



THE COMPASS

Official Newsletter of the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club

January 2016

Volume 44

Issue #1

Upcoming Club Events

Next General Meeting:

Thursday, Jan. 28th,
8 PM at the EOC

Dues are now due!!!
Pay at any meeting or
by PayPal on the club's
website: www.gsbarc.org
(see PayPal link at the
bottom of this column)

**GSBARC's FREE
License Classes Tuesday
nights 7-9:30 PM.
Math & Calculator Classes
Currently Running.**

**Extra License Classes
Begin Feb. 2nd**

**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

Happy New Year 2016!

Ham Radio University Photos Inside!



Tuning in to ham radio conference

BY DEON J. HAMPTON
deon.hampton@newsday.com

About 400 people gathered yesterday in Bethpage to tune in to the annual Ham Radio University Educational Conference, where experts said the service is making a comeback nationally.

Amateur radio enthusiasts spent hours at Briarcliffe College participating in more than 20 educational forums and hands-on workshops. Ham radio uses radio frequencies to communicate around the world without the Internet or cellphones.

During the conference, keynote speaker Dave Sumner, chief executive of the National Association for American Radio, outlined the state of amateur radio across the world.

Sumner, speaking to a packed classroom of more than 100 people, said that in the United States — where there has been steady growth in the number of new ham radio li-



Edwin Taylor, left, Connie Currie and Bob Myers of the LI Radio and Television Historical Society yesterday. Video: newsday.com/bethpage

disasters and a tradition of volunteerism among ham radio operators.

However, licenses peaked in

vant and fighting for competition and attention, and antenna restrictions, are threats to ham radio volunteerism.

hunting, cable theory and Ethernet connectors.

"Ham radio is a public service that can be beneficial during times of an emergency," said Brian Malone, 59, of Massapequa Park, a licensed amateur radio operator who wanted to attend the antenna and emergency management forums.

He said he used ham radio to contact family members during superstorm Sandy.

Ham University chairman Tom Carrubba said the organization, a collection of local radio clubs, started in 2000 to "share knowledge" and "all facets of amateur radio," including emergency communication such as on 9/11, when ham radio was used.

There are more than 760,000 amateur radio licensed operators nationwide, Carrubba said.

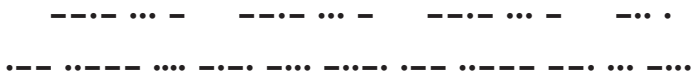
A Federal Communications Committee test was also available for individuals who want to obtain or upgrade their ama-

HRU 2016 as featured in Newsday

Inside this issue of The Compass...

- Inside the Squirrel Cage (a column)
- KB6NU's Guest Column
- Photos from Ham Radio University
- GSBARC's first "Winter Night Out"

President's Message



As I sat down to write this month's President's Message, I was thinking: There have been so many great things we accomplished last year. We became incorporated and a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. We received a very nice size grant for equipment and improvements to the EOC and trailer and repeaters. By now, we all know how we did with Field Day. What an awesome year, being sponsored by ICOM -- thanks to Ray Novack, N9JA, and Will Jourdain, KI4VXF, for making that happen.

Of course, we must not forget that our radio operators did a tremendous job making all those contacts. We had such a great time using all that new ICOM equipment that we decided that GSBARC will go all Icom for its equipment upgrades. I would like to thank Tim Duffy, K3LR, and his crew at DX Engineering for helping us out with this huge order. I am pleased to let everyone know that the new equipment has been shipped and soon you will see all the new toys. We are not only getting radios, we are also getting new generators -- so no one will have to loan out their generators anymore. We are also ordering a Flex radio for the EOC, plus the front of the room will also be getting some improvements: It will have a 70-inch interactive board that will be great addition for Kevin, AB2ZI, and also for Skype presentations as it will have a sound system. So this will be a great improvement.

The new laptops are in -- Thank you to Joe, KD2GAG, for getting them all ready. And just this week, our WiFi got a lot better at the EOC. We installed a new router, which is much faster than the old one, and we now have a WiFi access point which is located on the ceiling, mid-room. Mike, KC2SYF, and Tom, KC2MOX assisted KD2GAG

-- and it works great!

We have a ton of work to do this year. We will be doing a lot of work down in the EOC, cleaning it up and moving some big equipment out. It's time for the big cleanup, then once that is done, we are going to get ready for our special events and of course, Field Day.

As you all know, we lost a very good friend to our club: WA2QAV, Bud Egan. If you knew Bud, you were very lucky. He was one of the nicest gentlemen around always looking to help the club, so we decided to honor him by making the Air Power Museum event a memorial event for him. Bud was a career Air Force member and the Air Power Museum event was so dear to his heart. We will miss him at the radio with his bombardier push-to-talk switch in his hand. We thought having this as a memorial event would be a great thing to do for our departed friend, WA2QAV, Bud Egan also known as "Magic Ears."

The GSBARC Winter Night Out was a huge success. If you were there and won a door prize, congratulations! A big "thank you" to the crew at La Famiglia in Babylon -- the food was awesome and I am glad that everyone there had a great time. Thank you to my daughter Kristi, KC2TMB, for helping with door-prize giveaways. If you were there, you saw my presentation to Ed, KD2ADC, for all the great work he has done with our antennas and equipment. A lot of our older equipment has been restored by Ed and it looks great. Then I presented Bob, W2YW, with a plaque for all of his expertise in the financial field and all the hard work in getting the paperwork straightened out for our grant application and our IRS forms. Then I presented Bill, WB2QGZ, with an award for his tremendous efforts with our repeaters and RF issues that affect our repeaters. If you were there, I hope you all had a great time. What a way to start off the weekend! By the way, I hope that you enjoyed the little favor that was on every plate -- it was the brainchild of my YL, Michelle, and Kristi, KC2TMB. They did it all -- from the mug, to stuffing and wrapping everything. I thank them for that.

We've also started our work on the storage room -- thanks to Ed, KD2ADC, Mike, KC2SYF, Jeff KD2ZQO, and Phil, KD2GFO, for helping out. It was a big nasty mess. It's all about teamwork -- that's how we do all the things we do -- and that's how we get them done.

Ham Radio University was on Sunday. It was a rainy, nasty day but the turnout was great. It was nice to see so many members at HRU. I had the opportunity to spend a little time with Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, the current CEO of the ARRL. He was impressed by the number of our members who were there. He also stated that he is impressed with our club because of all the things we do. He stated that GSBARC feels like a family and that if he lived on Long Island, he would be an active member of our great club. He gave a great keynote address, covering a number of topics

on the future of amateur radio

Ham Radio University was chaired by our own Tom, KA2D, who did a ton of work to make sure you all had a great time. Congratulations to all the door prize winners. And thanks to the GSBARC crew who went to help with setup on Friday afternoon.

So as you can see, the start of the month is busy! We have ton of work to do and I know we will get it done thanks to the dedication of our members.

As I finish this month's message, I need to thank Walter, KA2CAQ. After Ham Radio University and many texts from home, we had to take care of our beloved dog, Taz, who was very sick. Walter came to my QTH to help me get her in the car and went with me to the vet. Many of you had met Taz during the antenna projects and trailer work parties. We said goodbye to her late Sunday night. She will be missed by all who knew our wonderful Taz. So as I got up this morning -- yes I finished this at 3:45 a.m. on Jan. 11 -- it is weird not to see our best friend sleeping at the foot of the bed or meeting me at the top of the stairs when I come up from getting my work gear on.

Here is a word about what we should do: Stay on the air. Chase the DX stations. Try a contest. Or, just get on the air and have some fun.

In closing: We are doing great, the membership is growing, and the talents of our members make GSBARC what it is today. Thank you everyone – now, go enjoy some DX fun or kit-building or whatever you like.

John Melfi, W2HCB 

The Prizes for our next raffle.



1st Prize: Rigol 1054Z Oscilloscope



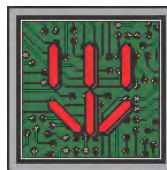
**2nd Prize (left) MFJ-269C
Antenna Analyzer**



**3rd Prize (right) Extech EX330 Digital
Multimeter**

Inside the Squirrel Cage

by Caryn, KD2GUT



When I became a ham, I began to live in the time zone of UTC. From then on, a different clock ticked to track my QSO times, my waking hours -- and a few sleeping ones too.

But now amateur radio has also reshaped my calendar. Long ago (that would be in the year B.C.E. - Before Caryn Eve), the world ran on the Roman Calendar, until that was replaced by the Julian Calendar. But there are those of us who, FCC tickets in hand, have long since migrated to the RF Calendar. Surely you have one in your shack. The most recent one had 2015 ending with the Month of The Santa Nets and launching 2016 with The Month of Straight Key Night and RTTY Roundup.

In this calendar, January and December have simply ceased to be.

And all those pages in between, the ones that used to designate other months? As with any respectable calendar, they're stuffed with RF Calendar months too – ones derived from major holidays: There are the sacred ones, like Field Day Month, formerly known as June, and the global waterfront weekend festival that bestows its name on International Lighthouse and Lightship Month, which the rest of the world knows as August.

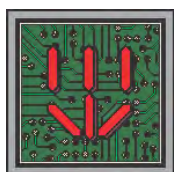
This year, an ultra-patriotic holiday, National Parks On The Air, is being observed for months and months and months, a marathon of pride and celebration. In fact, it's such a multi-month entity that 2016 might also become known as National Parks On the Air Year.

Ah, we fill the pages of our RF Calendar with a busy schedule: We sprint, we party and we designate days to mark the birthdays of the notable, the exalted and the long-dead by trotting out special call signs, QSOs and certificates. (Well, it's certainly more fun than the obligatory alternative ritual of birthday cake and candles - and lasts much longer.

Continued on page 4...

What would Wayne (Green) do?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



Wayne Green was a crackpot...but he was a great one.

For those of you who aren't as old as I am, Wayne Green, W2NSD, was not only the publisher of 73 Magazine, but also the founder of Byte and other PC magazines in the early days of personal computing. In 73, he would write these long, rambling editorials. Often, he would take the ARRL to task, criticizing what he thought to be some lunk-headed policy or another.

Just as often, he'd be encouraging hams to take up some new technology. He was, for example, one of the guys driving hams to set up repeater systems.

He would often exhort hams to get started in their own technology-related business. I remember one column where he urged hams to get involved in the home-security business. And, of course, when personal computers became popular, he wrote that hams should think about getting into that business. His reasoning was that our knowledge of electronics would stand us in good stead in those businesses.

Today, I think that he would be telling us to get more involved in with technologies like the Internet of Things, WiFi, or whatever other wireless technology is coming down the pike. "Wireless" is the key word here. These networking technologies are based on good, old radio, and who better to push these technologies forward than guys like us who understand radio.

This point was brought home to me last week as I was interviewing an executive of a wireless company for an article that I'm writing. He said to me that many of the companies he works with are taking a software-centric view to their wireless products. They simply use the reference designs provided by the wireless chip makers and expect those designs to work flawlessly in their products.

While they often do, he gave me an example where simply using the reference design was a colossal failure. In one case, he said, the company mounted the board inside a metal enclosure. Since the antenna was part of the printed-circuit board, the enclosure acted like a shield, and of course, the device had little or no range.

He went on to say that he thought that there was a real shortage of experienced RF guys in the wireless industry. Does that sound like an opportunity to you? It does to me. So, I'm going to make like Wayne Green here and exhort all you guys to get out there and take advantage of it.

This is not only a business opportunity, but a way for amateur radio operators to fulfill a couple of the "purposes" of amateur radio, as set forth in Part 97.1 of the amateur radio regulations. Part 97.1(b) says that one of the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service is "Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art." According to Part 97.1(d), another purpose of the Amateur Radio Service is "Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts."

Let's do it! ☺

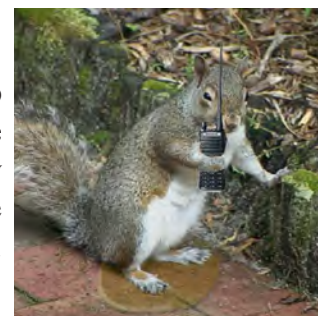
(When he's not ruminating on the latest wireless technologies, KB6NU likes to make use of some vintage wireless technologies by working CW on the HF bands. He's also a prolific blogger (www.kb6nu.com) and the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides). If you have a comment or a question, email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.)

Inside the Squirrel Cage, continued from page 3...

It also spares us that overwhelming trip to the bakery, the embarrassment of having to blow out all those candles and the agony of having to endure friends' sub-par singing.)

It's not that we hams enjoy living out of step with the rest of the world as we make our way on different paths and at different frequencies. If anything, because we are committed communicators, we are probably even more entrenched in the workings of that very world. But still, our calendar deserves to be different.

After all, it's hard for us to keep our feet as firmly grounded in the earth (as our equipment surely needs to be), when our voices are sailing so many miles above it.



Ham Radio University 2016



(l-r) Bob, W2YW, Bill, WB2QGZ, John, W2HCB & Tim, KC2TTT



HRU attendees checking in at the door...



(l-r) Bob, K2TV & Dave Sumner, K1ZZ being interviewed by News 12's [Jackie Lukas](#)



(l-r) Donna, KA2KZT, Kerry, KC2QXI & Jaclyn, KD2ENX



(l-r) Sir Walter the Good, KA2CAQ with Ed, KD2ADC at the GSBARC information table.



AMSAT's Pete, W2JV talks with attendees about how they can get involved working amateur satellites.



(left) Tom, KA2D, chats with News 12's Jackie Lukas

(right) ARRL CEO and Secretary Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, gave the keynote address at this year's Ham Radio University.

(below) HRU attendees listening to K1ZZ's address.



GSBARC's "Winter Night Out" Party



(top l-r and above right) Plaques were given to Ed, KD2ADC, Bob, W2YW and Bill, WB2QGZ for their extraordinary service to the club.

(middle and bottom left) All party-goers had a great time!

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:

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

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

2016 VE Session Dates

- January 23rd
- February 27th
- March 26th
- April 23rd
- May 28th
- June 18th
- July 23rd
- August 27th

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".



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Need Antenna Work?

Sign-up on the list at the EOC. Please supply as much information about your situation so the committee can be properly prepared with assistance and tools when they come to your QTH.

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"



January Birthdays

Rich, AC2HX
Joe, W2FED
Dave, AK1NS
Rich K2BBQ



Pride Equipment

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