



The Compass!

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

June 2018

Volume 46

#6

Next General Membership Meeting: Thurs., June 28th, 8 PM

• GSBARC Free Ham Radio License Classes Will Resume in September



American Air Power Museum Republic Airport, Farmingdale, NY

Inside this issue:

- **KB6NU's Guest Column**
- **Inexpensive Kits for Solo or Group projects**
- **Air Power Museum Special Event Photos**



Long Island's Friendliest Amateur Radio Club!
NA-026

W2GSB

President's Message



Well I hope you all had enough rain this past month. As you have seen the weather has been a little wacky. We got May showers instead of April showers. All I know is I am happy to see the temperature getting warmer.

Thank you to Bob K2TV and crew for setting up the Air Power Museum station. To everyone who operated the Air Power Museum event thank you so much. As you noticed if you were there I had a very short time to be there this year due to some family activities and of course my mighty Ram needed my attention. So, thank you to all of you who helped Bob K2TV with the take down.

As we get ready for Field Day we have a small group of operators helping us out. We have gone through all the HF kits. Anything that was missing has been replaced. You may be wondering why we suspended two Saturday open houses this past month. We needed everyone at the Air Power Museum event. The following week was Memorial Day weekend. I know a lot of people travel and like to go to the Jones Beach Air show.

As we get closer to Field Day we need to keep up with the preparations. So, with that in mind on June 2 there will be a huge work party. We have a lot to do yet. We have made great progress so far and that is good news but we still need to do some testing of cables set up the trailer for networking for the CW stations. We need a crew to handle the shelter set up details. Please if you can make it on June 2 and want to help with setting up and checking out the shelter kits please come on down. Now what we need the most is a lead person for the shelter detail. We have set up all radios; tested every one of the head sets, power supplies. I highly recommend that if you plan on being part of the set-up crew or take down crew please come on down Saturday open house to see how everything goes together and gets put back in the cases.

I know that after the on-the-air part of Field Day, it is over it like a fire drill. Please take your time when packing up the very expensive radio kits. Please treat it like you own it. I know that I harp on this but last year we lost some cables and had a few broken cables. We also have some of the wrong components in some of the cases. We have a color code on the cases and the equipment for each box and each box has been scanned as well to show what belongs in it. We must make sure everything goes where it belongs.

When we start set up on the North side K2CPU Ben will oversee the set up as he has full knowledge of what and how it all goes together. If you have no clue as to where a cable goes please ASK. The south side CW crew Bob K2TV and Ken N2ZN are the leads for set up. If you are there and need help ask them before doing anything you are not sure of.

Operators please if you have never used N1MM ask for help. We log on the computer. No paper logging at all. We need operators around the clock so all you night owls out there come on down to play radio. Everyone will get to operate and have fun we also need extra people standing by for when an operator needs to take a break, or to help with logging if asked for. Let's all work together to have a great Field Day. It is all about team work.

On June 22, we will be setting the north side dipoles up. Our permit starts that Friday at 5 p.m. and we need a crew there to assist with that. The more we do Friday June 22 will help us to be able to tweak and test earlier. We should also load up all the stations in the trailer with all the tables we will need.

To the tower set crew, leads Bill WB2QGZ, Matt KD2EXM, Lou NO2C, we will start at 6. I myself will be there at 5 to stage the trailer. Set crew lunch is on me as you know. I appreciate all dedication and hard work you do for the club year-round. It is a great feeling when everything is set up and working well.

Rich K2BBQ will be smoking our dinner as we set up and operate. Please make sure you chip in. Rich K2BBQ lays out a lot of funds and dedicates many hours so we can have a great dinner.

Overnight operators are needed as always for both SSB/CW so if you are a night owl this is great for you.

The hardest part of Field Day is the takedown. We have noticed over the last few years only the same very small group of operators who have been there since 5 the day before. So if you are not doing anything at 2:15 p.m. on June 24, please lend a hand.

You all love that we always do a great job at Field Day. I know personally all too well the feeling of exhaustion at 6 p.m. when I have to park the club trailer which cannot be done until after everything else is put away correctly. This

year we all need to do it right so please come on down to set up, operate and takedown. We love teamwork because without it we cannot do what we do at the level we do it: We have six stations plus a GOTA and satellite station and 6 meter station. That all takes a lot of equipment and set up time. So let's have another great Field Day.

Hurricane season starts June 1 so now is the time to check all your Go kits, portable antennas and of course all the antennas that we use for HF operations.

We are always looking for operators to staff shelters in the Town of Babylon. We have as many as four shelters depending on the storms and affected communities.

New operators, we encourage you to join your local ARES group and those who would like to join the Babylon ARES group you are more than welcome to do so.

By the way, Field Day is great way to see for yourself how amateur radio can be used when you are off the grid.

Whatever you enjoy in amateur radio I hope you will all enjoy everything it has to offer as many of us know there are different things involved in this great world of amateur radio.

To all of our military veterans I hope you had a great Memorial Day. Thank you so much for your service in defending everyone's freedom. Everyone should thank a service man or woman when they see them. This is something I was taught when I was a little kid. I remember being at a function with my dad -- I was I think 5 or 6 -- when older gentleman came into the room wearing his uniform from World War II. He told us a story of being pinned down for three days while being shot at by the massive guns from the bunkers. He said that he thought he would never see the U.S. again or his girlfriend and he believed he would die there. His platoon leader keep them thinking positive and when it was done they had done the impossible -- they had taken back the beach back and he said the feeling of pride was overwhelming knowing that they had changed the course of history. My farther had me go to his table to shake his hand and thank him for his service. So if you see a veteran make sure you thank them.

Lots of cool dx out there-- go chase a few!

Don't forget the USS San Diego event is in July. Check the website for all the details of this once-in-lifetime event.

See you all at Field Day and of course at all the work parties the weeks before. Whatever you do have fun and stay on the air. Practice makes perfection. Have a great month of radio fun no matter what you all do.

73. John Melfi, W2HCB

Inside the Squirrel Cage

by Caryn, KD2GUT



More than a few of us have a travel souvenir somewhere in storage that says "My folks went to [fill in the destination] and all I got was this lousy T-shirt." At Dayton, that rarely happens. Pockets stuffed with cash and credit cards, hams arrive as always, and T-shirts -- which of course were there for the buying -- are the last things on most of their minds. Not unless the T-shirts are software-defined instead of defined by cotton and polyester.

As for me, I went to Dayton Hamvention and all I got was this First Day Cover. That -- and a \$1 USB cable I needed for recharging my mobile phone.



So I'm not a shopper. Surprised? YLs are supposed to be trained from childhood in such pursuit of blatant consumerism. Was I standing on the wrong line when the gene for acquisition was being distributed? Or was I afraid that "dirt-cheap" might have been a reference to last year's mudfest in the flea market which remarkably stayed clean and gunk-free this year?

Neither. Hamvention for me is an exercise in "push to Gawk." So I gawked at all the new equipment and the

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Is the internet, millennials or FT-8 killing ham radio?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



Amateur radio bloggers love to write about the demise of amateur radio. To wit, we have:

- K0NR's Is the Internet destroying amateur radio? (<http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/2017/11/internet-destroying-amateur-radio/>)
- N0SSC's Millennials are killing ham radio (<http://n0ssc.com/posts/583-millennials-are-killing-ham-radio>)
- PE4BAS' Is FT-8 damaging amateur radio? (<https://pe4bas.blogspot.com/2018/04/is-ft8-damaging-hamradio.html>)
- NZ0T's Did Joe Taylor K1JT Destroy Amateur Radio? (<http://www.ei5di.com/jt.html>)

Of course, none of these posts are really saying that the internet, millennials, or FT-8 has killed amateur radio. What they are saying is that all of these are changing amateur radio as we know it. Well, duh, the way we live our lives changes every day. Why should amateur radio be any different?

For example, Bob, K0NR, discusses how the operation of remote stations is changing the game of DX. Can you really claim that you worked a DX station if you rented time on a super station? I've written about that topic, too (<https://www.kb6nu.com/dx-advisory-committee-wants-to-put-the-screws-to-remote-operation/>).

There has also been much written about how FT8 is changing the amateur radio game. One blog post (<https://ve7sl.blogspot.com/2017/10/160m-ft8-end-of-era.html>), talking about the effect of FT8 on 160m operation, even

goes so far to say that this is the "end of an era." On DX World, the results of the poll, "FT8 – Damaging to Amateur Radio?" (<https://dx-world.net/yes-or-no-a-poll-on-ft8/>) show more than half of the respondents think that FT8 is damaging amateur radio.

I specifically used the word "game" in the previous two paragraphs because that's exactly what's changing. The physics of amateur radio certainly isn't changing. Our transmitters are still generating electromagnetic waves like they have been for decades, and on the HF bands, anyway, those radio waves are bouncing off the ionosphere just as they have been for more than the past 100 years.

What's changing is the human component. By that I mean what's changing is how we think people should participate in the hobby. The hams who are complaining that the internet or millennials or FT8 is killing amateur radio are really just complaining that people aren't participating in amateur radio the way they want them to participate.

Here's where we talk about millennials. In his blog post, Sterling, N0SSC, suggests that setting up remote stations is one way to engage young people. He writes, "I believe that remote operating, and other internet-assisted means of ham radio operation, are critical to youth engagement."

He's also big on an idea he calls "ham radio hackathons." He writes,

"A hackathon isn't a coding competition. It's explained well in this Medium article (<https://medium.com/hackathons-anonymous/wtf-is-a-hackathon-92668579601>). It goes even further than that, not limited to coders and engineers, but open to thinkers, doers, philosophers, system engineers, math people, teachers, students, artists, stakeholders... anyone with an interest in solving a problem with technology."

I support both of these ideas, but I think that millennials (and, to be fair, it isn't just millennials we're talking about here, but any newcomers to the hobby) need to step up and get these things going. I don't think it's my job to try to get kids interested in amateur radio. I don't even know if that's really possible. What I can do, however, is be there to encourage and support kids (and anyone else that expresses a sincere interest in amateur radio).

For example, I'm not sure how fruitful it would be to set up my station to be remotely operable and then saying to some kids, "Hey, come and operate my station." What I think would be more fruitful is to say to a kid, "Hey, come help me set up my remote control station, so that we both can use it." Then, it turns into a learning situation, and we

both gain from the exercise.

The same kind of thing has to happen with ham radio hackathons. The motivation has to come from the ground up, not the top down. I do hope that this idea gets off the ground, though, and I'm standing by, ready to support this effort however I can.

I think that millennials (I'm really getting tired of that term, by the way) need to grab the bull by the horns and take amateur radio in the direction they want it to go. Feel free to kill amateur radio as we know it. Make it better!

When he's not trying to figure out how to save amateur radio, Dan builds stuff, blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, teaches ham radio classes and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m.

You can email him about what you think is killing amateur radio at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

***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.***

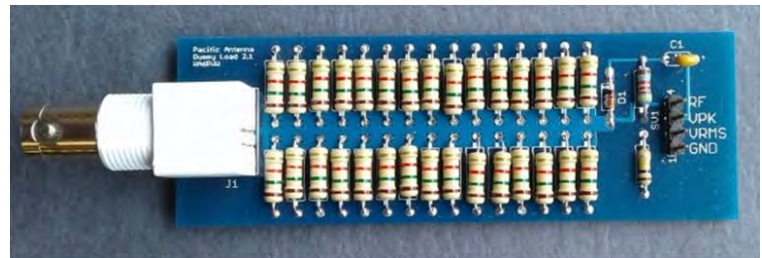
Squirrel Cage... continued from page 3

people I exchanged cards with during the past year and then at Ohio itself: Skyline Chili, Graeter's Ice Cream and the Voice of America Museum in West Chester. There, getting on the air from the club station of WC8VOA means that someone like me who works barefoot has a chance at a first-in-a-lifetime signal report of "40 over." It was my own moment in personal radio history made even better by a walk through the museum exhibits afterward.

Yes, I left behind the T-shirt that said "Talk Nerdy to Me" - and all the others - and decided instead to go postal in my purchase. There will always be time for T-shirts next year. Or maybe something that will really light up the inside of the shack. We'll see. ☺

Quicklinks: Some web links you may find useful...

Want a couple of easy to build kits? This first one costs only \$15 and is a new version of an old favorite, [*the QRP Dummy Load*](#). I think the old version was much better for learning soldering as the new one doesn't include the option of building either through-hole or surface mount resistors.



The second called a "[*Wall Wart Tamer*](#)" and cleans up the power coming out of those cheap Chinese wall wart power supplies that come with everything nowadays. The kit is \$20 and would make a great group buy project as well.



Thanks to John, K2IZ for the suggestions. If you have any links you think may be interesting to other hams you can post them on the club's [*groups.io group*](#) or [*email them to me*](#) with a description of the site and why you think it would be good to share in the newsletter.

73, Kevin AB2ZI ☺

Air Power Museum Special Event





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 (136.5 PL)

Alternate Frequency—146.820 (136.5 PL)

New York State

RACES Net (HF)

Sundays 0900 Local, 3993.5 KHz LSB

2018 VE Session Dates

- 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- to 50-lb bags free for the taking, already bagged. Pick-up or Delivery to EOC available. References available upon request. Contact Salli at:

k2ryd@arrl.net.



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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" ☺

