



THE COMPASS

Official Newsletter of the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club

February 2017

Volume 45

Issue #2

Upcoming Club Events

Next General Meeting:

**Thurs. Feb. 23rd,
8 PM at the EOC**

GSBARC's FREE License Classes Tuesday nights 7-9:30 PM.

Amateur Extra License Currently Running

In Memory of Terry, K2TRC

A group of her friends has purchased a bench with her name to be dedicated on Sat., May 20, 2017. This will be 4 days after the first anniversary of her death. A group of friends is meeting on the dock at Kismet, F.I. at noon and will walk to the tennis courts where the bench is installed and do a balloon launch. They will then head over to The Kismet Inn, 1 Oak St., to raise a glass or two in her memory. Her friends are extending an invitation to join them on that day. All are welcome! Mark your calendar.

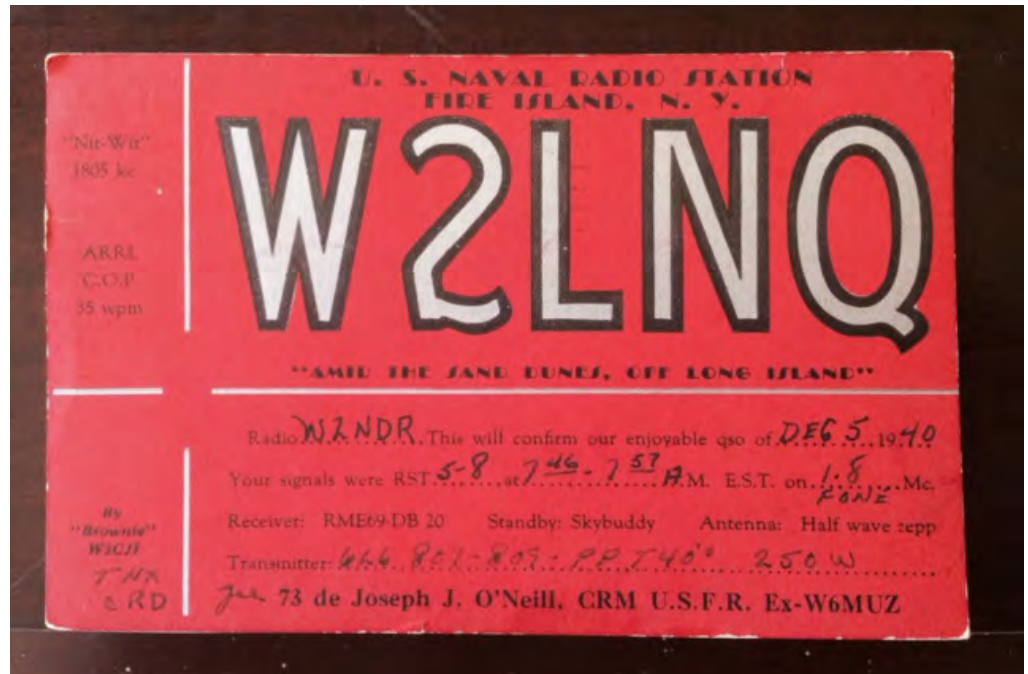
Open Houses on Wednesday nights from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. and also Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m

Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gsbarc

New RACES Operators Check in to State Net



Danté, AB2ZI/Dog and Bella, W2HCB/Dog Taking the Mic



This QSO card was donated to the FILH. The radio operator at the U.S. Naval Radio Station, Fire Island, NY in 1940 was also a ham.

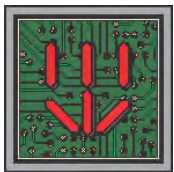
Inside this issue of The Compass...

- Winter Field Day Photos
- Byonics TinyTrak3+
- The Squirrel Cage
- NPOTA — Gateway Nat'l Rec. Area

Upcoming Special Events

- American Air Power Museum, May 20-21
- Field Day: June 24-25
- Maggie Fischer X-Bay Swim: July 14th

President's Message



Well, winter has not been that bad at all. If anyone knows that for sure, it is me: As you know, I work outside most of the time. What do we do in the wintertime on cold days? Play radio, of course!

Thank you to all the operators who made Winter Field day a success: Tom KA2D and Mike KC2SYF did a great job taking the lead for this test of our HF stations in the EOC. A big thank you to Keith AC2MI for working out some bugs on the IT side of things. It goes to show how well teamwork works and how our club runs smoothly due to the fact that we all work together for one cause. We need to make sure we keep up on proper procedures for radio operations and our use of the EOC. You will see many signs now in the EOC on procedures to the AEC operators there. It is a list for you as well on opening and closing the EOC. Please follow them exactly as spelled out.

PLEASE ONLY PUSH THE TOP BUTTON TO GAIN ENTRY! NEVER PUSH THE BOTTOM BUTTON. THAT IS FOR BABYLON CENTRAL ALARM.

Always give a call on 146.685 to see if the EOC is open. If it isn't, just wait until it is opened up. You can also give a call to 631-957-4346 to see if it is open. Bob K2TV will email a complete list of procedures to be followed from now on.

If you liked Winter Field Day Tom KA2D and I have got a list of a few more events like that which we take part in to further enhance our operators and get ready for the mega event in June. Yes! Field Day is only five and half months away! The more we operate the better we will get. Let's see what happens this year -- who will come out on top? Will it be the CW crew or the SSB crew? Always a friendly little competition.

KB2UR 440 is back on the air in a beta test mode right

now 446.775, -5 MHz shift, with a 110.9 Hz PL encode/decode.

Ed KD2ADC did an amazing job repairing the equipment and building a very nice case for it to sit in. Please be patient; it's only on a temporary antenna for testing so don't get upset if you have problems getting into it.

John KD2HGI has been working hard on the Mesh system. He also straightened out the server in the EOC. AC2MI and KD2HGI have been working hard to make things work much better on the IT side.

The website has been updated by AC2MI and we are working on some new features for the future.

We will have a table at the LIMARC Hamfest on the 26th so if you have something you would like to sell, please feel free to come and try to sell it. Please remember, the club needs space to promote the club.

Just a reminder about on-air courtesy: Remember to always be polite on the air. I have found that being able to talk around the world has been a pleasure with all the great people out there on HF. No matter where you are from or what you look like, radio operators everywhere can promote good will. Don't engage in rude behavior and don't involve yourself in the rude behavior of others. We are responsible for showing people everywhere that amateur radio operators are respectful and decent, especially on the bands.

As you all know, I have been working with the Town of Babylon on a new MOU. There have been many long hours of calls and emails and it's been edited several times on both sides. We are getting very close to the final signing.

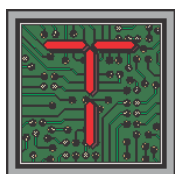
I would like to thank the Town of Babylon's chief deputy attorney, Afreen Rizwan, who worked with me. She has been wonderful in helping us get this done and big thank you to Supervisor Rich Schaffer for his input too. He is always a friend to amateur radio.

73. John Melfi, W2HCB 



Byonics TinyTrak3+

By John Smale, K2IZ



The **TinyTrak3Plus** is an APRSTM GPS position encoder which, when connected to a serial GPS and a radio, will transmit its location at an adjustable rate. TinyTrak3Plus is the fourth generation in the TinyTrak series and is available as a kit construction project or as a built-and-tested unit, providing an inexpensive way to build a mobile tracker without the need for a full TNC. It is configured by connecting to a computer's serial port and running a simple configuration tool which allows setting of all user options. After that, the computer can be disconnected and a GPS connected in its place for operation.

TinyTrak3Plus has the following features:

- Decodes any NMEA-0183-compatible serial GPS sending \$GPRMC or \$GPGGA sentences. USB-only GPSs will not work.
- Can provide 5V power to an external GPS (such as the Byonics GPS4 or GPS5).
- Transmits position, altitude, speed, heading, and timestamp (hour/minute/seconds or day/hour/minute).
- Supports SmartBeaconing, which adjusts transmission rates to speed and turning.
- Can transmit position in MIC-E, NMEA, or APRS ASCII text format.
- Two configurations with all user options switchable.
- Burst after voice / Send Position Now input.
- Handles position resolution down to 7 inches.



Several years ago, when there was a lot of kit building going on, I came across the BYONICS website. They offer quite a few kits for building, fox hunting, weather and several other types. They also offer cables that can be used with their equipment to interface with a large number of handhelds and mobile radios. I read that they are using Prolific chips in their equipment which had me thinking "are the chips good?" -- in light of so many clones of the Prolific chips that has led to the manufacture of FTDI chips. Well, BYONICS includes a download on their site that tests Prolific chips and determines if they are good or bad. I checked an old Prolific chip cable and, as I suspected, it was defective.

The TinyTrak3Plus combo kit includes a [Byonics GPS5](#) with the SiRFstar III chipset. According to the website, it is a very accurate unit. It was easier to buy the combo rather than try to make another GPS unit work with the unit.

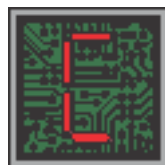
Of course, if there are questions after you've gotten it built, their programming is easy to understand and I found their tech support outstanding. Leave a message on their home page. I usually get an answer within 24 hours along with followups as they are needed.

As of now, I will be using the Tiny Trak 3Plus with a Yaesu VX-5 hooked up to a mobile antenna in the car. I'd like to be able to try and use it for this year's upcoming public service events, where net control can bring up an APRS screen and see where stations are on the course besides relying on a paper map.

Further information can be found on their web site at <http://www.byonics.com/> 

Inside the Squirrel Cage

by Caryn, KD2GUT



consult Part 97 of the FCC rules and you'll find everything spelled out there regarding unlicensed third-party operations in your shack. But what if the third party happens to possess a license? And what if that third party is not a guest but a reliable regular? Licensed or not, what if that very same third party intermittently interrupts your QSOs with a variety of demands? "Walk me." "Feed me." "Rub my belly."

When the assigned license is a New York State dog license, forget getting answers from the FCC – you need to consult the AKC instead. At least that's what Ziggy, our Shih-Tzu, might recommend.

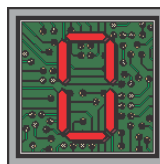
I'm General Class in my shack but when Ziggy's in there acting like a control operator, I'm not more than Second Class: While I'm still needing to buy a more comfortable chair to replace the butt-numbing wooden wonder that's propped me up through a few contests and special events, Ziggy has been curled up by my desk, ensconced in his own plush bed (one of 6 at home). I've warned him that "woof" is one of those four-letter words forbidden on air and even constitutes malicious interference. I've told him that snoring above a level of S2, no matter how blissful it may sound, is indisputably QRM. I've reminded him firmly that I'm happy to pause and let him "answer the call" but that he needs to reciprocate for me when I am on HF, especially during those rare moments when 10 meters is open to some promising DX.

Still, there is an advantage to having a dog in the shack, cuteness and companionship aside. His breed hails from a part of the world I have yet to work – China and Tibet, well, most of Asia – and maybe he has some insider information that can help me break through the chatter. Maybe too he'll

Continued on page 5...

NPOTA at Gateway Nat'l Recreation Area (RC08)

By Lou Maggio, NO2C



On December 8th, 2016, with help from Mike KC2SYF, Howard WB2UZE and myself NO2C, Salli K2RYD activated Gateway National Recreation Area - RC08. We operated a little on 80 and 40 meters, but mostly 20 meters, using both SSB and CW. By the time we had finished, we'd made approximately 240 contacts pretty much across the country.

We ran an Icom 751A transceiver at 100 watts, an MFJ Auto Tuner and a Cushcraft 10-20 meter rotatable dipole at 16 feet in a fixed north-south direction. We also had a Chameleon vertical for 10 through 80 meters. The vertical did not have any counterpoise because we were concerned about a tripping hazard. The dipole was on a 16-foot flagpole with a car tire mount. (This is all visible in the accompanying pictures.) The dipole was the antenna we used for all the 20-meter operation.

The Jamaica Bay Riding Academy, which is located at Gateway, was kind enough to let us use a desk in their main facility. We really were roughing it! We had a 15-foot walk to the restrooms and a 25-foot walk to their full-service cafeteria. We can report that the egg sandwiches, hamburgers and fries met our high standards.

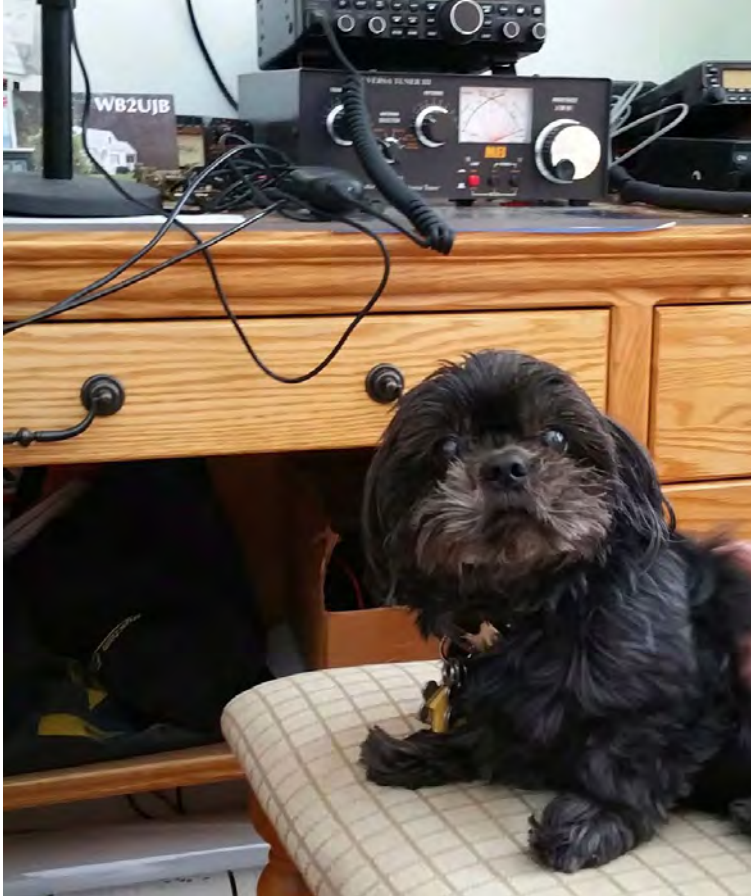
GSBARC supplied us with the NPOTA Banner and literature to hand out to interested parties. I was slightly disappointed in the club for not keeping alive a long-established tradition in ham radio: Imagine this, we found the NPOTA Banner in a box that was labeled "Banner!!!" By honored tradition, it should have been packed away in a box marked "Tubes, Used But Good" -- or something like that.

On a personal note, it was fun to watch Salli working

Continued on page 5...

The Squirrel Cage, continued from page 4...

just bring me good luck. He'll need a bit more training - "Sit." "Fetch." "Tune Up." "Push to Talk." And of course "stay," which he'll do anyway.



Ziggy, KD2GUT/Dog

Unless I put my headphones on, though, it's possible I still won't hear Beijing or Yunnan Province anyway. Those contacts may be as evanescent as Shangri-La itself, eclipsed by something that not even the best filter can fix: the incessant licking and slurping dogs are infamous for.

Hey, I'll take my chances. As long as Ziggy stays in the shack with me, he'll never end up in the doghouse. 🐾

Have a photo of your pet at your station? Send it to AB2ZI and your photo will appear in a future edition of The Compass.



CQ CQ CQ de FIDO FIDO K...

NPOTA at RC08, continued from page 4...

people in the pile-ups. She has come a long way for a person who received her General in October!

Speaking of watching, Howard and I observed how the Ham Radio Bobblehead doll came to be. Just watch the [video linked to this article](#) and see for yourself.

We did all this following a day of supporting "Operation Santa" at Kennedy Airport -- but that is another story. 🐾



Winter Field Day at the EOC



HAMFEST!

~ Sunday, February 26, 2017 ~

Levittown Hall, 201 Levittown Parkway, Hicksville, NY 11801

Doors Open at 9am to Buyers Vendors Set Up at 7am

**Amateur Radio Dealers & Equipment ~ 10am VE Session ~ Tune-Up Clinic (Get your Rig Checked!)
Television, Computer, CB Equipment, ARRL Information
Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club Information DXCC and WAS Card Checking**

General Admission \$6.00

Licensed Ham's Non-Licensed spouse & children under 12 are free.
Free Parking! Food & Refreshments! Door Prizes!

Have a Few Items to Sell?

LIMARC will have a table set up to sell items for others. There's no charge to club members.
Non-members pay just 10% of their selling price. Please make sure to mark your price clearly on the item.

VENDORS > One \$22.00 Space includes a 6' table & chairs. **Bring your own table for \$15 per space and you'll still get chairs! If bringing your own table, you must notify us by February 10, 2017**

The \$6.00 Admission Fee is separate.

7am Vendor Set Up. Close-in and drop off parking for Vendors.

**Vendors Must Comply With NY State Sales Tax Laws The sale of guns, ammunition or pornographic material is prohibited. Send your check to LIMARC, PO Box 392, Levittown, NY 11756-0392
Limited Selling Spaces! Only some spaces have electric. Reserve your Space Now!**

Talk-In on W2VL Repeater 146.850 (136.5 PL)

For more information, see www.LIMARC.org or contact our Hamfest
Co-Chairs at 516-694-4937, or email us at Hamfest@limarc.org , [Dave AK1NS](#) and
[Richie K2KNB](#)

Directions

By way of the LIE from the West (travelling from NYC)

Take Exit 38 to Northern Pkwy East to Exit 33 Wantagh Pkwy South. Take Exit W2 East onto Old Country Rd east. At the 3rd light turn right onto Levittown Pkwy. The Hall is at the end of the short strip mall on your left, turn left at the light to park

By way of the LIE from the east (travelling from Suffolk Co.)

Exit the LIE prior to exit 40 and change to the westbound Northern State Parkway. Follow the directions below

By way of Northern Parkway

Take the parkway to exit 33 (Wantagh Parkway South. Take Exit W2 East onto Old Country Rd east. At the 3rd light turn right onto Levittown Pkwy. The Hall is at the end of the short strip mall on your left, turn left at the light to park.

By way of Southern Parkway

Take exit 27N Wantagh Pkwy North to exit W2 onto Old Country Rd east. At the 3rd light turn right onto Levittown Pkwy. (There's a Duncan Donuts there on your left) The Hall is at the end of the short strip mall on your left, turn left at the light to park.

YAHOO!

GSBARC has a New Yahoo Group and the old one has been deleted

If you are a member in good standing and want to join the club's new Yahoo group, go to:

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/gsb-arc/info>

and click on "Join Group" Be sure to add a note when filling out your information with your call sign so we know who you are!

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, (###) ###-####

Div. 3—Town of Islip ARES/RACES

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: Joe Albertus, KB2IOE, 631-664-6709

Div. 5—Town of Brookhaven ARES/RACES

EC/RO: Ted Debowy, AC2IR, 631-751-6576

Div. 6—Riverhead ARES/RACES

EC/RO: < Unknown — no longer in state. >

Div. 7—Southampton ARES/RACES

EC/RO: Dennis O'Rourke, KB2ZWW, 631-728-5424

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: Nat Raynor, N2NEI, 631-324-3738

Div. 10—Shelter Island ARES/RACES

EC/RO: Neal Raymond, N2QZA, 631-749-9330

Suffolk County

ARES/RACES Net:

Mondays 2100 Local - 145.330/R (136.5 PL)
Alternate Frequency - 145.370 (136.5 PL)

New York State

RACES Net (HF)

Sundays 0900 Local, 3993.5 KHz LSB

2017 VE

Session Dates

- February 25th
- March 25th
- April 22nd
- May 27th
- June 17th
- July 22nd
- August 26th
- September 23rd
- October 28th
- November 25th
- December 23rd

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.

GSBARC

Free License Class Schedule:

Amateur Extra: Feb. 7th thru May 23rd.

Note: All Classes Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9:30 PM. Class text book is the current ARRL License Manual for that level. For more info email Kevin, AB2ZI at kmorgan6@optonline.net

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"



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2017 Annual GSBARC Field Day Raffle is here!

Prizes for 2017 are:

1st Prize:

ICOM ID-5100

VHF/UHF Transceiver

2nd Prize:

UHF Digital Voice Access Point (DVAP)

3rd Prize:

BTECH/Baofeng UV5X3 Tri-Band HT

Tickets are \$5 each or a book of 5 for \$20

Winner Need Not be Present to Win.