



The Compass!

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

April 2018

Volume 46

#4

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

**GSBARC Free Ham Radio License Classes!
Amateur Extra License Class Tuesdays 7 - 9:30 p.m.**

Review of American Morse Equipment KK2 Paddle Kit

Adrian, KO8SCA DX Adventure

Why YLs are Unforgettable

KB6NU's Guest Column

6060 DXpedition Somalia



Greetings from Somalia!



Long Island's Friendliest Amateur Radio Club!

© 2018 Google
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

President's Message



Is spring really here? With all the nor'easters we've had, we have also heard of a lot of antenna damage. If you need help, please be sure to ask. We have a great crew that can assist you if you need some help – so just ask!

Our last general meeting was an awesome one. Thank you to our guest speaker Adrian KO8SCA. His trip to Somalia was an interesting one. We all enjoyed the videos and pictures and last but not least his humor.

A few of the board members had a great time at dinner with Adrian before the meeting -- so Adrian, thank you so much for being our guest speaker. It was truly a pleasure meeting you and hearing about the planning and logistics of that DXpedition.

What is next for our great club? Well, the new 2 meter repeater is up and running. Allstar/IRLP is going to be running as soon as we figure out some growing pains. So be patient. It will be up and running soon for all to enjoy. I would like to thank the crew that helped with all the work. Without your help, there is no way it could have been done. So personally I say: Thank you!

As you might have heard, we are going to be part of a simulated plane crash on Cedar Beach on the 21st helping the Boy Scouts and demonstrating what amateur radio really can do. We will need a few stations on digital communications to assist in the demonstration. The club trailer will be there to act as a command post to send and receive digital traffic and print it out. We will need at least 10 to 12 at the beach starting at 8:30 a.m. local time. To be part of this, you must see Phil KD2GFO. He will give information on what you must do to be part of this event.

On another note: In May we once again will be at the Air Power Museum for Armed Forces weekend. I hope to see a

lot of our members at our events and open houses. Amateur radio has a lot to offer with new digital modes coming out such as FT8. Where else will we go? I remember when PSK first came out and hearing that this is not ham radio. Well, guess what? That mindset subsided and now the use of digital modes is abundant. There are so many cool things you can do with them.

Do you need a new club shirt? I would like to thank Greg K2KAF who has volunteered to assist with club apparel. Soon there will be a club apparel catalog where you can see all the designs and shirts.

With everything going on, Field Day is approaching. With that said, we need to start going through all the laptops and radio cases to make sure all the cables are there that are needed. I know it sounds early but it is way better to be prepared than to not have what we need to get a station up and running smoothly.

I would like to thank the crew that is doing the ARISS event with the Central Islip school district. I hope you take some pictures for the next Compass.

Getting ready for the warmer weather? Me too! As you know I work outside all year long and I spend a good bit of time high up on buildings with no walls or glass. The temperature up there is way colder with the wind on the 65th to 85th floors. I am sure looking forward to the short sleeves, no Under Armor and no more heavy coats.

FYI watch out! Don't touch that cell phone! This month there is a major crackdown. I have seen the police on the bridges with binoculars looking for the texter or idiot on the phone. Most of them know the difference between our radios and cell phones. So please don't text while driving and make sure you have a hands-free device if you are talking. If you get caught, it will not only be a fine but 5 points on your license.

Everybody have a great month and always remember for the latest information tune in to the Info Net on Monday nights at 7:30 on the 146.685 repeater with a 110.9 PL -600 shift. You'll be ready to go.

Meanwhile, I hope to see you at the open houses or events we do with the club.

73. John Melfi, W2HCB



In the Classroom with AB2ZI

FCC Announces Major Changes to All Radio Services Including Amateur Radio!

By Kevin, AB2ZI



The FCC announced that after a thorough study of amateur, aka “ham,” radio, it has been decided that the tiered license system currently in place is antiquated and in need of updating. Currently citizens can choose to avail themselves of unlicensed systems—Citizens Band (CB) and UHF Family Radio Service (FRS) radios—or licensed services like Amateur Radio and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) with the GMRS the only service requiring a fee to maintain. The licenses are to be replaced with a single license allowing for unrestricted access to the entire current spectrum allocated to all four of these services under a combined license to be known as the American Homeland Radio Service, or AMRS.



(Left) GMRS/FRS Radios, (Right) CB Radio

The FCC will require no testing to be associated with the new license class, instead enacting new restrictions on so-called “homebrew” equipment and antennas. “The free market suffers when people make their own equipment, we have to start supporting commercial manufacturers who are the job creators,” said the chairman of the FCC. Current and new licensees will now pay a flat fee of \$144 per year to the FCC for these licenses. All current licenses will

be terminated as of April 30th, 2018 whereupon anyone wishing to continue operating on any of these bands will simply fill out the proper paperwork on the FCC website, submit payment, and receive their license within 90 days subject to a full background check by Homeland Security and local law enforcement.



Above: typical “ham” radio base station

All call signs associated with current amateur and GMRS licensees will be eliminated and be replaced by the licensees Federal Registration Number (FRN). Identification requirements are also waived, the FCC believing that legal names or “handles” (nick names associated with that person) will suffice.

Current emergency service organizations will now be able to purchase and use radios on any of the bands instead of relying on amateur radio and GMRS operators to provide a communications infrastructure.

VOIP systems, such as Echolink, IRLP, DSTAR, etc., will no longer be permitted in order to prevent loss of bandwidth to internet systems. A possible pay per byte system is being discussed but would not be implemented before 2025. The chairman stated that, “with net neutrality no longer a roadblock to the monetization of internet speed systems, any parasitic use of internet bandwidth will no longer be tolerated.”

He went on to explain, “These radio hobbyists are part of a dying breed, much like the textile workers back in the 1800’s who were known as Luddites. They are failing to move into the future and adopt the new and more useful technologies afforded them through cellular phone networks.

Radio is a thing of the past,” The chairman explained, “they should get a good smart phone and sign up for a good data plan like everyone else,” noting that the FCC and White House website were both offering coupons for \$10 off new contracts with several of the telecommunications carriers.

[For more information go here...](#) 

ARRL: How can we help?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



Recently, I received this email from a reader:

Hi Dan,

“Hope you’re doing well. I have a couple of questions about the ARRL. I’ve been reading your blog and other sources, and it’s clear that the ARRL is in a little trouble. I have to say, though, that as soon as the current administration in D.C. notices that some of their friends can make money off of amateur radio bandwidth, the whole amateur radio service is in very serious jeopardy. The only way I can think of to counter that would be an organization like the ARRL, and I think there’s really only one organization like the ARRL. Is that not true? If it is, how can we help?”

I replied that it is true that there’s only one organization like the ARRL. In the past, there have been groups that have tried to compete with the ARRL, but they’ve never really taken off. It’s an incredible amount of work to set up an organization like the ARRL and none of the alternates have been able to get to critical mass.

The second question—How can we help?—is the big question. Here are a few thoughts:

- Join the ARRL. If you’re not currently a member, join. You’ll have little or no influence, if you are not a member.
- If you are a member, but your friends are not, encourage them to join. The more members the ARRL has, the more influence it will have. This is common sense, but the ARRL doesn’t really seem to care about this. In the past, I’ve encouraged the ARRL to set a membership goal of 25% of licensed radio amateurs (link 1, link 2). I honestly don’t think this is asking too much, and I’ve never heard a good argument for them not to do this. They continue to ignore me, and the percentage of licensed radio amateurs that are ARRL members continues to decline.

- Take an interest in ARRL matters and let your director and vice director know your views. Get your friends to do likewise. Get on the mailing lists for the board meeting agendas and minutes. To do this, log into the ARRL website, click on “Edit your profile,” then “Edit email subscriptions.”

- Invite your ARRL elected officials—your division director, vice director, and section manager—to talk at your club meetings. Be prepared to grill them on issues that you think are important.

- Run for office yourself. I ran for Great Lakes Division vice director twice. Unfortunately, I lost both times, but even running is a way to have an impact. I’d like to see the “loyal opposition” get organized and challenge the status quo, especially in divisions where I think the current director is making bad decisions.

Having said all that, there are ways to make an impact besides playing ARRL politics:

- Get on the air. It’s easier to lose bands if we’re not using them. Encourage others to be active.
- Be an Elmer to those that need it.
- Teach classes to help those who want a license get a license and to help those who are already licensed to upgrade their licenses.
- Be an ambassador for amateur radio, especially to related groups, such as the “maker” groups that have sprung up around the country. Make sure that they know about your amateur radio club and the classes and exam sessions that you offer.

I’d love to hear any other thoughts that you all may have on this. I really do think that at this point, we need to inundate the ARRL Board and staff with input from the membership. While they may have a long history of ignoring the membership and just going about their own merry way, now is really a time of change, and this might be the right time to set the ARRL on a better path.

*When he’s not getting all worked up over ARRL politics, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, teaches ham radio classes and operates CW on the HF bands. He’s the author of the *No Nonsense amateur radio license study guides* and *The CW Geek’s Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code*.*

You can email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com. 

American Morse Equipment KK2 CW Key Paddle Kit Review

By John, K2IZ



This kit from [American Morse Equipment](http://www.americanmorse.com) features:



- New redesign in steel and aircraft grade aluminum for less mass and smoother feel
- Fully machined on new, state-of-the-art Computer Numerical Control machinery
- Fully adjustable spring force and contact gap for individual feel.
- Finger paddles may be installed in “up” or “down” position
- Close tolerance machining & superior design produce exceptionally smooth & solid feel
- Aluminum parts Mil spec Type-II Anodized
- Accurate machining & simple design provide for easy assembly
- Heavy, rubber-footed base stays put on your bench - weight 1-1/2 pounds
- Allen wrench for assembly included
- Base supplied raw, fully machined; all other parts finished & ready to assemble
- And a LIFETIME GUARANTEE just like everything we make!

This is the American Morse Equipment KK2 paddle kit. I had originally bought one when I first retired back in 2010.

One of the things I couldn't do was paint the base. No matter how I tried it never came out right so I left the base in an “as is” condition.

I have brought the old KK2 to Field Day since I bought it. A lot of people who used it liked it but it was starting to get a rather worn look to it. I tried using BRASSO to polish it up but it still didn't look good, plus the original build used set screws to lock the adjustments in place and no matter what I did I couldn't turn them to readjust the spacing and spring.

I emailed Doug, W6AME and he suggested using penetrating oil or applying heat but I'm not too handy doing that. He also suggested that I could send the paddle to him and he would fix everything up, as he advertises LIFETIME GUARANTEE. I didn't want to get involved in the cross-country shipping so I thanked him and ordered a new KK2 kit.

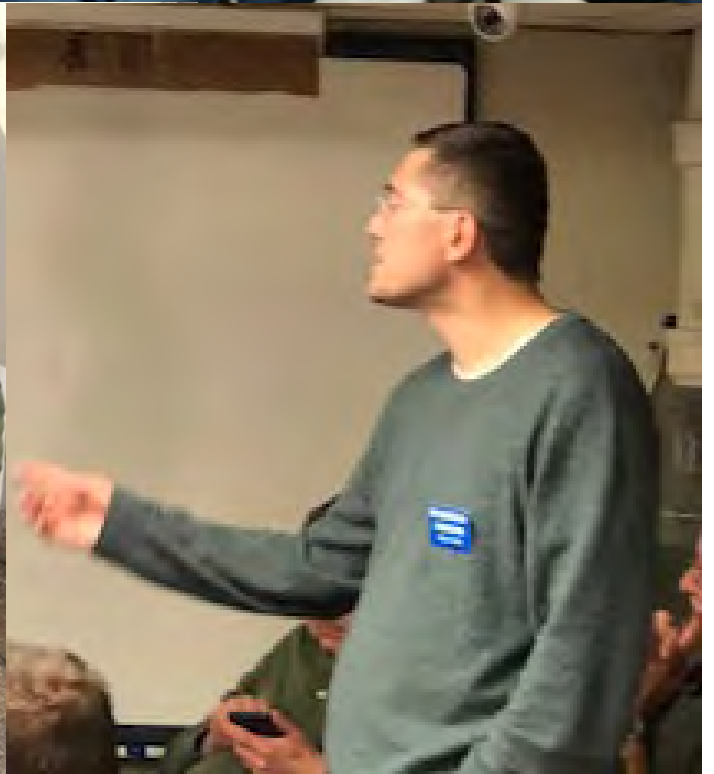
I want to use the KK2 with the QRP LABS QCX transceiver kit I have built. The kit has a built-in keyer and some of us in the club want to take it out to a park or the beach and do some QRP operating. I knew from the first kit that this was a very rugged paddle, something that would work in harsh conditions. There is no way any of us would consider a BENGALI paddle that sells for a couple of hundred dollars. The BENCHER always seems to have problems with the springs. In addition I had spoken to one of the control operators who activates the USS KIDD (DD-661) museum ship and he uses the same type of paddle.

If you notice the base is now painted black. I took the base to a local body shop -- not a problem getting it painted. I mentioned the crackle finish on my Brown Brothers paddles and they said they were able to do it. I just might take the old base to them and get it painted with the crackle finish. They just have to make sure to mask the parts that make contact.

Overall it's an easy build, which is great for those us with failing eyesight and arthritic fingers. The manual is available from their website as a PDF. There is also ample warning before you open the shipping envelope: There are MANY little parts that are just waiting to get lost. CAREFULLY OPEN THE PARTS PACKAGES OVER A CONTAINER. Enough said! Overall it's a great kit and easy build -- unless you have to take the base to get it painted. You can order direct from their website: <http://www.americanmorse.com/index.htm>

There is also a large selection of other types of paddles and keys. ☺

Adrian, KO8SCA, Describing his DXpedition to Somalia (6060)



Why YL Operators Are So Unforgettable

By Salli, K2RYD



My name is Salli and I live in Islip Terrace, N.Y. I am licensed since April 2016. I upgraded to AE so I could work DX and contests in the extra portions of the bands. I picked my vanity call sign, K2RYD (k2-ride) since I own and keep my horse on my property.

Back in July 2017 I was a special event operator for Brookhaven National Labs K2BNL, celebrating the laboratory's 70 years of discovery here on Long Island. I operated on and off till Dec. 31st. I spoke to labs and made contacts all over the world. The special event made a total of 3,400 contacts.

For the NY QSO Party in October, I parked myself on a 40m frequency and called CQ, in which I was asked by several contacts if I was the K2BNL operator. They said they could tell my voice anywhere (must be my Brooklyn accent). Now you know when doing a QSO Party you want to make as many contacts as possible. However, when the NY QSO Party coincides with JOTA weekend you can expect to talk to a scout or two. I was transformed into a Scout Magnet. I was called by 29 JOTA stations and spoke to about 70 scouts. Being a Mom, I couldn't say no. I even had JOTA stations on standby. To relieve some of my JOTA pileups, other hams offered to take them up 5 or down 5 from my frequency. I did manage to make 703 QSOs.

Then came Ham Radio University in early January. I offered to be an SE operator for a few days prior to the event. Again, several contacts asked if I operated as K2BNL. They too recognized my "Brooklyn Accent."

Are you wondering where this story is going?

Now I am sitting at a lunch table at HRU with other hams –

some of them are hams I do not know. As the conversations were going along, one of the hams mentioned he was the district manager for the scouts in Connecticut. I told him the story of how I spoke to so many scouts during the NYQSO party /JOTA weekend. With that, he banged on the table and shouted, "That was you?" He told me I was the only YL he had spoken to that weekend and that my voice and Brooklyn accent were unmistakable. (He also said I sounded 32 years old, bless his soul). He plans to look for me during the next JOTA event.

Now, here it is March and I am working on my WAS/YL. The other day, while scanning the airwaves looking for VA QSO Party stations, I came across a YL talking to someone (I couldn't hear him) and decided to wait to make a QSO since I needed her state. She answered my call and it turns out I spoke to her over JOTA weekend. She too recognized my voice. She remembered I had broken my leg and even asked if I had started riding again. Small YL world.

So, you see, people don't forget you when you are a YL operator!! Especially one with a Brooklyn accent.

Look for "The 12 Days of Christmas" Special Event that I am organizing for this coming December. 📻

GSBARC 2018 Field Day Raffle
Tickets now available for our newest club fund raising raffle. Help keep our dues at their current level and have a chance at 2 great prizes.



First prize is a Yaesu FT-891 HF/6M mobile transceiver*

Second prize is an ICOM ID-5100A VHF/UHF/DSTAR mobile FM transceiver*

Donations are \$5 per ticket or a book of 5 tickets for \$20 — the best deal!

Drawing to be held during Field Day dinner barbecue on Saturday June 23rd.

****Winners need not be present to win and may choose the cash value of the prize in lieu of the prize itself.***

GSBARC is no longer using Yahoo Groups due to issues with the platform. We have transferred everyone over to <https://groups.io/>

If you were a member of any of the Yahoo groups just sign up for a free groups.io account and you will have access to the new groups. [Groups.io](https://groups.io/) has most of the same features as the Yahoo groups and some additional ones as well, like the ability to have live chats. ☺

Club Apparel

Want a shirt, jacket, hat, sweatshirt or t-shirt with a Great South Bay club logo? We now use *Mr. Shirt*, located at 80 East Montauk Hwy in Lindenhurst (www.mrshirt.com). Now you can get color matched backgrounds on your logo too. Check them out... ☺

ARES/RACES Information

- Div. 1—Town of Babylon ARES/RACES
Net: 146.685/R, Mondays 8:15 PM
EC/RO: John Melfi, W2HCB, (631) 669-6321
- Div. 2—Town of Huntington ARES/RACES
Net: 147.210 MHz +600/ PL 136.5,
Mondays 7:00 PM
EC/RO Steven W. Hines, N2PQJ,
<http://www.huntingtonnyaresraces.org/>
- Div. 3—Town of Islip ARES/RACES
Mondays 8:30 PM
EC/RO: John J Blowsky, KB2SCS, 631-467-2410
- Div. 4—Town of Smithtown ARES/RACES
Net: 145.430 MHz, PL136.5, Mondays 7:30 PM
EC/RO: Rich Johnston, KC2TON, 631-872-4039
- Div. 5—Town of Brookhaven ARES/RACES
EC/RO: Ted Debowy, AC2IR, 631-751-6576
- Div. 6—Riverhead ARES/RACES
EC/RO: Steve Casco, W2SFC, 917-701-3919
- Div. 7—Southampton ARES/RACES
EC/RO: Removed & Currently Vacant
- Div. 8—Southold ARES/RACES
EC: Don Fisher, N2QHV, 631-765-2757
RO: Charles Burnham, K2GLP, 516-779-4983
- Div. 9—East Hampton ARES/RACES
EC/RO: Eddie Schnell, W2ZY, 864-973-9250
- Div. 10—Shelter Island ARES/RACES
EC/RO: Vacant (Neal Raymond, N2QZA, SK)

Suffolk County

ARES/RACES Net:

Mondays 2100 Local—145.330/R (136.5PL)

Alternate Frequency—146.820 (136.5 PL)

New York State

RACES Net (HF)

Sundays 0900 Local, 3993.5 KHz LSB

2018 VE Session Dates

- April 28th
- May 26th
- June 16th
- July 28th
- August 25th
- September 22nd
- October 27th
- November 24th
- December 22nd

All sessions are at the Town of Babylon EOC at 10 a.m., located in the basement in the rear of town hall. Please bring photo ID, a copy and your original amateur radio license (if you have one), and any CSCE's you may have. Non programmable calculators are allowed. The exam fee is \$15 payable by cash or a check made out to "ARRL VEC".

Visit [FCC Universal Licensing System site](http://www.fcc.gov) to register for an FRN number to use on the paperwork.

The GSBARC Repeater List

- 146.685 W2GSB - shift 110.9 Hz Enc/Dec
- 223.860 W2GSB - shift 110.9 Hz Enc/Dec w/ ECHOLINK
- 223.860 - shift 156.7 Hz Enc/Dec Local use
- 440.850 W2GSB + shift 110.9 Hz Enc/Dec
- 446.775 KB2UR - shift 110.9 Hz Enc/Dec
- 927.3125 W2YMM - shift D606 Enc/Dec
- 440.250 W2TOB/B + shift DSTAR REF020A Babylon
- 445.725 WD2NY/B - shift DSTAR REF020A Selden

Grow Giant Vegetables with **MAGIC MANURE**, manufactured daily on the farm. 40-50lb bags free for the taking, already bagged. Pick-up or Delivery to EOC available. References available upon request. Contact Salli at:

k2ryd@arrl.net.



All Flag & Flagpoles

FLAGS • BANNERS • FLAGPOLES & REPAIRS

SPECIALIZING IN CUSTOM FLAGS AND BANNERS

97 Gnarled Hollow Road, East Setauket, NY 11733

Tel: 631-751-5500 Outside NY: 800-247-8331

Fax: 631-751-5505

Website: www.all-flags.com • E-Mail: info@all-flags.com

Club Name Badges

Club name badges are available from *The Sign Man* (www.thesignman.com) of Baton Rouge, LA.

The badges which are 1-3/4 in. x 3 in. If you visit *The Sign Man's* webpage you can order the badges by using a drop down selection on the orders page and clicking on "Great South Bay ARC—NY" ☺

