



# THE COMPASS

Official Newsletter of the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club

January 2009

Volume 37

Issue 1

## **GSBARC Contact Info:**

**President: John Melfi, W2HCB**

email w2hcb@arrl.net

631-669-6321

**Vice President: Bob Myers, K2TV**

email k2tv@arrl.net

631-495-7371

**Secretary: John Cresson, W2JGH**

email w2jgh@ymail.com

631-661-2038

**Treasurer: Tom Favilla, N2MIG**

email bigtom5@aol.com

631-957-5985

## **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 Feb. 12th, 09

Next General Meeting

Thursday Jan. 29th, 8 PM

### **VE Session:**

4th Sunday @ 12 PM next

VE session is Jan. 25th, 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](http://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>

## *Upcoming Club Events*

### **Boy Scout Communication Jamboree**

KC2TZY requested that the club assist in on April 18, 2009 for the Boy Scout Communication Jamboree at Cathedral Pine Park in Middle Island. Verizon and Cablevision will be participating. This is a good opportunity to introduce ham radio to 13-18 year old scouts.

### **Air Power Museum**

May 16 & 17 2009, Coordinators Bud W2QAV, Jay N2PIK

### **Long Island Radio Day 2009**

Saturday, April 18th 10AM to 4PM Tilles Center Atrium  
CW Post Campus/Long Island University 720 Northern Blvd,  
Brookville, NY

### **Attention packet operators on 145.070 Mhz**

The WB2CIK FlexNode on 145.070 Mhz is now off the air due to the loss of the site.

**The Larkfield Amateur Radio Club** has put up a node on the same frequency at a different location.

The call letters are **WA2PNU** and while not as strong as the old WB2CIK node, has a fairly good signal in the Huntington/Babylon town area. You can reach the **WA2PNU-4 PBBS** via the **WA2PNU FlexNode**.

There is also the FlexNode N2RQ on 145.010 in Nassau County for those in the Nassau County area.

The corresponding PBBS is **N2RQ-4**.

# *President's Message*

Happy New Year to all and I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday season.

As I sit here writing my message it comes to mind that it wasn't too long ago that we last operated remotely. The Fire Island Lighthouse 150th Anniversary was a great event with each of us contributing in one way or another. I realized at that event that some people like to participate in all aspects of radio operations - set up, broadcasting and take down- while others are more inclined to one role over another. That's the great thing about the club; we all work together and compliment each others' talents and interests. From this point forward, I encourage you to convey your interests to us so we can assign people roles that most interest them and make the events exciting for all who partake in them. We can do great things as a club if we all work together as a team rather than as individuals.

When I think about upcoming radio events, I sometimes feel like a kid in school waiting for that recess bell to ring so I can burst out the school doors and go play with my friends. Last year was great and we were able to add an extra event during the course of the year. This year we have several events planned - Air Power Museum, Kid's Day, Field Day, the Fire Island Lighthouse and JOTA- but we are always looking for more ideas. If you know of an event the club is not yet involved in, or better yet, if you can think of a new idea for us, bring it up and let's put the wheels in motion!

On that note, we have been invited to be part of the Boy Scout outing on April 18th. The scouts will be at Cathedral Pines campground for a weekend of Communications activities. Carl KC2TZY is getting some more information for us on the event. The board was excited about the idea and will wait for the additional information.

At the board meeting a lot of concerns were brought up about the club's radios. Our equipment is always on the move so I am currently looking into some type of cases for the HF radios. The 570s are in great shape however we need to protect them from damage when being transported to and from events. I would like to thank Kevin AB2ZI for taking over as the equipment chairperson. He will be doing a physical inventory of all club equipment in the near future.

I would like to thank John W2JGH for designing a few versions for the club banner.

The board has 2 versions we would like the members to check out at the general meeting.

Ham radio is a great hobby. The acquaintances made over the air and the friendships that I have developed through the club are wonderful. I have gained a tremendous amount of knowledge over the past few years from the members of the club. If you ever have a question please feel free to ask any of the members. Better yet, if you learn something new, I hope you will be eager to share that information with us.

So, here's to 2009! Let's make this a great year!

I look forward to seeing you all at the general meeting which will be on January 29th at 8:00 PM local time.

# You Might be Addicted to Ham Radio if:

1. When you look at a full moon and wonder how much antenna gain you would need.
2. When a friend gets a ride from you and remarks that you have a lot of CBs in your vehicle, it turns in to an hour long rant on how ham radio is not CB radio.
3. When someone asks for directions, you pause, wondering if long or short path would be best.
4. When you can look at a globe and be able to point to your antipode (and you know what an antipode is).
5. Your cell phone ring tone is a Morse code message of some kind.
6. You have accidentally said your Amateur Radio call sign at the end of a telephone conversation.
7. Your favorite vacation spots are always on mountain tops.
8. You notice more antennas than road signs while driving your car.
9. You have driven onto the shoulder of the road while looking at an antenna.
10. Porcupines appear to be fascinated with your car.
11. If you ever tried to figure out the operating frequency of your microwave oven.
12. When you look around your bedroom of wall to wall ham gear and ask: Why am I still single?
13. The local city council doesn't like you.
14. You think towers look pretty.
15. Your family doesn't have a clue what to get you for Christmas, even after you tell them.
16. Your HF amplifier puts out more power than the local AM radio station.
17. The wife and kids are away and the first thing that goes through your head is that no one will bother you while you call "CQ DX" a few hundred times.
18. When you pull into a donut shop and the cops there on their coffee break ask if they can see your radio setup.
19. You refer to your children as your "Harmonics".
20. Your girlfriend or wife asks: "You're going to spend \$XXXX on what???"
21. You actually believe you got a good deal on eBay.
22. When you see a house with a metal roof, and your only thought is what a great ground plane that would be.
23. You have pictures of your radio equipment as wallpaper on your computer's desktop.
24. Every family vacation includes a stop at a Ham radio store.
25. The first question you ask the new car dealer is: "What is the alternator's current output?"
26. You buy a brand new car based on the radio mounting locations and antenna mounting possibilities.
27. You have tapped out Morse code on your car's horn.
28. A lightning storm takes out a new Laptop, Plasma TV, and DVD Recorder, but all you care about is if your radios are okay.
29. Your wife has had to ride in the back seat because you had radio equipment in the front seat.
30. Your wife was excited when you were talking about achieving that critical angle, but very disappointed when you finally did.
31. During a love making session with your wife, you stop to answer a call on the radio.
32. Your wife threatens you with divorce when you tell her that you are going on a "fox" hunt.
33. Talking about male and female connectors makes you feel excited.
34. You dream of big, comfortable, knobs, but not on women.
35. You always park on the top floor of the deck, just in case you might have to wait in the car later.
36. When house hunting, you look for the best room for a radio shack and scan the property for possible tower placement.

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37. When house hunting, you give your realtor topographical maps showing local elevations.
38. The real estate agent scratches his head when you ask if the soil conductivity is high, medium, or low.
39. You have Ham radio magazines in the bathroom.
40. When your doorbell rings, you immediately shut down the amplifier.
41. Fermentation never enters your mind when "homebrew" is mentioned.
42. Instead of just saying no, you have said "negative".
43. You have used a person's name to indicate acknowledgement.
44. You become impatient waiting for the latest AES catalog to arrive.
45. You have found yourself whistling "CQ" using Morse code.
46. You always schedule the third weekend in May for vacation.
47. You walk carefully in your backyard to avoid being clothes lined.
48. You have deep anxiety or panic attacks during high winds or heavy ice.
49. You and the FedEx/UPS men are on a first name basis.
50. You really start to miss people that you've never seen.
51. Your exercise machine is a Morse code keyer.
52. You walk through the plumbing section at the hardware store and see antenna parts.
53. Your neighbors thought you were nuts when you ripped up your lawn to bury chicken wire.

54. Your next door neighbor thinks that your wife is a widow.

55. Your wife has delivered meals to your Ham shack.

56. If you sold all your Ham radio equipment, you could pay off your mortgage. ~~~~~~~~~

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- Charles Winkler*

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## Ham Radio University 2009 a success

By Bob Myers, K2TV

In spite of the inclement weather the night before, Ham Radio University was a success. While attendance was down slightly due to the icy road conditions there was an excellent turn out. The club had a table set up and manned mostly by K2IZ and myself. We handed out quite a few Hamfest flyers and also had quite a few people

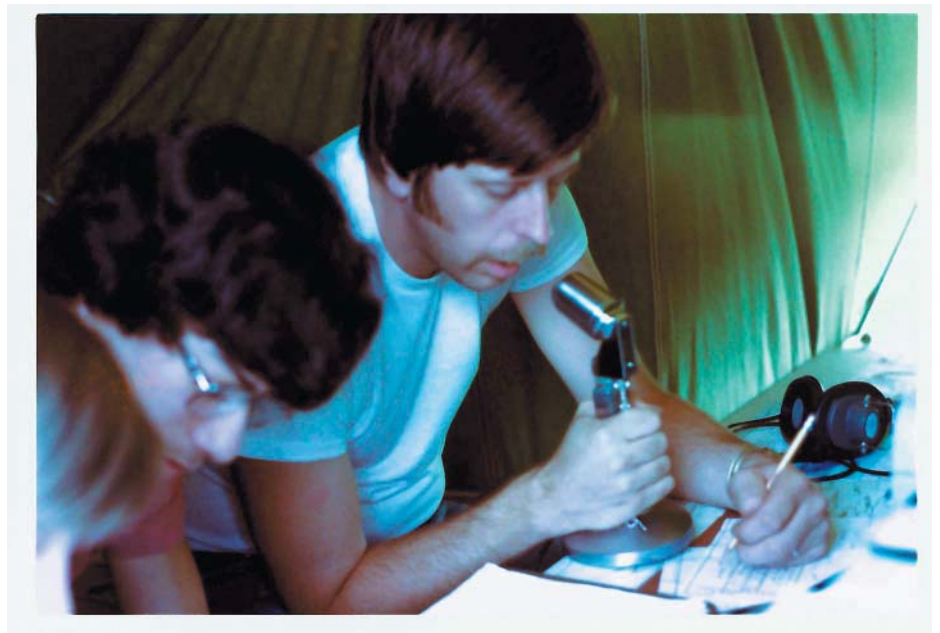
inquire about the 220 MHz repeater. The keynote address was given by ARRL First Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN. She spoke about making a New Year's resolution to try out something new in Ham Radio. Ham Radio has many facets and being limited to only one or two may make you become bored with the hobby. She pointed out that getting involved in Public service, traffic handling, contesting, DX'ing, satellites or digital will enhance your enjoyment of ham radio. Try different modes and bands or try building some antennas or small kits.

The forums were very diverse and gave the attendees to learn more about the subjects that they like, but also enabled them to take Kay's advice and learn about other areas of ham radio. I attended several forums in between sitting at the club table. KS2G gave a contesting presentation and being a contester of sorts I attended. Well, Mel gave a great presentation with an in depth demonstration of

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## Photo Challenge



***Think you can identify the man on the microphone? Go to the GSBARC Yahoo site (sorry, members only) and enter your guess. The answer will be posted on January 22nd in time for the general meeting that night. Good luck!***

# QST

## Attention All Amateurs...



Earthquake Strikes Costa Rica, Emergency Ham Frequency Declared (Jan 9, 2009) -- On Thursday, January 8 at 1921 UTC, an earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale struck the Central American country of Costa Rica. The earthquake, with an epicenter located about 22 miles northeast of San Jose, comes after a series of almost 60 seismic events that have rocked the country since early this week. The Radio Club de Costa Rica (RCCR) -- that country's IARU Member-Society -- is monitoring local repeaters and 7090 kHz. IARU Region 2 Emergency Communications Coordinator Cesar Pio Santos, HR2P, requests that 7090 kHz be kept clear of non-essential traffic due to possible emergency communications dealing with the earthquake. The ARRL encourages all amateurs to be aware of the emergency operations on this frequency. US amateurs should avoid interfering with Spanish language SSB while using digital modes.

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## Get On Line Information About Contesting

*Courtesy of Mel KS2G*

WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

KA9FOX Contest Library <http://www.qth.com/ka9fox/links.shtml>

Contesting.com <http://www.contesting.com>

K9JY's Contesting Tips <http://k9jy.com/blog/2007/10/10/30-days-30-ham-radio-contesting-tips/>

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## KB6NU's Ham Radio Blog Get on WorldRadio Mailing List

*Posted: 09 Jan 2009 01:14 PM CST*

(Hicksville, NY) January 8, 2009 — A new e-mail list has been established to notify readers of the availability of each new issue of WorldRadio magazine, which is converting to a free online-only publication (titled WorldRadio Online) as of its February, 2009 issue. WorldRadio subscribers and any other interested people may sign up for the list online at <http://mailman.sunserver.com/mailman/listinfo/WorldRadio-L>.

Monthly e-mail alerts will include highlights of each new issue, along with instructions and hotlinks for connecting with the online issue. The e-mail addresses will be used only by CQ Communications, Inc., and will not be rented or sold.

Each issue of WorldRadio Online will be posted in PDF format, permitting readers the choice of browsing articles online or downloading the issue to their own computers to read at their convenience or even to print out in part or in whole. Access to WorldRadio Online will be free of charge.

Most of WorldRadio's columnists will continue to write for the new online edition. In November, 2008, CQ Communications, Inc. purchased WorldRadio upon the decision of founding publisher Armond Noble, N6WR, to retire and sell the magazine.

# Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting Minutes January 8, 2009

## Board Members Present

N2MIG W2HCB W2JGH K2TV W2ANQ K2LI

## Board Members Not Present

KA2RGI

## Club Members Present

N2PIK KB2TCH AB2ZI KC2EGK KC2RZG WA2KXE KC2MOX  
KC2TZY

## Secretary's Report – Previous Minutes

Correction to the minutes for board meeting on December 11, 2008

It was printed in the Compass that a club member had the call sign "W2BCOO". It should have been WB2COO.

With the above correction noted, the previous minutes stand.

Motion to accept by W2ANQ  
Motion second by K2LI

## Correspondence

Three letters with dues were received and given to the treasurer, N2MIG

## Treasurers Report

2008 ending balance - \$3,677.72  
Will be doing a weekend deposit

80 members  
62 full  
18 family and complementary  
1/3 of members have paid their 2009 membership dues  
Members need to pay dues by March 30, 2009 to avoid being dropped from club roster.

Motion to accept report by K2LI  
Motion second by W2ANQ

## Committee Reports

### ***Apparel Chairperson – John W2HCB***

Shirts, hats and patches are available.

The Parent Shop is having difficulties with the US Postal Service. Items shipped to club members are not arriving. When tracking numbers are checked there is no record. The Parent Shop has contacted the Postmaster General about the situation.

### ***Club Station and Equipment - Chairperson Kevin, AB2ZI***

W2HCB stated that KA2RGI requested someone else take over Club Station and Equipment. AB2ZI volunteered to take over as Chairperson and will be doing inventory of club equipment.

### ***DX Cluster – W2GSB 145.670 - Chairperson Walter KA2RGI***

Up and running. W2HCB stated that KA2RGI requested someone else take over dx cluster

### ***Education – Chairperson Walter KA2RGI***

General classes to start January 13, 2009. Books can be ordered on the first night of classes.

### ***VE Session – ARRL Liaison and contact Walter KA2RGI***

W2HCB stated that KA2RGI may be looking for assistance in the near future.

### ***Library – Chairperson – Alan N2CRV***

No changes to the library.

## NETS

***Newsline Report 7:00 PM Monday – NCS – Mat KC2SJZ***  
Up and Running.

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

Would like to have more volunteer net control stations.

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

March 7 & 8 2009. ARRL CW and SSB contest.

Club equipment is available for member to use for contesting at Town Hall. If anyone is interested, a class on dx and contesting will be made available. Class will cover from where to start, to contest rules and operation, and logging. Members who participate will gain the knowledge and confidence for operating on Field Day.

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

List has been updated and placed on the Yahoo group and thanks to N2PIK to covering when needed.

***Ten Meter Net 8:00 Tuesday – NCS Brian N2NGE***

Net picked up by W2HCB. Net went for an hour.

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

Need articles from members. An article on the dx and contesting class is in the works.

Compass is sent out to other clubs. These clubs have used Compass articles and given the GSBARC credit.

***Repeaters W2GSB Trustee Walter KA2RGI***

**146.685** – Has issues of intermod.

**Tone JAMMING on the repeater. When this happens, do not acknowledge, do not discuss on the air. Ignore or change frequency. When you hear the jamming, send an email to [W2ANQ@ARRL.NET](mailto:W2ANQ@ARRL.NET) with the time of the jam. This will aid when the FCC complaint is made.**

**223.860** – The pre-amp has an issue. W2ANQ and K2TV will troubleshoot.

**440.850** – Up and running, no problems reported.

Some club members have asked about a 6 meter repeater. By putting another machine online, the following needs to be considered, site, equipment and coordination.

A maintenance sweep of all repeaters is being scheduled.

Report given by W2ANQ

**Website - Walter KA2RGI**

Up and running.

**Yahoo Group – Joe N2IMF**

Up and running.

**Antenna Committee – Jon N2YMQ**

Need antenna work? Contact John by email:

[jon\\_gittens@hotmail.com](mailto:jon_gittens@hotmail.com)

**ARES/RACES - EC/RO Walter KA2RGI**

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at EOC unless otherwise scheduled.

TOBARES Net every Monday at 8:15 PM

See [www.tobares.org](http://www.tobares.org) for complete event listing

**Health and Welfare – John W2JGH**

W2QAV - out of hospital card was mailed to his home.

KC2LKS- out of hospital card was mailed to his home.

W2FBB wife is in the hospital.

**Open House – Walter KA2RGI**

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

**Technical Committee – Bob K2TV & Danny WB2COO**

.W2FBB amplifier is being worked on.

**Special Events**

**HRU at Briarcliff College**

Club providing two Kenwood 570 radios. Radios and related equipment will be the responsibility of KA2RGI.

**Air Power Museum – Coordinators Bud W2QAV, Jay N2PIK**

May 16 & 17 2009

**Field Day – Coordinators John W2HCB, Walter KA2RGI**

June 27 & 28 2009

**Kids Day June 20, 2009**

Help needed

**Club Picnic – Coordinator, Position open**

August 2009

**End of the Year Party – Walter KA2RGI**

December 2008

**Hamfest Coordinator John W2HCB**

May 9, 2009, Invitation to vendors were sent out

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

September, 2009

***Guest Speaker and Programs – Bob K2TV***

January - discussion on change of program to digital TV.

February - try to schedule 6 meter symposium

***Club Refreshments Mike, KC2SYF and Tom KC2MOX***

Thanks for volunteering. A reminder to all, there is no budget item for the water, soda, coffee and donuts. Add to the kitty when taking a beverage or snack.

**Old Business**

Lighthouse QSL cards needed. Motion to purchase new Lighthouse QSL cards by W2ANQ, second by K2TV.

W2QAV to review card for changes prior to ordering.

**New Business**

Cases to protect HF radios. AB2ZI will research cases similar to the Pelican 1610.

Motion that all club equipment be returned to the club by W2ANQ, second by N2PIK. Motion approved.

KC2TZY requested that the club assist in on April 18, 2009 for the Boy Scout Communication Jamboree at Cathedral Pine Park in Middle Island. Verizon and Cablevision will be participating. This is a good opportunity to introduce ham radio to 13-18 year old scouts.

Motion to assist pending permits, site access, electricity and coordination by W2ANQ, second by K2TV. Motion approved by all present board members.

New Banner designs submitted by W2JGH. Will be shown to membership at January's General Meeting

A proposed budget for 2009 was provided for the board to review. While reviewing the budget it could not be confirmed if the Clubs 2008 Liability insurance was paid. Contact with W2EUL will be required to confirm.

The treasurer requested the \$42.00 for stamps. Unanimous approval.

Inventory of club equipment to be performed and checked against club equipment insurance list.

**Motion to Close**

Motion to close by K2LI


Second by N2PIK

Meeting ended at 9:36 PM

Minutes taken and typed by John W2JGH.

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



*Continued from page 4...*

the N1MM contest logging program. Since I've recently made the switch from the CT contest logger, it was very informative for me. Mel gave us lots of information and contesting tips based on the N1MM Logger. It is interesting to note that this is the tenth year that Mel has given the contesting forum and every year it is different with new information. This seems to be common with many of the forums as the content changes each year.

Neal. KC2KY gave an interesting and entertaining talk and slide show of his trip to Alaska and the W1AW/ KL7 special event station at the artic circle. Having been to Alaska and having operated VHF/UHF FM there, this brought back many memories for me.

A special non-scheduled talk "Beyond the Pileups" was given by Dennis, K7BV from Yaesu who surprised everyone by showing up from the West Coast as a complete surprise to most of us. Dennis is a staunch supporter of HRU.

The Queens County Red Cross had their very impressive mobile van outside for tours and demonstrations. The special event station W2V was set up for anyone to try.

At the end of the day we helped Walter, KA2RGI proctor the VE session along with VE's from several other clubs. It was really nice to see so many people pass the exams. Those few who did not pass were encouraged to study and come back to another session as soon as they were ready.

All in all it was a really nice time. We got to meet with a lot of old and new friends.

After 49 years in Ham Radio I thought that I've learned everything about it and then go to something like HRU and learn something new. That's one of the best fun things about Ham Radio, there is ALWAYS something to learn and it keeps you young. If you missed out on this year's event, please make plans to attend next year.



## *January's Meeting*

The January meeting will have a presentation about Digital Television given by Bob Myers, K2TV (CBS-TV Retired).

- February marks the end of over the air analog transmission for the high power local TV stations.
- What is Digital TV?
- How will this affect you?
- What should I do to keep on watching my favorite channels?
- Do I throw away my old TV set?
- Is DTV High Definition Television?

These and other questions will be answered by Bob at the meeting. So please plan to attend on Thursday, January 29th at 8PM in the EOC at Babylon Town Hall. 