



THE COMPASS

Official Newsletter of the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club

December 2008

Volume 36

Issue 12

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631-495-7371

Secretary: John Cresson, W2JGH

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Treasurer: Tom Favilla, N2MIG

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Compass Staff:

Bob, K2TV (k2tv@arrl.net)

John, K2IZ (k2iz@arrl.net)

Kevin, AB2ZI (ab2zi@arrl.net)

Nets:

Newsline Report:

Monday 7 PM 146.685/R

Club Info Net:

Monday 7:30 PM 146.685/R

DX/Contest Info:

Monday 8 PM 146.685/R

Swap 'n Shop Net:

Wednesday 8PM 146.685/R

USB 10 Meter Net:

Tuesday 8 PM 28.320

Club Info Net:

Thursday 10 AM 146.685/R

Upcoming Events

Board Meeting:

2nd Thursday 8 PM Jan 8th, 09

Next General Meeting

Thursday Jan. 29th, 8 PM

VE Session:

4th Sunday @ 12 PM next

VE session is Dec. 28th, at the EOC

Open House:

12-2 PM Every Saturday @ Town Hall

EOC. Sept. after Labor day through June.

All are welcome, bring a friend!

Repeaters:

2M: 146.685/146.085 PL 110.9

1-1/2M: 223.860/222.260 PL 110.9

70cm: 440.850/445.850 PL 110.9

Web Site www.gsbarc.org

DX Cluster:

Connect to W2GSB on 145.67 MHz. 1200

baud packet or follow the telnet link on

<http://www.gsbarc.org>

Holiday Party!

- **Where:** Town of Babylon EOC
- **When:** December 18th
7 PM (prep starts at 6 PM)
- **Contact** Walter, KA2RGI
(ka2rgi@verizon.net) for in-formation on what dishes are still needed and to make commitments



Club members (l-r) Carl, KC2TZY, John, W2JGH, Bill, W2ANQ and Mike, KC2SYF working to get the club's 220 repeater ready for installation (more photos inside)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here we are, December and a new president thanks to the support of the club's members. I never thought that I would be president of an amateur radio club when I got started in this wonderful hobby! I look forward to serving as your president and hope that I will be able to promote a positive effect on the club. If you have any suggestions that you think can improve our club please let me know. You can email me at w2hcb@arrl.net

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the club members who helped with all the events for the club throughout this past year. The following operating events were a great success: Field day, Air power museum special event station W2GSB/APM, Lighthouse weekend W2GSB/LH, the special event 150th celebration of the Fire Island Lighthouse in November W2GSB/LH, spring hamfest, open houses, VE sessions and the annual club picnic. From planning, to setup, to operating, to take down - you all did a great job! Thank you.

I would also like to thank Walter KA2RGI for serving as president for the last year and for his time and dedication to the club.

As you might have heard, the 220 repeater is back at its location on top of Good Samaritan Hospital in West Islip. Thanks to Bill W2ANQ and his crew for the great work the repeater was only off the air for about 20 hours. The crew had a blast November 22nd in my garage; 10 members all working together to help assemble the repeater including my two girls supplying us with cookies. They did a great job fabricating mounts for the power supply and the radio in order to secure it to the rack. We then loaded it up and off to the location. Thanks to Bill W2ANQ, KC2SYF, W2JGH, KC2TZY, K2TV, K2LI, KC2TMA, KC2TMB, and W2HCB for all your hard work. The repeater is up and running and with a little fine tuning will be better than ever.

In closing I want to remind everyone about the year-end party on December 18th at the EOC @7:00PM. Please let Walter KA2RGI ka2rgi@arrl.net know what dish you are bringing to the party so we don't have doubles. Hope to see you all there. If you cannot make it to the party, have a very happy holiday and New Year. Don't forget the New Years net at 12:00 AM on 146.685 W2GSB - 600 110PL.

73, John Melfi, W2HCB 



WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS...  AMATEUR RADIO 

WWW.ARRL.ORG


Ring in the new year with Straight Key Night

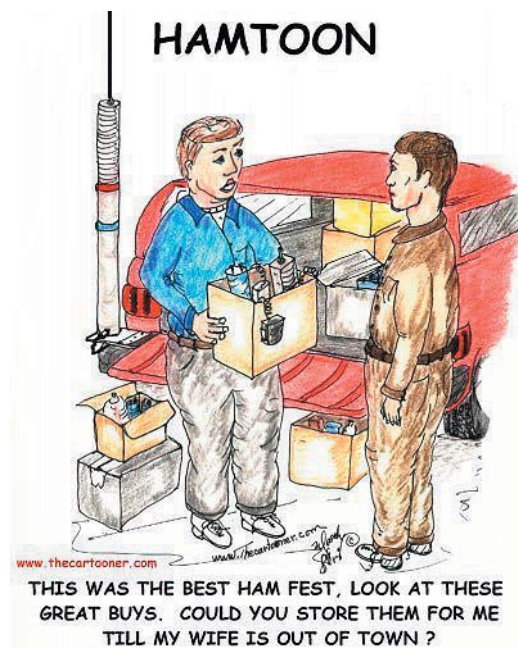
"Dust off the old or new straight key and operate by hand!"

The 2008 running of Straight Key Night begins at 7:00 p.m. EST December 31, 2007 and runs for 24 hours through 7:00 p.m. EST January 1, 2008 (0000 - 2400 UTC January 1, 2008). SKN is more of an operating event than a contest. To participate, simply send "CQ SKN" or listen for CQs that have SKN in them. The object of this friendly event is to enjoy some good old-fashioned QSO fun, using straight keys. The emphasis is on rag-chewing rather than fast contest-style exchanges. Take pleasure in sending and receiving CW sent without a computer or keyer, listen for the best fist you encounter, and be sure to tell us all about your activities. Even better, connect that straight key to some vintage gear you haven't used in a while. Many interesting QSOs take place during SKN, so be sure to let us know about a memorable QSO you have.

Don't forget to post your comments and interesting photographs from your SKN adventure to the ARRL Contest Online Soapbox at www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox Entries should be emails to the Contest Branch at StraightKey@arrl.org or may be sent via regular mail to: SKN, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111. The Soapbox becomes an on-line album of stories and photographs to share with others.

Entries for SKN must be received no later than January 31, 2008. Votes for "Best Fist" and "Most Interesting QSO" will be tabulated and included in the April 2008 issue of QST. If you have questions about SKN, please visit the Contest Branch Web Page at <http://www.arrl.org/contests> or send email to contests@arrl.org. ... ARRL Web Site.

Don't forget if you are near a two meter FM rig at the stroke of midnight give a call on the W2GSB two meter repeater (146.685 MHz - 110.9 Hz PL) and wish everyone a Happy New Year! This has been a GSBARC tradition for many years. 



HAMTOON

THIS WAS THE BEST HAM FEST, LOOK AT THESE GREAT BUYS. COULD YOU STORE THEM FOR ME TILL MY WIFE IS OUT OF TOWN ?

www.thecartooner.com



ARRL New York City-Long Island Section Convention

Sunday, January 11, 2009
Briarcliffe College
Bethpage, NY

“A day of education to share ideas, experiences, knowledge and fellowship among Amateur Radio operators”

Featuring

Spreading Ham Radio Knowledge and Know How **HRU 2009 information**

What HRU is and how to get there

Bethpage, New York - On Sunday, January 13, 2009, the doors of Briarcliffe College will open for the ninth annual Ham Radio University and the ARRL New York City/Long Island Section Convention. Ham Radio University 2009 is a day of education about Amateur Radio.

The event is being held at Briarcliffe College, a private university at 1055 Stewart Avenue, Bethpage, Long Island, New York 11714. The focus will be “hands on” with many demonstrations.

There will be forums about everything from satellite communications, low power operating using radios as small as a tuna tin and the latest in emergency communications. There will also be a VE session for those who would like to take an FCC exam and Special Event Station W2V set up and operational on HF.

HRU 2009 is sponsored this year by the Radio Central Amateur Radio Club and is a cooperative effort between over twenty clubs and organizations in the New York City- Long Island area. Besides the forums, there will be tables set up with information about different organizations and clubs including the Red Cross, Salvation Army, National Weather Service, Friends of Long Island Wireless as well as ham radio classes, local FCC exam schedules, public service and other activities. There will be information on Emergency Communications, Antennas, HF Digital Communications and more.

Directions to HRU 2009 at Briarcliffe College

From the Long Island Expressway (LIE I-495)

Take LIE to exit 44S (Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway-Rte 135) South to exit 9 (Broadway, Bethpage). Make a right turn onto Broadway and bear right onto Cherry Avenue. Go past Bethpage High School and at the light make a right turn onto Stewart Avenue. Go past the flashing light and watch for Briarcliffe College on your left - watch for the HRU entrance. Look for the green signs that say “College”... ..and look for the HRU signs!

What HRU isn't

HRU is not a hamfest. There are demos and displays but if you want to buy equipment checkout the ham radio stores and dealers and/or go to a hamfest or flea market. Many clubs also have on-the-air swap&shop nets where you can purchase new and used equipment.

ARRL On-Line Courses

by Kevin Morgan, AB2ZI

Have you considered taking an ARRL on-line course? Did you even know that the ARRL offers on-line courses?

I've mentioned in previous articles that my initial reason for getting back into amateur radio was so that I could take an HT with me hiking and take advantage of the repeaters for emergencies.

Once I'd gotten involved with the club and moved up to General then Extra I became interested in HF and so had to think about what kind of antenna I was going to use at my home QTH.

I decided to enroll in the ARRL's *Antenna Design and Construction Course (EC-009)* which was \$65 for ARRL members (\$95 for non-members).

This course used the ARRL's book, *Simple and Fun Antennas for Hams* by Chuck Hutchinson, K8CH and Dean Straw, N6BV as its textbook. When you take one of these courses you are assigned a mentor. The mentor is another ham with a lot of knowledge and expertise in the course materials, and it's to him or her that you submit various exercises and any questions you might have regarding the course materials. Some of the courses, this being one of them, also had optional construction projects for the student to undertake.

The course was a great introduction to antennas but didn't go overboard with the theory. It was quite comprehensive, however and covered Ground-Plane Antennas, Dipoles, Antenna Mounting and Support, HF Wire Antennas with Gain, Transmission Lines, Advanced Vertical Antennas for VHF, Vertical Antennas for HF, Impedance Matching, Phased Arrays, Yagis, Multi-Band Antennas, Loops and Quads, and Receiving Antennas. The course ran for 8 weeks and after successfully completing a final assessment exam a certificate of completion was awarded.


One of the best things about taking this course was that I got my hands dirty playing with some of the designs and was able to put up 2 of the antennas from the project. A VHF/UHF Ground plane (based on the VHF ground plane in the course), which is what I'm using for my 2M/440 home rig, and a 135' dipole (inverted vee configuration) fed with 100' of 450 ohm ladder line.

When more experienced hams ask me what kind of HF antenna I'm using they invariably say, "yeah, if you're only going to have one HF antenna that's the one to have." It's a good feeling to have my decision validated by fellow hams who really know what they're doing.

I had also wanted to take the ARRL's *Antenna Modeling course (EC-004)*—\$85 for members, \$115 for non—but thought it might be too complex for me to jump into so early on. So I waited about 7 months, played with some of the tutorials in the EZNEC software (a free version comes with the ARRL Antenna Book), read a lot more on antennas and did some more projects. I finally got to the point where my interest in antenna modeling overcame my fear and so I signed up for the course. The session I'm in started a couple of weeks ago and I'm well along in the course (this one runs for 16 weeks) and have been learning a lot and am really enjoying it.

The one difference with this course so far is that even though you have a mentor, there are no assignments to submit. The mentor is basically just there if you need clarification with something.

When I was at the board meeting the other night I overheard a discussion about ARES beginning to require that members take the ARRL's course, *EC-001, Introduction to Amateur Radio Emergency Communications*, and there was general grumbling about having to pay for it. First, there was a misstatement of cost, for ARRL members this course is only \$45 (\$75 for non-members). Second, I've seen hams pay a lot more for all kinds of junk at hamfests and so don't see why something as important as ones acquiring of knowledge should take a back seat to all the toys we happily buy.

In closing I want to say that so far my experience with the ARRL's on-line courses has been positive and I'd highly recommend them to anyone interested in learning more about the various aspects of our diverse hobby. 73, Kevin AB2ZI 

HRU 10th Anniversary Recognition Award

Object: to recognize stations who have contributed to the growth of the *Ham Radio University* concept by working them on the air. An award will be given to those stations with a minimum number of contacts with these stations.

Dates: December 1, 2008, through January 11, 2009.

Modes: All bands and modes.

Count stations once per band and mode.

Points: Contact with all stations are worth 1 point except W2V HRU special event station which is worth 2 points.

Call: CQ HRU from Callsign/10


Exchange: Callsign and name.

Log entries: Date, UTC time, Band, Mode, Callsign, Name.

Log submission deadline: March 1, 2009.

HRU Contributors who may be worked

for credit: K1RFD, K1ZM, K2BJG, K2CX, K2DCD, K2DO, K2KJI, K2KV, K2LJH, K2RBU, K2WR, K3UFG, KA1CVV, KA2D, KA2EJD, KA2NRR, KA2RGI, KB2IRH, KB2SCS, KC2GOG, KC2JCB, KC2KY, KC2LIM, KC2LSB, KS2G, N1XL, N2FF, N2GA, N2GYI, N2HPO, N2IMF, N2MUN, N2NFI, N2QHV, N2RQ, N2STU, N2TKA, N2TX, N2YBB, NA2P, NY2L, W1AGP, W1RFI, W2FX, W2GW, W2ILP, W2IRT, W2KRM, W2QUV, W2UQ, W2VU, WA2CDL, WA2CNV, WA2GUG, WA2KWP, WA2RMZ, WA2SUH, WA3PZO, WB2AMU, WB2BEZ, WB2CIK, WB2LUA, WB6NOA, WJ2V and WY2U.

Submissions: Please email all logs to N2MUN@arrl.net 

FCC Calls on Amateur Radio Service for Assistance with Digital TV Conversion

Earlier this week, the ARRL received a request from the FCC asking that ARRL members to provide technical educational assistance to their communities concerning the FCC-mandated digital television (DTV) conversion scheduled for February 17, 2009.

According to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, Amateur Radio clubs across the country are being asked to develop and implement plans to provide information throughout January and February about the DTV conversion in their areas. The FCC is leaving it up to the clubs to decide how to do this, as local groups understand the communities in ways that the FCC does not. Each community is a little different, Pitts said, so plans carried out by the clubs will vary from community to community. Interested groups should contact their ARRL Section Manager.

Pitts stressed that hams should not make "house calls," sell any equipment or do actual installations; the request is only to distribute technical information and FCC materials. He commented: "As we all know, some folks just never get the message until too late. Materials for presentations, education and many other activities are available online. Beginning early January, FCC staff will contact Section Managers and leaders of interested clubs and, where possible, arrange to meet to share even more information, audio, visual and printed materials, as well as and training aids, with the clubs involved this effort. We know the time is short, but your aid in this now will be appreciated."


Continued on page 7...

Club Gavel Competition

A benefit of being an ARRL affiliated club is being eligible to participate in gavel competitions of select ARRL-sponsored contests. There are eight events that are designated as Affiliated Club Competitions (ACC) for ARRL and RAC affiliated clubs:

- January VHF Sweepstakes
- RTTY Roundup (January)
- Int'l DX Contest (February and March)
- June VHF QSO Party
- September VHF QSO Party
- November Sweepstakes
- 160-Meter Contest (December)
- 10-Meter Contest (December)
-

In order for a club to be listed there must be a minimum of three entries from club members in good standing who reside and operate within the club territory. Complete rules can be found on the web at: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/rules-all.html#cc>

When entering one of these contests you must add the following to your contest entry "Great South Bay ARC" in order for the club to be eligible for a club score. 

QST

Silent Key

We regret to inform the club that our fellow member John "Fred" Clement W2FC(SK) passed away on Wednesday, December 10th.

Fred was a very active ham. He was net control on the 75 meter Geratol Net and very active on six meters. According to his Daughter talking over the air via ham radio was one of his most cherished mementos.

He will be missed. 




NLI Gets New ARRL Section Manager

N2YBB elected ARRL NLI section manager. Incumbent New York City/Long Island Section Manager Tom Carrubba, KA2D, of West Babylon, decided not to run for another term, so two other hams stepped up to run for the position:

Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, of Brooklyn, and Robert Biamonte, WB2OMW, of Levittown.

Lisenco was declared the winner with 468 votes; Biamonte received 134 votes.

Mike presently serves as Assistant Section Manager and Section Emergency Coordinator. Prior to those appointments, he was the District Emergency Coordinator for New York City. Mike is an avid DX'er and contester and has previously served as vice president of the **Kings County Radio Club**.

Our thanks to Tom, KA2D for his service as NLI section manager. 



W2GSB 220 MHz Repeater now on line!

The W2GSB 220 MHz repeater is now on line at the coordinated location in West Islip.


After on the air testing at KA2RGI's QTH, a work party of club members and the repeater committee repackaged the repeater, controller and power supply into a new cabinet in W2HCB's garage.

Sides for the cabinet were fabricated, painted and installed and new double shielded cables for the duplexer were made.

The repeater, duplexer and cabling were then moved and installed at the West Islip site later that evening.

The repeater seems to have good coverage from the Cross Island parkway in the West out to the William Floyd Parkway in the East. Although there has been an intermittent problem with sensitivity which seems to be temperature related. We plan to rectify this problem and make other improvements to the system in the very near future.

As you can see (photos below) the group had lots of fun with this project and learning experience.

The repeater is on 223.860 MHz with a 110.9 Hz PL tone for access. 



(l-r) John, W2HCB, Carl, KC2TZY, and John, W2JGH



(l-r) John, W2JGH, John, W2HCB and Mike, KC2SYF



(l-r) Bob, K2TV, W2HCB, Frank, K2LI and KC2SYF



(l-r) KC2TZY, W2JGH, Bill, W2ANQ and KC2SYF

Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club

Board Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2008

Board Members Present

N2MIG, W2HCB, W2JGH, K2TV, KA2RGI, N2PIK, and K2LI

Board Members Not Present

W2ANQ

Club Members Present

KB2TCH, AB2ZI, W2QAV, KC2EGK, N2IMF, KC2SYF, W2BCOO, KC2MOX, and KC2OYH

Secretary's Report – Previous Minutes

No Corrections or amendments to the minutes. The stand as published.

Correspondence

PO BOX – Bank Statement was received

Other – None

Treasurers Report

Checking Account Activity

Old Balance	\$3,138.72
Deposits	\$115.00
Present Balance	\$3,253.72

Motion to accept report by K2TV
Second by K2LI

Committee Reports

Apparel Chairperson – John W2HCB

Club apparel available.

Club Station and Equipment - Chairperson Walter KA2RGI

HF radios and power supplies returned from SRD. A 25' section of coax has an intermittent connection problem. A check and repair is required.

DX Cluster – W2GSB 145.670 - Chairperson Walter KA2RGI

Cluster is online

Education – Chairperson Walter KA2RGI

AB2ZI was to teach the scheduled General Class on January 13, 2009. KA2RGI objected and felt he was being stripped of education. This led some heated words ending with KA2RGI as the lead for teaching the general class with the assistance of AB2ZI.

Extra classes are scheduled to start April 6, 2009. There is no confirmation if KA2RGI will teach this course due to an uncertainty in his availability.

VE Session – ARRL Liaison and contact Walter KA2RGI

VE Session at National Weather Service. 2 passed exams to general and extra. Next VE session is on December 28, 2008.

Library – Chairperson – Alan N2CRV

KA2RGI donated QST and World Radio magazines. Discussion on CQ magazine bought World Radio. World Radio will be available online only.

NETS

Newsline Report 7:00 PM Monday – NCS – Position Open

Need someone to do Newsline Report.

Club Info Net 7:30 PM Monday – NCS Dave, N2UHR. Backup NCS John, W2JGH

No news to report.

DX & Contesting 8:00 PM Monday- NCS Bob, K2TV

160 M Contest ended 12/7/08. K2TV has a way to operate 160 meters where you have limited space for 160-m antenna. He will discuss another time.

Swap-N-Shop 8:00 PM, Wednesday – NCS John, W2HCB

Need backup NCS. List needs updating.

Ten Meter Net 8:00 Tuesday – NCS Brian N2NGE

No Net on 12/8/08

Compass – Bob, K2TV / John K2IZ / Kevin, AB2ZI

Need material for Compass newsletter.

Repeaters W2GSB Trustee Walter KA2RGI

146.685 – Online but has issues, needs investigating.

223.860 – Online but needs tweaking. Replaced short antenna cable and swept up around machine. Coverage of repeater from Cross Island Parkway to Center Moriches.

440.850 – Online, no issues reported.

KA2RGI stated that the club laptop that held the settings and documentation for the clubs repeaters were lost due to a hard drive failure. When asked by W2HCB for hard copies of manuals KA2RGI replied that he has hard copy's but they are not the property of the club but his own.

Website - Walter KA2RGI

Online – Updates are in progress. Clarification needed on which GSBARC site has code information page.

Yahoo Group – Joe N2IMF

Updates are scheduled.

Antenna Committee – Jon N2YMQ

Need antenna work? Contact John by email, jon_gittens@hotmail.com

ARES/RACES - EC/RO Walter KA2RGI

Meets 3rd Thursday of the month at EOC unless otherwise scheduled.

TOBARES Net every Monday at 8:15 PM

See www.tobares.org for complete event listing

SC ARES/RACES net dates need correcting

December Meeting is canceled due to GSBARC Holiday Party

Health and Welfare – John W2JGH

John “Fred” Clement (W2FC) past away on Wednesday, 12/10/08

A card was sent to his home address 1141 Hyman Ave. Bay Shore, NY 11706

Open House – Walter KA2RGI

12:00 noon to 2:00 PM Saturdays at the EOC.

Technical Committee – Bob K2TV & Danny WB2COO

K2GBA asked for help programming his radio.

Special Events

Air Power Museum – Coordinators Bud W2QAV, Jay N2PIK

QSL cards have wrong spelling of the word “museum”

Field Day – Coordinators John W2HCB, Walter KA2RGI

No news to report.

Club Picnic – Coordinator, Position open

End of the Year Party – Walter KA2RGI

December 18, 2008 at 7:00 PM in EOC

Contact KA2RGI to coordinate dishes

6:00 PM set up time

Hamfest Coordinator John W2HCB

Spring Hamfest – May 9, 2009

Int'l Light House/Lightship Weekend at Fire Island – Coordinator John W2HCB

Need QSL cards for lighthouse

Guest Speaker and Programs – Bob K2TV

Will try to schedule W2AMV as January guest speaker.

Old Business

None

New Business

KA2RGI would like to have other members take over all club activities except for education and VE liaison.

GSBARC banner is missing. Request membership for suggestions on new designs for a new banner.

Need to order 1000 QSL cards for the Lighthouse. Cost \$150.00. Vote at next general meeting.

Motion to bring QSL card purchase to general meeting vote by N2MIG, second by KC2EGK.

Possible joint hamfest with GSBARC and LIMARC. They like our location, We like their variety of vendors. This subject needs more discussion. If this happens or not we need to build up the number of people that attend our hamfests. Suggested that hamfest flyers be placed in local library's. Need to ask librarians to place flyer in community announcement area.

ABZI will build buddie pole project that is posted on the yahoo group.

Motion to Close meeting by K2LI, second by N2PIK.

Meeting closed at 9:45 PM.

Minutes taken and typed by John W2JGH. ~~W2JGH~~

...Continued from page 3

In early January, Pitts said that the FCC will ask Section Managers for the names and contact information of the volunteering groups. The FCC staff will then make contact with the groups, learn their plans and provide them with the media, brochures or other materials groups may need in this effort. Materials also can be downloaded from the DTV Conversion Web site. FCC regional staff members may even come and visit with larger groups to aid in implementation of the group's plans.


“I really appreciate the willingness of the ARRL to actively participate in helping Americans with the transition to DTV and your helpful suggestions,” said George Dillon, FCC Deputy Bureau Chief for Field Operations. “The DTV transition will be an historic moment in the evolution of TV. Broadcast television stations can offer viewers improved picture and sound quality and new programming choices. All-digital broadcasting also will allow us to significantly improve public safety communications and will usher in a new era of advanced wireless services such as the widespread deployment of wireless broadband. Our goal is to engage the amateur community on a cooperative basis to help with the DTV outreach and to educate consumers.”

Dillon continued that local Amateur Radio clubs might consider offering technical advice to consumers via telephone to those consumers who may encounter difficulty with the installation and setting up of their converter box. “Any assistance...will greatly help in the efforts of the FCC to ensure a smooth transition to DTV on February 17, 2009.”

Pitts advises interested groups to keep in mind that they are to provide technical educational help only: “At no time should the hams enter someone else's home or install equipment. They should not broker or sell conversion boxes in any way. Clubs can provide such things as a call-in telephone number for technical help, make presentations at meetings, do demonstrations at malls or give talks to other groups — whatever works in their community.”

Place Postage
here
Post office will
not deliver
mail without
postage

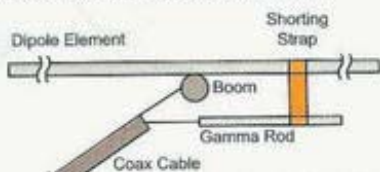
Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club
P.O. BOX 1356
West Babylon, NY 11704-0356



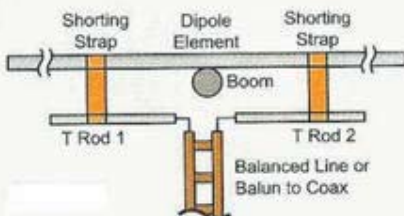
Upcoming Events and Projects

- **End of Year Party! December 18th, at 7PM in EOC**
- **A new antenna project is in the works! Building the 2M Yagi's was such a hit we're working on a home brewed "buddipole" for HF Portable use... check the files section on the club's Yahoo group for construction articles and more information as it becomes available. (Contact Kevin, AB2ZI at ab2zi@arrl.net for more information)**

Gamma match — A kind of impedance matching arrangement in which a rod is used to tap into one side of a dipole antenna element to allow attachment of coaxial cable to the appropriate impedance point of the antenna. It is often used in directional arrays and has the added advantage that all parts of the connection can be at ground potential for dc.



T match — A kind of double gamma match that provides a balanced connection to a dipole.



Inside this Edition of *The Compass*

- **Annual Holiday Party**
- **"220" Repeater back up and operating**
- **Straight Key Night Contest**
- **New NLI Section Manager Elected**
- **ARRL Club Gavel Competition**
- **December's Executive Board minutes**
- **President's Message**
- **Articles and photographs from members**