

THE COMPASS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT SOUTH BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 8

“..serving the community through Public Service.”

Aug., 2004

GSBARC 2004 OFFICERS

President: Walter Wenzel, KA2RGI
Vice Pres: David Wandell, N2UHR
Treasurer: Tom Carrubba, KA2D
Corr. Sec.: Scott Verity, KC2FBV
Rec. Sec.: *** Position Open ***
Dir. 2004: Charles Rousselet, N2MZK
Dir. 2004: Jay Eichner, N2PIK
Dir. 2005: Dom Stengele, WA2UJI
Dir. 2005: *** Position Open ***

Upcoming GSBARC Events

Board Meeting – 2nd Thursday 8:00 PM

Sept 9

Oct 14

Nov 11

VE Session – 4th Sunday 12:00 PM

Aug 22

Sept 26

Oct 24

General Meeting – Last Thur. 8:00PM

Aug 26

Sept 30

Oct 28

Open House 12:00 – 2:00PM

Every Saturday @ Town Hall EOC

Note: On Hiatus until September

NETS

Newsline Report -

Monday 7:00 PM 146.685/R

Club Info Net -

Monday 7:30 PM 146.685/R

DX/Contest Info -

Monday 8:00 PM 146.685/R

TOBARES Net -

Monday 8:15 PM 146.685/R

Swap ‘n Shop Net -

Tuesday 7:30 PM 146.685/R

10 M Net -

Tuesday 8:00 PM 28.320

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

President’s Message

By Walter, KA2RGI

Why do some things get done And some things do not!!

Are you a person that is a doer or someone that sits back and complains about things not getting things done? Do you take an active interest in making at least thing happen within the club or do you say, “Someone else will do it, So I won’t have to”. Are you a person that talks about the way things are not working and talks about the way they should be done away from the meetings and does not speak up at them or regularly attend them? Are you a person would has accepted a position within the club and does not perform your duties to level you know they should be done? Are you making at least half of the meetings?

In the recent weeks there has been a recent increase of pointed attacks to the current executive board. This whole year we have had various members because of one reason or another step down from positions or just stop attending without any information being presented to the board or me as President. It has been a very testing period when members of the board do not complete the tasks they have said they would and it creates a strain on the rest of us. As per the Constitution and By-Laws each elected individual has a responsibility to the position they have accepted. Not everyone in this organizations seems to understand that fully.

This organization is made up of volunteers. The amount of time any of us can do something is limited. Some of us are retired and have more personal time than others that have to work at least one full time job. The assistance we get from our fellow members and the time we can do things is based on this factor and how it relates to our personal lives. It seems like lately there have been some members who have decided to grand stand their personal contempt for the club and the way things have been done. It would be nice that more of the membership would be able to be more active in the running of the organization, but it a proven fact that only about 3 to 5 percent all members in an organization are the working force of the organization. That means that there is always a large potential for people to do something and be active with some level with commitment to fit your schedule and life style.

Any elected officials of an organization should do their job when it has to be done and should not missing multiple meetings, because this is their responsibility for accepting the position. When a person does not do their job it becomes an extra task for someone else and can only lead to issues. How can you tell if a member of the board has been doing their job? One way is check their attendance or lack thereof at meetings. How true is their feelings about assisting in making this organization function or are they usually one of the individuals that continually keep this the same and do not allow people to change things, do they add barriers when things do not go their way and not attend meetings?

This can always be shown by their lack of attendance and lack of support for the rest of the organization. The membership should know who supports the organization and who detracts from it. This can always be shown and verified by attendance sheets that are at all meetings and what people do the organization. I find it very hard to understand how people who do not have the decency to attend meetings or keep from interrupting a meeting, when hold their own private meeting, can say they are doing things for this organization. Their actions speak very loudly of their own personal desires.

(cont. next page)

If people think this club is limping along and not progressing forward then I say to them you stand up for yourselves and voice your opinions in the open instead of holding private meetings and making all type of accusations. Try talking to the individual first and find out why something might have been do in a certain way. People that demand showy display of presenting information are often misinformed or ill informed. I have always said the way to change things is to be part of something and change it from the inside, and if you are not then sit down and stop the B.S.ing. Too many people demand rights they have not earned. The membership elected it officials and for better or worse they are there for the term elected unless removed from office as per the GSBARC Constitution and By-Laws.

Well let me tell you about the challenge I am placing to every member of this organization. It is your time to stand up and be active. It is YOUR TIME to step up and have things go the way they should. As per the constitution in September there is an appointment to be made of an individual to chair the election committee. My challenge to you, the membership, is step up accept a position within the club and DO THE BEST YOU CAN. According to the GSBARC Constitution and By-Laws, at the September Executive Meeting "The President appoints a person to chair the nominating committee who shall with the assistance of no less than two additional club members canvas the membership for a slate of candidates for officers". I am now giving you, the membership, the challenge to change things. I would like to see an active nominating committee. If you want to make a difference the start is to step and request to be considered the chair of the committee. After the appointment if it was not you then ask to be part of the committee. The chair will accept or reject you. A heaven forbid you decide to hold an elected position. Just think of what you could do! An if you really wanted to do something and just do not have the time or the commitment to handle an elected position there is always the chair of a committee and even asking to be part of one. Be the spark that gets things done. That is the challenge I present to you the membership.

GSBARC has been a shining star to promote all aspects of Amateur. Lately it seems that this goal has been put a side by some because it takes to much effort or as some have said, "We are to old and broken" to make things happen. My sentiment on that is not to stop these functions but to find ways to make them work for the betterment of everyone and not just a few.

By having only one project working at a time and stopping everything else is a disservice to this organization. We have been missing out on many guest speakers because we do not have the ability of LCD Projector. The membership has known this and has even voted on purchasing one but now there is concern from some of the membership about getting one so we can get the repeaters on line and suspend all expenses of the club except for only budgeted items. The validity of the voting for this item was even questioned. We have had members in this club also state they would get special price quotes on items and that has also lengthened the process and stalled them. Again that nasty thing of time and circumstances keeps stepping in. At the last executive board meeting a letter was read that demanded an accounting of items that the Treasurer should

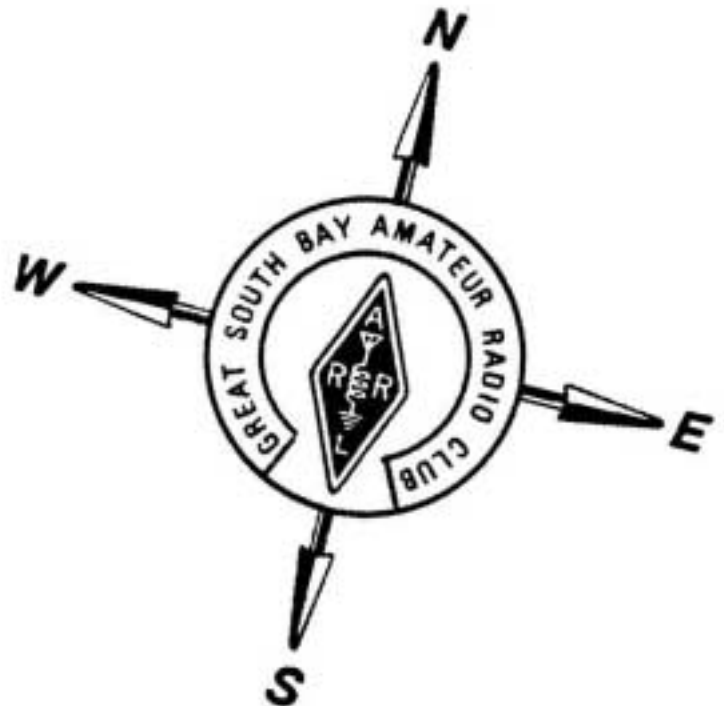
have handled in a timely manner, that instead I had to handle. The tone of the letter was very negative. The tone brought out a feeling that there was some sort of mishandling of monies by not only me as the President but to the whole Executive Board. I took it as a personal insult to me and the executive board in the manner and way it was presented.

Some people believe I have not been doing the right things for the club and that because of issues I have had in my personal life this year I should step down as President. I will not step down from my position as President of this organization because of a few people that have issues and some that have not done their job for this organization. I will complete my current term. I have not decided at this time if I will run for President again or not. If I am not elected I can only ask that if the next President wants me to continue in some of the capacities I have in the recent years, it will be the Presidents decision as per the GSBARC Constitution and By-Laws.

I have always been open for people to assist in this organization. All committees are appointments of the President. If you want things to change you elect the officers and you voice how things should be done. It is the tasked job of the executive board to make sure is of benefit for the whole membership!

I will go into more these matters at the Business portion of the meeting on the 26th after our guest speaker.

See you at the meeting!



Happy Birthdays in August

**N2NGF, Dick
WA2VQJ, Barbara
N2MUN, Phil
KA2ANF, Joyce
KC2FBV, Scott
KC2EXP, Cliff
And lastly
EI President
KA2RGI, Walt**

If your birthday is not listed we may not have all the info in our database

Web Site of the Month

<http://www.hamband.com>

Have never seen a site like this for Hams. Check out the music and videos. Also check out the operators hanging out on top of there 100 ft tower, (with his guitar). I don't believe I saw any harnesses either.

GREAT SOUTH BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

Location: Babylon Town Hall EOC Lindenhurst, NY
Thursday July 29, 2004

Meeting called to order by Walter, KA2RGI at 8:25 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

President	KA2RGI Walter Wenzel
Vice President	N2UHR David Wandell
Corr. Secretary	KC2FBV Scott Verity
Director 2004	N2MZK Charles Rousselet
Director 2004	N2PIK Jay Eichner
Director 2005	WA2UJI Dom Stengele

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Treasurer	KA2D Tom Carrubba
Rec. Secretary	**** Position Open
Director 2005	**** Position Open

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Acting Recording Secretary – Margaret, KB2IDZ

There was a discussion about the vacancies of the Board of Directors. The President Walter read the rules from the Clubs constitution about filling vacancies to the Board.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT: Corresponding Secretary - Scott, KC2FBV

PO BOX:

Nothing New

Additional:

None

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer - Tom, KA2D

As of MM/DD/YY:

Checking = \$1590.56; CD = \$2813.44; TOTAL = \$4404.00
VE team spent 11.00 for batteries for the tape player and 14.13 for a replacement AC adapter.

Outstanding business; HAMFEST receipts May04, Membership dues collected at meetings KA2D was absent, FD expenses, other club expenses.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

APPAREL: Chairperson - **** Position Open
Club Hats and T-Shirts are available at the next Meeting. Callsign badges, jackets, and golf shirts require advance orders.

CLUB STATION & EQUIPMENT: Chairperson - Walter, KA2RGI

Need to give Tom, KA2D updated information on club equipment for insurance.

DX & CONTESTING: Chairperson - Tom, KA2D

For up to the minute info, please check the W2GSB DX Cluster or www.arrl.org or www.contesting.com.

7/30-08/08 YV0: Aves Island (NA-020)

Aug 7-8 National Lighthouse weekend

Aug 21-22 International Lighthouse weekend –

W2GSB/LGT Fire Island Lighthouse, by GSBARC
W2AMC, Hortons Point Lighthouse by PARC

DX CLUSTER: Chairperson - Tom, KA2D

Cluster-up and running. Nothing new to report.

EDUCATION: Chairperson - Walter, KA2RGI

New Technician Classes are to start Sept. 8 at 7:30 PM at the TOB EOC. General & Extra Classes will be scheduled after January.

LIBRARY: Chairperson - Dom, WA2UJI

Nothing new at this time.

MEMBERSHIP: Chairperson - Tom, KA2D

83 MEMBERS (64 FULL PAID, 9 FAMILY, 4 ARRL, 6 COMPLIMENTARY) 7/27/2004 roster is current. Some e-mail address' are not correct. If your information is not correct contact Tom KA2D

NETS:

Newsline Report: NCS - Dave, N2UHR

Nothing new to report at this time

2 Meter Net: NCS - Dave, N2UHR

Nothing new to report at this time

Swap-N-Shop: NCS - Bud, WA2QAV

On hiatus for the summer.

Ten Meter Net: NCS - Brian, N2NGE

No report at this time – Net Continuing for summer

NEWSLETTER - COMPASS: Chairperson - Gene, N2TZX

NOTE: Deadline to submit material for the Compass

is the Saturday after the Board Meeting.

Nothing to Report

REPEATERS: Chairperson - Walter, KA2RGI

146.685: Had some work done on the 2M repeater on the Sunday after Field Day with the assistance of K2CX and it seems that most of the problems have been solved. The added duplexer seems to have solved most of the issues with Central Alarm's RF getting into our repeater. Still working on how to best handle the remaining issues because some users are still having some problems with the system because it is not seeing low power radios. 223.860: offline

440.850: offline - Receiver needs work

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Field Day: Chairperson - Joe, N2IMF
Nothing to Report

Hamfest: Chairperson - Walter, KA2RGI
Nothing to Report

Air Power Museum: Chairperson - Bud, WA2QAV
Event will most likely occur in Sept.

Fire Island Lighthouse Weekend: Chairperson - Tom, KA2D

9am -5pm on August 21st and 22nd.
Setup is Saturday 8AM. The plan is to run two stations using the windom antenna for 80/40 and the DX77 or a for 20, 15 and 10. We will use the two 570's. I believe we will need a desk mic and power supply for the second 570. We also need access to the Comm. Van for the coax. At this point in time we will log on paper. The bands are going to be poor, but we will need ops to man the stations. Saturday we will be on the air after setup and run to about 7-9 PM. Sunday will be from 8AM to 3 or 4 PM. The lighthouse closes at 5PM on Sunday. Members of the VE team who have time will come back for breakdown on Sunday.

Club Picnic: Chairperson - Walter, KA2RGI
Club Picnic is on Aug 28th from 11AM - 6 PM Need coordination of food to be brought. Contact Walter, KA2RGI.

End of the Year Party: Chairperson - Walter, KA2RGI
Nothing to Report

VE SESSIONS: ARRL Liaison - Tom, KA2D
Next VE is Sunday, Aug 22 at the EOC at 12 Noon.
This is also Fire Island weekend. We will need to confirm a proper VE team for this session and insure we have a crew for breakdown at FI.

Last VE session on July 25 served 16 candidates. We had a good session despite a late start due to re organizing the test folders from the new general question pool. The AC adapter for the tape player was not working. Len W2FX went out and purchased batteries so we could administer the Morse Code tests. We had a candidate who came from NJ and 4 locals. Tom KA2D purchased a replacement AC Adapter from radio shack during the week. As usual we had a good VE team. Thanks

WEBSITE - HOME PAGE: Chairperson - Tom, KA2D
KA2D reports that the club web page has been updated.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Antenna Committee: Chairperson - Open Position
Nothing new to report

Open House: Chairpersons - Dave, N2UHR
Nothing new to report. On Hiatus for the summer.

Public Relations: Chairperson - Walter, KA2RGI
Nothing new to report

Technical Committee: Chairperson - Walter, KA2RGI
Nothing new to report Still looking for members to assist.

ARES/RACES: EC/RO - Walter, KA2RGI
Meets 3rd Thursday of the month at EOC (unless otherwise noted)

TOBARES Net meets every Monday at 8:15PM
See <http://www.tobares.org> for complete event listing.
Aug. 8 - BNL \ NWS Open House from 11AM to 3PM
Sep. 12 - Babylon Village Beautification Society Country Fair

GUEST SPEAKERS & PROGRAMS: Chairperson - Dave, N2UHR

August - Presentation on Tesler Coils. We need the use of a LCD Projector for the PowerPoint Presentation that goes with the talk.

September - Packet Demonstration

HEALTH AND WELFARE: Chairperson - Scott, KC2FBV

Several members are currently under the weather.
August 7th from 11AM to 11PM is a Block Party at Walter's House. The whole club is invited.
Danny, WB2COO gave a small talk on what to look out for in case of a heart attack

OLD BUSINESS:

Continued discussion of trailer.

NEW BUSINESS:

A written proposal from KA2D was read:
Tom Carrubba, KA2D made a motion to suspend all spending of non budgeted items until all GSBARC repeaters are on the air in proper working order. Then we can review what the next purchase taking in the consideration of the overall use to all the membership. The repeaters should be TOP priority! A purchase of either a 440 or 220 machine should be considered, purchase one this year and the other next year. Second by Ruane Burthte, KB2IEW
A vote was taken and the count was 10 for and 11 against 0 abstains the proposal as written.
Motion was not approved as written by K2AD.

Point of interest: Frank, K2LI donated a blue cork board.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Margaret Mielko, KB2IDZ
Acting Recording Secretary



**GREAT SOUTH BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

Location: Babylon Town Hall EOC Lindenhurst, NY
Thursday Aug 12, 2004

Meeting called to order by Walter, KA2RGI at 8:05 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

President	KA2RGI Walter Wenzel
Vice President	N2UHR David Wandell
Treasurer	KA2D Tom Carrubba
Director 2004	N2MZK Charles Rousselet
Director 2004	N2PIK Jay Eichner
Director 2005	WA2UJI Dom Stengele

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Corr. Secretary	KC2FBV Scott Verity
Rec. Secretary	**** Position Open
Director 2005	**** Position Open

OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT:

Acting Recording Secretary: Margaret KB2IDZ,
Tom N2MIG; Joe N2IMF; Rob KC2MCF;
Spin KC2EGK; Frank WA2LUY; John KA2UJP;
JoAnn N2NQQ; Adam KB2TCH; Leo W2LJW;
Wally W2FBB

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Acting Recording Secretary –

Margaret, KB2IDZ
Tom, KA2D questioned if all the previous minutes were published in the Compass. Walter responded that they were all printed and that the issues of the compass should be placed in the website as were published even with the extra from the previous year and that they should be there because that is the way they were printed.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT: Corresponding Secretary - Scott, KC2FBV

PO BOX:

Bank Statement and Newsletter from Larkfield.

Additional:

None

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer - Tom, KA2D

As of 08/12/04:
Checking = \$1549.04; CD = \$2813.44; TOTAL = \$4362.48
CD rollover date 8/7/04, next rollover 11/6/04
Outstanding: Hamfest expenses/deposit, FD expenses.
Membership, 50/50

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

APPAREL: Chairperson - **** Position Open

Club Hats and T-Shirts are available at the next Meeting. Call sign badges, jackets, and golf shirts require advance orders. Remainder of the Special Order Club Apparel should be here for the next General Meeting.

CLUB STATION & EQUIPMENT: Chairperson - Walter, KA2RGI

As per Tom KA2D, Club equipment listing needs updating, this was due before May 1, 2004. The club equipment insurance policy has lapsed.

DX & CONTESTING: Chairperson - Tom, KA2D

For up to the minute info, please check the W2GSB DX Cluster or www.arrl.org or www.contesting.com. Check in into W2GSB DX Cluster

Olympics SE SX2004 and SY2004: special prefixes till December YI9KT: Iraq * by SP8HKT till December YI9MC: Iraq * by KC4MC

DX CLUSTER: Chairperson - Tom, KA2D
Cluster-up and running. Nothing new to report.

EDUCATION: Chairperson - Walter, KA2RGI
New Technician Classes are to start Sept. 8 at 7:30 PM at the TOB EOC. General & Extra Classes will be scheduled after January.

LIBRARY: Chairperson - Dom, WA2UJI
Nothing new at this time.

MEMBERSHIP: Chairperson - Tom, KA2D
84 MEMBERS (64 FULL PAID, 9 FAMILY, 4 ARRL, 6 COMP)
Welcome new member Tom, KC2MOX

NETS:

Newsline Report: NCS - Dave, N2UHR
Nothing new to report at this time

2 Meter Net: NCS - Dave, N2UHR
Nothing new to report at this time

Swap-N-Shop: NCS - Bud, WA2QAV
On hiatus for the summer.

Ten Meter Net: NCS - Brian, N2NGE
No report at this time – Net Continuing for summer

NEWSLETTER - COMPASS: Chairperson - Gene, N2TZX
NOTE: Deadline to submit material for the Compass is the Saturday after the Board Meeting.
Not Submitted at board Meeting

REPEATERS: Chairperson - Walter, KA2RGI
146.685: 2 power glitches within the 2M system. Walter worked on it to remove them.
Controller Company was contacted and found out that if we want to upgrade the repeater it will cost about \$ 600
Or we can buy a new controller board
Also need to upgrade the software
223.860: offline – not passing audio
440.850: offline – not passing audio

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Field Day: Chairperson - Joe, N2IMF
Nothing to Report

Hamfest: Chairperson - Walter, KA2RGI
Nothing to Report

Air Power Museum: Chairperson - Bud, WA2QAV
Nothing to Report

Fire Island Lighthouse Weekend: Chairperson - Tom, KA2D
9am –5pm on August 21st and 22nd.
Setup is Saturday 8AM. FI Event is registered with ARRL, CQ Magazine, QST magazine and ILLW web. We need access to comm. Van for coax and antennas. Tom was informed that there is spare set of keys in the EOC. Need the 430 station from UHR. Tom stated we will need a desk mic and power supply for the second 570. Walter, KA2RGI has a 430 power for use with 570 for the event.

Club Picnic: Chairperson - Walter, KA2RGI
Club Picnic is on Aug 28th from 11AM – 6 PM Need coordination of food to be brought. Contact Walter, KA2RGI.

End of the Year Party: Chairperson - Walter, KA2RGI
Nothing to Report

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WEBSITE - HOME PAGE: Chairperson - Tom, KA2D
KA2D reports that the club web page has been updated.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Antenna Committee: Chairperson - Open Position
N2IMF Worked on N2MIG's antenna at his house
Any other help needed by the antenna committee please contact Joe.
Other people who need assistance with antennas are:
Frank, K2LI; Fred, KA2LDC; Jon, KA2YMQ. Pat Perotta's widow has also request assistance to take down Pat's R7 antenna.

Open House: Chairpersons - Dave, N2UHR
On Hiatus for the summer. Open House will resume the Sat after Labor Day. We need other people to help run the Open House. All volunteers are appreciated. Contact Dave N2UHR if you are available. .

Public Relations: Chairperson - Walter, KA2RGI
Nothing new to report

Technical Committee: Chairperson - Walter, KA2RGI
Nothing new to report Still looking for members to assist.

ARES/RACES: EC/RO - Walter, KA2RGI
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GUEST SPEAKERS & PROGRAMS: Chairperson - Dave, N2UHR
August – Confirmed by twisted pair the presentation on Tessler Coils by Pat Masterson, KE2EJ. We need the use of a

LCD Projector for the PowerPoint Presentation that goes with the talk.
September – N2IMF confirmed the Packet Demonstration to be given by Charlie Alfano, WA2GUG.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: Chairperson - Scott, KC2FBV
Lenore, N2KYP now has a radio and will be on the air soon as per Dave, N2UHR.
At the end of July Scott, KC2FBV lost his father

OLD BUSINESS:
Nothing Discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:
As a point of order KA2D:
KA2D challenged the validity of vote to purchase the video projector stating the meeting was out of order and questioned if there was a proper quorum of board and membership. KA2D stated it was irresponsible to spend money on non-essential items with open financial business and not knowing what will be required to get the repeaters in proper working order and on the air.

Tom N2MIG asked to have a statement read and put on record.

" Speaking on behalf of a group of members of the Great South Bay ARC, I hereby state that this board thru its actions and inaction's, has placed the membership out of order and inaccurate minutes have been presented and voted upon. I do also hereby demand a written accounting of income and expenditures since the May Hamfest as there has been no written record presented to the treasurer or membership on such items as 50/50, membership renewals or Hamfest income as should have been reported. A point of contention is that there have been no accurate written reports and now the Board is asking the membership to make additional expenditures. This is not correct and we are hereby telling the chair and board to rectify this situation by the General Membership meeting this 26th of August 2004."

A discussion of what to do with the repeaters took place. Leo (W2LJW) made a point to let it be known that he is unhappy with how the repeaters are working and as a member wants to have answers as to why they are not up and running properly. Walter reminded the membership present that if anyone wanted to be part of the committee they could be and he also stated that to date only one person other than those on the repeater committee has volunteered to assist. Walter invited anyone who would like to come down and help work on the repeater this Saturday he would be working on it at his house. If you are interested call him at 631-957-0218. W2LJW said he would be there.

On Aug 25th Walter will be out at Radio Central doing a talk on antennas. It is the same talk he gave at Ham University.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Margaret Mielko, KB2IDZ
Acting Recording Secretary



The Following topic was from the National Radio Astronomy Observatory web site
<http://www.nrao.edu/>

EARLY RADIO ASTRONOMY: THE HAM RADIO CONNECTION

Radio Astronomy is a direct descendant of Amateur ("ham") radio.

Following Guglielmo Marconi's (photo below) successful transatlantic communications in 1901, commercial use of radio mushroomed. Ships were equipped with radio, huge commercial stations were set up to handle intercontinental messages after the fashion of the telegraph companies, and many other uses were found for the new technology.

In those days, it was thought that the only really useful frequencies for long-range communication were the very low frequencies, or the very long wavelengths. Thus, when the first government regulations were imposed on radio in 1912, the amateur operators ("hams"), whose interest in radio was personal and experimental, rather than commercial, got the short end of the stick. They were given the use of wavelengths of 200 meters and shorter - roughly the frequencies above the current AM broadcast band. These were generally thought useless for long-range communication.



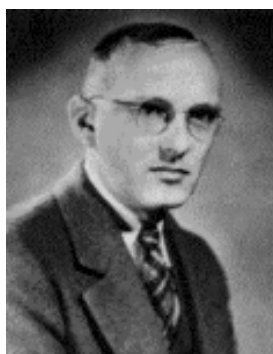
Guglielmo Marconi in 1896

The wavelength restrictions were rather loosely enforced prior to U.S. entry into World War I in 1917, when all amateur and other non-government use of radio was shut down. When amateur operations resumed in 1919, it was much more imperative to abide by the rules, so the hams had to find out just what they could do with the short waves.

Starting in 1921, amateurs made concerted, organized efforts to communicate across the Atlantic with short waves. In December of 1921, an amateur station in Connecticut was heard by an American amateur sent to Scotland with state-of-the-art receiving equipment. On November 27, 1923, amateurs in the U.S. and France made the first transatlantic two-way contacts on shortwave frequencies. In the following two months 13 European and 17 American amateur stations had made two-way transatlantic shortwave contacts. Within a year, amateurs had communicated between North and South America, South America and New Zealand, North America and New Zealand, and London and New Zealand.

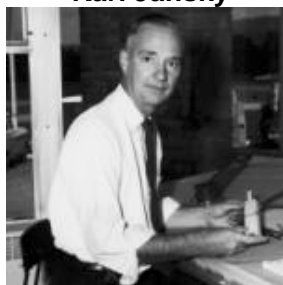
These accomplishments proved beyond a doubt that ionospheric refraction could enable world-wide communication by shortwave radio. Further amateur experiments showed that, by using a variety of frequencies in the shortwave region (3-30 MHz), long-range communication could be maintained both day and night. In addition, the shortwave communications were accomplished with transmitters of only modest power, unlike the giant, many-kilowatt transmitters needed for long-range communication at the lower frequencies.

Naturally, once the hams showed the value of shortwave radio, many commercial firms became interested. One of these commercial interests was the telephone company, which thought that shortwave links might be used to carry intercontinental telephone calls, saving the expense of laying cable on the ocean floor. However, as any ham or shortwave listener today knows, shortwave communication is subject to much noise and static. The telephone company sought to identify and find ways to mitigate this noise.



Karl Jansky

At AT&T Bell Labs in New Jersey, a young radio engineer named Karl Jansky (left) was given the task of identifying the sources of shortwave noise. He built a highly directional antenna to work at about 22 MHz, and began to make systematic observations. Most of the noise he found was due to thunderstorms and other terrestrial causes. However, he found one source of static that seemed to appear four minutes earlier every day. As most amateur astronomers know, that is a telltale sign of something beyond the Earth. Indeed, what Jansky had found was radio noise emitted from the center of our own Milky Way Galaxy. He discovered this in 1932 and announced it in 1933. His announcement was reported on the front page of the New York Times on May 5, 1933.



Grote Reber

To most professional astronomers, Jansky's discovery was a mere curiosity, and they did not follow up on it. In Wheaton, Illinois, the news eventually reached Grote Reber, another radio engineer who was an avid ham operator. Reber had spent much time making long-distance contacts on the amateur shortwave bands. He had "worked" all continents and 60 foreign countries. In those days, that was quite an achievement, and it left Reber thinking, as he later wrote, "that there were no more worlds to conquer." When he read of Jansky's discovery, he found some more worlds.



An avid VHF/UHF experimenter, Reber worked with equipment that then was pushing the envelope of high-frequency performance. In the spring of 1939, he was able to detect cosmic radio emissions with his equipment. In 1941, he made his first survey of the sky at radio wavelengths. Reber's radio astronomy work continued for a number of years, and his results were published in the Proceedings of the Institute of Radio Engineers, the Astrophysical Journal, Nature, and the Journal of Geophysical research.

As the world's second radio astronomer, Grote Reber (left) laid the groundwork for the achievements that would follow. After World War II, the great advances in microwave technology that had produced radar became available to astronomers, who began to seriously pursue radio observations.

Grote Reber died in Tasmania on December 20, 2002, just two days shy of his 91st birthday. His original parabolic dish antenna now resides on the grounds of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank, West Virginia, alongside a full-scale replica of Jansky's antenna.

In 1937, Reber built his own 32-foot-diameter parabolic dish antenna in his backyard, to seek cosmic radio emissions. In an era when artificial satellites were only a dream and television had not yet emerged from the laboratory, this antenna drew amazed remarks from his neighbors.

Grote Reber poses with his original dish antenna

Thus, the accidental discovery of cosmic radio emissions was a direct result of radio amateurs' success in developing shortwave communications. Then, for several years after this original discovery, the only person following up with systematic and well-designed radio astronomy observations was a radio amateur.

Today, the connection between radio astronomy and amateur radio remains strong. Many prominent radio astronomers first became interested in science through involvement with amateur radio as youngsters. These include the winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Physics, Dr. Joseph Taylor of Princeton University. Nearly 10 percent of the employees of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory are licensed amateurs.

In 1997, the National Radio Astronomy Observatory Amateur Radio Club obtained a license from the Federal Communications Commission for an amateur radio station with the callsign W9GFZ, Grote Reber's callsign in the 1930s. No longer active as a ham, Reber still expressed pleasure that his old callsign would be preserved by NRAO's hams. The NRAO club plans to use the callsign W9GFZ on the air for special events connected with radio astronomy.

Dave Finley, N1IRZ

National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Socorro, New Mexico

Modified on Thursday, 27-Mar-2003 15:10:27 EST



GSBARC 2004 VE Schedule

Jan 18-3:00 PM ***HRU 2004 East Woods School, Oyster Bay, NY**

Feb 22 Babylon Town Hall EOC – 12 Noon

March 28 Babylon Town Hall EOC – 12 Noon

Apr 25 Babylon Town Hall EOC – 12 Noon

May 27 Babylon Town Hall EOC – 12 Noon

June **NO VE** - Field Day -6/26-6/27 Babylon Town Hall

July 25 Babylon Town Hall EOC – 12 Noon

Aug 22 Babylon Town Hall EOC – 12 Noon

Sept 26 Babylon Town Hall EOC – 12 Noon

Oct 24 Babylon Town Hall EOC – 12 Noon

Nov 28 Babylon Town Hall EOC – 12 Noon

December **NO VE** - *Season's Greetings*

Committee Chairpersons	
Club Apparel –	Position Open
Club Station/Equip –	Walter, KA2RGI
DX/Contesting –	Tom, KA2D
Education –	Walter, KA2RGI
Hamfest –	Walter, KA2RGI
Library –	Dom, WA2UJI
Membership –	Tom, KA2D
Newsletter –	Gene, KB2TXZ
Home Page –	Tom, KA2D
DX Cluster –	Tom, KA2D
Repeaters –	Walter, KA2RGI
VE Sessions –	Tom, KA2D

CLUB NET SCRIPTS

If anyone is interested in a copy of the basic 2 meter Monday night net script for GSBARC give Dave, N2UHR a call on w2gsb/r, home: 631-842-6340, or via email at: n2uhr@arrl.net , or contact Walter, KA2RGI, 631-957-0218, or via email at: ka2rgi@arrl.net.

'73 de Dave, N2UHR!

Great South Bay ARC
P.O. Box 1356
West Babylon, NY 11704-0356