



THE COMPASS

Official Newsletter of the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club

September 2015

Volume 43

Issue #9

Upcoming Club Events

Next General Meeting:

Thursday, Sept. 24th,
8 PM at the EOC

New Computer Net
2nd Thursday of each
month on the 2 meter
repeater (146.685 110.9 PL)
Net Control: Joe, KD2GAG

**Operate as Special
Event Station K2P**
for Pope Francis' U.S.
Visit, see inside!

Remember: Fall is our
biggest special event
season!

GSBARC's FREE
License Classes Tuesday
nights 7:30–9:30 PM.
Technician Class
Currently Running

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



The Fire Island Lighthouse Event!



Inside this issue of The Compass...

- Ham on Pope
- Fire Island Lighthouse Event Photos
- KB6NU's Guest Column
- Inside the Squirrel Cage (a column)
- New Raffle!

Upcoming Special Events

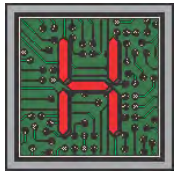
Babylon Village Fair
September 13th

**Suffolk County
Marathon (Islip ARES)**

JOTA
Oct. 16–18

**Hope for the Warriors
Run Saturday Nov. 7th**

President's Message



ere we go! It's that time of the year again: public service time, which is one of amateur radio's most important roles. Being out in the public eye shows the community that we are there for them. I know that to a lot of people, amateur radio plays a lot of different roles. The key here is balance: I'm not saying that it's the only role of amateur radio, but public service is an important part of it.

To all who operated at the Fire Island special event station, thank you all very much. We had a great time, made over 600 QSOs! A long day on Saturday for Walter, KA2CAQ, Eric, KD2GXN, and myself.

I hope everyone saw the [News 12 video](#). By the way, if you watched Ham Nation, they showed it again.

Thank you to the [Ham Nation](#) crew for always showing our events and talking about our club.

We had a wonderful dinner at [Surf's Out Restaurant](#) in Kismet thanks to Dean Cirella of [Cirella's of Huntington](#). After a long day and a lot of hard work the walk down to Kismet was relaxing, the dinner was great, and the stroll back to cars and trucks served it's purpose. Thanks again Dean, awesome food and a great staff.

In September we have a few events that we should all look to take part in. Here in the Town of Babylon we have the annual [Babylon Village Fair](#) on the 13th. On the same day, there is the first running of the [Suffolk County Marathon](#).

I hope that many of you have signed up to help out at one of these events as they are both very important. Please visit the [club's website](#) to sign up to lend a hand.

I'm proud to say that we here at the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club have been serving the community through public service for over 41 years.

We are also starting our annual fund-raising raffle which will be drawn during Field Day in 2016. Look inside this issue for details on the prizes. Remember, these raffles help to avoid any dues increase. If every member buys just a single book of tickets we can raise the necessary funds to do repeater maintenance and upgrades and also to help buy new equipment. We are always trying to improve and update our equipment for the club stations and remote operations.

The 2016 raffle prizes are:

Rigol 1054Z Digital Oscilloscope
MFJ 2069C Antenna Analyzer (or \$350 cash)
Extech EX330 Digital Multimeter (or \$50 cash)

As always, tickets are going to be \$5 each or a book of 5 for \$20. Tickets will be on sale starting as soon as September 12th's open house.

I also would to thank all of our members who sent in a nomination on my behalf to the [ARRL Hudson Division](#) for *Amateur Radio Operator of the Year*. I got selected and I can't thank you all enough! I hope to see large turnout at the [Hudson Division Luncheon](#) November 8th, applications are available at the EOC for tickets.

By the way, I would like to see more sign-ups for our biggest public service event: [The Hope for the Warriors Run](#) which is being held on November 7th this year (a Saturday). Please go to our website and sign up there to volunteer. It is the largest event in Babylon and they really need our help.

This run is so important because it is for the men and women returning home from serving our country. They have been doing their part to defend our freedoms, and the freedom of those in other parts of the world.

Please try to help get the word out to your ham friends who may not have considered volunteering for public service. Giving back to the community and to our troops is a great feeling.

In more fun news, for those of us who like to work special event stations, Pope Francis will be visiting the United States from Sept. 22nd to the 28th, and to commemorate the

pontiff's visit HF operators will have a chance to [operate as K2P](#) using any mode. See our website for more details and to [sign up](#).

We also have a new net starting up. On Sept. 10th GSBARC will have a Computer Net run by Joe, KD2GAG.

I can tell you from personal experience, he really knows his stuff with 22 years of experience in the field. He has helped me and the club out tremendously. So please check in and say hi to KD2GAG on the second Thursday of each month on our 2 meter repeater (146.685, 110.9 PL).

And... in case you haven't heard, Justin, K2ZMB, and Alice, W2DVA, are expecting their first child! Congratulations from all of us at the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club!

73. John Melfi, W2HCB

The Prizes for our next raffle.



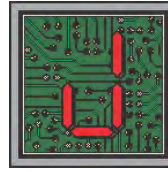
1st Prize: Rigol 1054Z Oscilloscope



2nd Prize (left) MFJ-269C Antenna Analyzer
3rd Prize (right) Extech EX330 Digital Multimeter

JOTA is Coming

by Phil, KD2GFO



amboree on the Air, known by its acronym **JOTA**, is an international Scouting and Guiding activity held annually on the third full weekend in October. The event is 58 years old this year and was the brainchild of LRV Mitchell G3BHK now a Silent Key. It was first held in conjunction with the fiftieth anniversary of scouting in 1957, and has been held every year since.

The event is organized and promoted by Radio Scouting, Radio Scouting international and K2BSA.net. The World Scout Bureau reported that the 2014 JOTA had more than 1 million Scout participants from more than 11,500 stations, nearly 20,000 amateur radio operators, and reached 157 countries. Last year here at W2GSB we had 28 Scouts and scouters of all ages participate in the event for the four hours we were on air; and we made 30+QSOs

This year I would like to knock it out of the park; I have applied for a special event call sign W2S -- Whiskey 2 Scout -- if I get the call sign, we will need to be able to operate from 00:00 UTC 10/16/2015 until 00:00 10/18/2015 all modes. All bands except WARC were in the license request, so it's going to be a Field Day-like event but on steroids. The typical QSO usually contains the first name and rank of the Scout operating and what his or her scouting goals are and any hobby they may have.

Since 99.9% of these youth are going to be minors and not have an FCC license we need to be cautious about letting them call their own CQs lest we run afoul of third party communication restrictions. That being said I am going to need help—lots of it—if this is going fly.

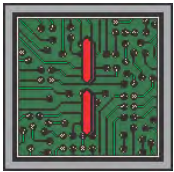
The JOTA flyer has already been handed out at the August roundtable and will go out again this month and in October. If you can help—great—even if you don't want to operate, your assistance will be needed. I can be reached at KD2GFO@ARRL.NET or just grab me at a meeting or open house for more info.

The JOTA stations are promoted and run by local amateur radio clubs and even single hams as long as they have registered their station with K2BSA.net/JOTA.

We are registered. So please talk it up among friends and with any scouters you may know and let's make this work. ☺

Antenna Analyzers You Can Hack

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



I'm a nut for antenna analyzers. I think that they are one of the most useful things a ham can own.

I've often wondered why there aren't more DIY antenna analyzer projects, though. Perhaps it's because designing measurement circuits isn't easy. An antenna analyzer has to have a signal source as well. Even so, an antenna analyzer doesn't need a whole lot of accuracy to be useful, so you would think that more builders/hackers would tackle a project like this.


I do know of one antenna analyzer kit on the market. The VK5JST Antenna Analyser Kit (<http://www.ahars.com.au/about/kits/>) costs about \$110 USD. I actually purchased this kit a year or so ago, and it looks like a great unit. The unit seems well-designed, and it comes with a plastic case, unlike many projects these days, but I haven't yet gotten around to building it.

I've also recently found out about an Arduino-based antenna analyzer project (<http://hackaday.com/2015/08/06/40-antenna-analyzer-with-arduino-and-ad9850/>). It uses an AD9850 module as the signal source. The approximate cost for all the parts is about \$40, and you can experiment with the code, if you like. If you have the time and inclination, this project might be worth taking a hack at. [[NOTE TO EDITORS: A photo of this project can be found at <http://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/analyzer.jpg>]]

Another antenna analyzer project from Australia is the VK3YY antenna analyzer (or "analyser" as they spell it there). It uses an Arduino Nano. The interesting thing about the blog post in which VK3YY describes the project (<https://vk3yy.wordpress.com/2014/09/29/antenna-analyser-project/>) is that you can follow his design and experimentation process.

Yet another analyzer

While I'm talking about antenna analyzers, let me mention another one that I've just found out about: the IW2NDH Antenna Analyzer (<http://www.iw2ndh.com/>). This antenna analyzer isn't a kit, but at \$175 seems to be a good deal. This unit has a frequency coverage of 2 – 160 MHz, and can be used as an antenna analyzer, signal generator, and a scalar network analyzer.

Apparently, this started out as an Arduino project. As Maximo, EA1DDO, pointed out on the radioartisan Yahoo Group, there is source code for this project on GitHub (<https://gist.github.com/jackdev23/7876502>), and a schematic is available on the Union de Radioaficionados Espanoles (URE) website (<http://www.ure.es/media/kunena/attachments/2420/Schematic.jpg>). 

When not writing about antenna analyzers, Dan, KB6NU, actually builds an antenna now and then. You can often find him on the HF bands (mostly 40m and 30m), working CW. His #1-rated amateur radio blog can be found at KB6NU.COM, and you can e-mail questions, comments, or complaints to cwgeek@kb6nu.com.




Help Needed for American Cancer Society "Strides Against Breast Cancer" Event

The Jones Beach boardwalk event for the [ACS Making Strides Against Breast Cancer](#) is on Sunday, Oct 18. Once again, we could use your terrific assistance out there!

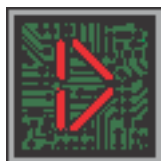
Like last year, we are hoping you can assist us with radio comms in this 70,000-person event. This year we will be providing even more MESH video/phone coverage as well as APRS onto a big screen back at the ACS registration area.

We expect to provide Workers Compensation Insurance to all our mutual aid members through the NYS Park Police, and we ask that you alert your ARES and club members about this large undertaking ASAP.

Please email [Ceil Gomez, W2CTG](#), [John Wilson, KD2AKX](#) and [myself](#) asap with your list of people who can participate! Please email us at Admin@NassauCountyARES.org 

Inside the Squirrel Cage

by Caryn, KD2GUT



aredevil stuntman Nik Wallenda and I might never have much to say to one another, but we still have a lot more in common than it seems: This summer, I fulfilled my goal to navigate the falls on a high wire. And like Wallenda's own June 2012 feat over the thundering waters of Niagara, it was a euphoric, almost dizzying experience.

Granted, PSK-31 is hardly a tourist attraction spanning two North American nations, but the digital mode's on-screen waterfall – a visual display of frequencies and transmissions – actually washes across the world and uses very little power. The great Niagara has the aquatic muscle to drive public utilities, but just the same, the modest 30 watts from my rig, paired with the high wire -- the multi-band vertical just beyond my shack -- got me on another waterfall of incalculable might.

I don't enjoy swimming, I don't know how to dive and I don't care to water ski or boogie board. So when the temperatures climbed to a late-summer 90 degrees, I used my keyboard as my surfboard, riding a wave that was 20 meters strong. (Hanging 10 on 10 meters should be a breeze after this.)

As with SSB, this mode is all about communication. PSK-31 may well be a kind of slightly older, digital cousin of text-messaging and chat rooms, with a little CW influence thrown in. Still, with all the "PSE" and "KN" and "SK" codes tossed around, QSOs needn't decline into an exchange of robotically regurgitated macros, a critical complaint often lobbed at PSK-31 users.

Keeping the human element in PSK will drive its appeal to me, as it did from the very outset: Immediately after scoring a pleasant QSO on SSB during the recent Kansas QSO Party, I dipped my toe for the first time into the deep blue PSK-31 waters and emerged with another Kansas QSO, this time from Johnson County. Upon hearing my

confession that this was my maiden sail on the electric blue waters, my Kansas contact shared that he's new to the mode too. Imagine, soon, a whole regatta, a fleet of us firing up our interfaces as if they were outboard motors!

From there, I segued into a QSO with my Elmer, a friend in upstate Syracuse, WB2WGH. We started on phone on 40 meters and then went diving together back into the waterfall. Sure, there was noise – but I'd like to believe it was simply the ionosphere applauding us.

As for my Elmer, whose patience and expertise is wholly responsible for delivering these powers of PSK to my shack, he happily filled me in on the family vacation he'd had just a few days earlier. It seems he'd taken his family to that other waterfall, the one that bridges New York State and southern Ontario. Perhaps you've heard of it. ☺

Here are the final results for the Great South Bay ARC, W2GSB Fire Island Lighthouse special event this past weekend.

Saturday August 15th

396 total QSOs

40 Meters = 131 QSOs
20 Meters = 250 QSOs
15 Meters = 15 QSOs

Sunday August 16th

220 total QSOs

40 Meters = 103 QSOs
20 Meters = 96 QSOs
15 Meters = 21 QSOs

We had a total of 22 satellite contacts on SO-50, AO-7, FO-29 and AO-73.

The grand total for the two days was 638 QSOs not including any D-STAR and VHF FM simplex contacts we made.

Not bad for very poor band conditions. Nice how a super location, excellent antennas and really great operators make for lots of contacts.

To see the News 12 video coverage of our event click your mouse on this link: <http://longisland.news12.com/multimedia/ham-radio-fans-connect-with-others-worldwide-1.10745167>

Papal Visit & Special Event

Pope Francis visits the United States September 22–27 and amateur radio will be part of the celebration. Throughout the 6 day event (September 23 0000Z – September 28 0000Z) 6 special event amateur radio stations will be on the air to commemorate the event. Call signs from the Washington, DC area will be K3P and N4P. From New York and New Jersey the call will be K2P. W3FRC/WMF will be on the air from southeastern Pennsylvania and W3P will be on the air in Philadelphia.

WM3PEN, also of Philadelphia, will join in Thursday evening at 8 PM EST (Friday 0000 GMT). Four unique qsl cards will be available along with a certificate to mark this special and historic event. A website is being established for QSL and certificate information.

Early information and links can be found on the WM3PEN grz.com website.

The Washington, DC operations are being coordinated by the Jim Nitzberg, WX3B of the Potomac Valley Radio Club (pvrc.org). The southeastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey operations are under the direction of Ron Sigismonti, N3RS of the Frankford Radio Club (gofrc.org). The New York activity is being coordinated by John Melfi, W2HCB of the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club (gsbarc.org). W3P efforts on the air are being coordinated by Joe Leone, KA3LKM (grz.com/db/w3p). WM3PEN operations are being coordinated by Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, and the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club (harcnet.org).

We are privileged to be able to represent our region of the USA via Amateur Radio. Every three years there is a World Meeting of Families. In 2012 amateur radio operators in Italy had the call II2POPE on the air. This year amateur radio operators in 5 states will be on the air to commemorate the event. This year with the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia and the second time a Pope has

visited Philadelphia, Ron Sigismonti, says having several special event stations on the air by members of a club that originated in Philadelphia, then expanded to encompass the entire region out to 175 miles of Philadelphia; another club whose members will be on the air in the same section of Philadelphia that the Pope is visiting; and another group of Philadelphia operators who are excited about the World Meeting of Families being held in the City will really

make this a special event. Additionally, operations from the Greater Washington, D . C . metropolitan area , metropolitan New York City, and parts of New Jersey will encompass the entire region visited by Pope Francis in the United States. It will allow those who can't be in the various cities that he

is visiting to participate in this event by talking to those who are. In essence this will be a world family meeting of amateur radio operators.

The Pope arrives at Joint Base Andrews on September 22 and begins his visit in Washington, D.C. with a meeting with President Obama on Wednesday, September 23. He delivers a speech to a joint session of Congress on Thursday, September 24. On Friday he attends a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in New York and participates in a multi-religious service at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center. On Saturday he gives a speech at Independence Hall in Philadelphia and concludes his visit to the U.S. with an outdoor Mass in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art on Sunday, September 27.



K2P



Bob, K2TV (R) with Mike, KC2OLA (Rear) and Eric, KD2GXN; (R) Pete, W2JV all ready with his AMSAT Station



News 12's Jackie Lukas interviews president John Melfi, W2HCB (left) and Walter, KA2CAQ



Mike, KC2OLA (above) and Peggy, WA2YBZ (right) making QSOs

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: Donald Rollock, W2EUL, 631-929-0705

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

2015 VE Session Dates

- September 26th
- October 24th
- November 28th
- December 26th

2016 VE Session Dates

- January 23rd
- February 27th
- March 26th

All sessions are at the Town of Babylon EOC, 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"



September Birthdays

Mike, KD2FST
 James, KD2GPF
 Jesse, KD2WAY
 Russ, KC2NGL
 Bob, W2YMM
 Carol, KA2VYH
 Bill, WB2QGZ
 Ryan, KC2LKS
 "Spin" KC2EGK
 Tom, KA2D



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