, KA2D 631-422-9594 ka2d@arrl.net

For Sale By Dave, N2UHR

Various computer components
UPS's some in need of minor work or batteries Best Price
Contact Dave N2UHR 631-842-6340 n2uhr@arrl.net

For Sale by Julius, KC2CSL

6 ft roof tower with all hardware and a small rotor with a 10 ft mast to sell. Asking price is \$135
Contact Julius KC2CSL 631-587-7794 kc2csl@aol.com

For Sale by Jim, KE2TR

Tower package; HyGain HG54HD 54' crank up tower/rotor plate
HyGain erection fixture gin pole (this is a rare find and worth \$400 alone plus shipping.
Taitwister rotor with brake release mod on control box(7sec delay)
TriEx TB2 trust bearing
24' 2" OD 1/2" wall aluminum mast
3 coax stand offs
2 Element Lightning Bolt Quad (6 mo. old)
lots of rg213 cable
lots of rotor cable and other stuff that's in the back yard.
\$1500 for all but do not want to break up, I want to sell it all at once, or best reasonable offer. This system is up and working at this time, I can bring it down in a day or to make ready for buyer to pick up.
Gap Voyager 160-20 mtr plus guying kit \$100 originally they sell for \$389
Gap Titan vertical 10-80mtrs plus WARC bands \$100

Contact Jim KE2TR 631-476 4542

For Sale KA2RGI

MFJ -493 32K super menu driven keyer W/Keyboard connection \$125
Hustler 5BTV 5 Band Vertical HF Antenna \$50

Contact Walt KA2RGI 631-957-0218 ka2rgi@arrl.net



DUES REMINDER

Dues renewal is \$ 25.00 per year. Tom KA2D will be collecting dues at GSBARC meetings . You may also mail in your dues to the club PO Box. When renewing your membership it is important to update any change of your personal information such as a new address, phone number, call sign, license class, ARRL membership, and e-mail address.



CLUB APPAREL

Frank "Spin", KC2EGK has club apparel for sale. A new T shirt and hat order has been placed. Light weight, Medium weight, and heavy weight jackets of different can also be ordered with or without embroidered club logo, name or call sign. These items are available in various colors. The people that have expressed interest in these jackets have to pay before the order can be placed. We have enough requests for the order but need the money.



**** TIPS FOR LEARNING CW ****

by

Richard K Leah VE3ANB / G0TZD

Submitted by KA2D

If you have an electronic keyer or manual key, take it to your wife or girlfriend and carefully hand it to her asking her to LOCK it away somewhere for you. Until you know what morse code is supposed to sound like, you will surely not be able to send it properly. I've heard some guys that appear to be sending code using a loose toggle switch as a key. (A good musician always learns how an instrument should sound prior to playing it). There will be plenty of time to send later.

The secret of learning the code, is to LISTEN, LISTEN, and LISTEN!! By listening to code that is sent well, you will get a feel for the rhythm (consistent speed PLUS consistent gapping between each character).

Morse code consists of a series of dits and dahs (NEVER dots and dashes) that make up the alphabet and, for the purposes of your examination (Canada), you will need to know the alphabet, the numbers 0 - 9, comma, period, slash and question mark. Learn the sound of each character clearly in your mind. Try to learn each character at a CHARACTER speed of 13 wpm leaving big gaps in between each character. This way, as you progress, you can narrow the gaps between each character WITHOUT changing the character speed, thus, increasing your WORD speed. To try and learn the code at 5 wpm and then increase it to 10 wpm, and then to 13 wpm will result in frustration and in all likelihood, having to re-learn the sound of each character all over again at the new speed.

Try to get into the habit of writing down on paper each character in LOWER CASE letters rather than writing in upper case. You will save a lot of time doing it this way. Think about it.... It takes more pen strokes to write a capital letter E than a lower case e (as an example of what I mean).

DO NOT translate the sound on paper to dits and dahs and THEN to the character. This is like double translation and you will end up extremely frustrated. Also if you miss a character, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! just train your mind to go on to the next character. If you dwell too much on the character that you missed, you will surely miss the next two or three coming at you. Also do not try to anticipate the next character or word.

Second guessing is a NO NO.

Take full advantage of the WIAW morse code practice sessions. They are an excellent tool of assistance. The quality of code is

perfect and error free and they have a variety of different speeds to cater to your particular level of progress. The times and frequencies of the WIAW code practice sessions are usually available on packet, QST and the ARRL and RAC.

When listening to WIAW, try to listen FIRSTLY to the code session at 15 wpm. YES! 15 wpm, I know your probably saying to yourself, this VE3ANB fellow is fellow is a little nuts, but believe me, although you may only be able to pick out two letters from two words sent, when you then listen to 10 wpm, you will maybe pick out 2 letters to EACH word and at 7.5 wpm, you will no doubt pick out MOST of the letters from EACH word. The point being, this leaves you with a sense of ACCOMPLISHMENT!! and you will also feel good about yourself and the progress you made on each session.

Most people give up out of sheer frustration, so it's very important to end a practice session having that positive feeling that you DID accomplish something.

Do not spend more than 1 hour at a time, as it will result in you having to over-absorb and hence, like a sponge when it is saturated, you will not be able to grasp the new stuff being thrown at you. If you find that you are not grasping it, WALK AWAY and try later. (We all have off days).

Once you have a fair grasp for each of the characters and their sound, send the code to yourself in your mind. eg: When you are walking down the street, sound out the street sign in code to yourself. YIELD (da di dah dah, di dit, dit, di dah di dit, dah di dit). etc etc. Yes you might get some strange looks from passersby, but, what the heck!! That's OK. There's a lot more stranger people out there than you and I.

You should be prepared to spend at least 30 - 45 MINUTES PER DAY just listening. Set yourself a schedule!! If you are not prepared to do this, you have obviously decided that you don't really want to learn and your just kidding yourself and everyone else. Don't create excuses!! I've heard them all. (The dog's sick, I'm tired, my xyl wants to go shopping) There are few excuses if you have the true desire to learn. I never passed an examination with good marks without doing my homework.

****ALL THE ABOVE DOES NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF A KEY****

Now that you have all the characters and what they are supposed to sound like impressed in your mind, you are now ready to start a little sending. Now is the time to ask for the secret location of you key (the one you asked to be locked up somewhere). Don't worry about the speed at this point, remember, what counts is the quality, good spacing and clear dit and dahs. Adjust your key to a comfortable position and check the gapping on the contacts. Don't set it so wide a Sherman tank could fit between the contacts!! A small gap will result in a lot less work and more ease of sending.

If you feel that you might get into some contesting later, (Field day, CQWW etc etc), you might want to use your NON WRITING hand to do the sending with.

Sounds odd but, if you keep your writing hand free, it will benefit you greatly! This is not overly important at this stage, just a suggestion that any avid CW operator will endorse. Adjust you key, get comfortable and relax. Send code to yourself or to a friend. You might wish to send text from a newspaper or magazine but remember, pay special attention to the spacing between your characters.

CW operating can be and is a very enjoyable mode. IT IS NOT A LOST ART!!! It is merely another mode to which thousands and thousands of Amateurs across the world choose to employ out of their CHOICE. I know guys that operate CW and nothing else, despite their ability to work other modes.

Many QSO's I have had could never have taken place on SSB due to bad QRN and QRM or QSB. CW has a way of "punching" through all of that. I have managed to pass traffic using CW on a number of occasions when SSB simply would not have allowed it.

Remember, don't rush, be relaxed, and always use International Morse Code.

For further information on how you can begin to learn international morse code, or upgrade your speed, contact your local Amateur Radio Club or check on your local BBS boards to see if they have any Morse Tutors in their files section.

Very best 73 to you and Good Luck (vy 73 to u es gl) de Rich VE3ANB@VE3DTV

This article was published in
"The Canadian Amateur" January 1992
and
"Hagal" in Israel shortly thereafter

