The Compass!

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

May 2025 | Volume 53 | #5

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- NOTE: All GSBARC Official Meetings begin at 7:30 PM!
- General License Classes Running Tuesday evenings, 7 - 9 PM in the EOC
- World Amateur Radio Day Open House Photos
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- List of upcoming GSBARC meetings and events
- May 17th is Armed Forces Day: Join us at the American Air Power Museum in Farmingdale
- Bingfu Mobile Antenna Review
- New Technician Class Starting Tuesday June 3rd

Long Island's Friendliest Amateur Radio Club!

Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Upcoming Meeting and Events Schedule

2025

- **May 8th —** Board Meeting
- **May 17th —** Armed Forces Day — American Air Power Museum
- **May 29th —** General Meeting

- **June 26th —** General Meeting
- **June 28th & 29th —** Field Day

- **July 11th —** Maggie Fischer Cross Bay Swim
- **July 12th —** Tesla Science Center Expo (Rain Date July 19th)
- **July 31st —** General Meeting

- **August 14th —** Board Meeting
- **August 16th & 17th —** International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend @ Fire Island Lighthouse
- **August 28th —** General Meeting

- **September 7th —** Babylon Village Fair
- **September 25th —** General Meeting

- **October 19th —** Suffolk County Marathon
- **October 30th —** General Meeting

- **November 13th —** Board Meeting
- **November 20th —** General Meeting — Nominations

- **December 18th —** Annual Business Meeting and Elections

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April was a very busy month for us. We had our open house weekends and, of course, the national open house to help the IARU celebrate its 100th year. We had a great day. We ran three stations and had a blast. The conditions were horrible, but we still had fun. We were set up in under half an hour. The trailer stations ran 100 percent on the batteries, which were being charged by the solar panels on the roof. The new setup with 800 amp hours proved to be the best thing we upgraded.

Thank you to all who helped plan and set up, and all who came to operate. Here are our total contacts by country:

USA 17, BRAZIL 3, SPAIN 2, VENEZUELA 2, ANGOLA 1, BRITISH VIRGIN IS. 1, CUBA 1, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 1, ECUADOR 1, HUNGARY 1, SOUTH AFRICA 1, ST LUCIA 1, UKRAINE 1.

Here are the members who made our event a great day: AF2SC, KD2X, NA2MM, NO2C, AC2MI, WA2NDV, KY0TO, N2AKJ, KD2ONC, W2KFG, KD2QWM, AC2UK, K2LGR, KD2UQK, KA2S, WB2QGZ, KE2DOF, KA2D, KC2ZQO, W2KFV, W2JPM, KC2SYF. Thank you all.

Marconi Day was moved to the EOC because of the nasty weather, but we had a good turnout. Steve KD2X and I arrived at 7:30 a.m. to finalize setup and started running all three radios, making lots of DX contacts.

We opened the EOC at 8 a.m. All of our operators did a great job. The conditions were not the best. It was good to see everyone having fun.

We enjoyed some great pizza for lunch, and we ended operations at 4:45 p.m. Thank you to everyone who stayed to the end.

Thank you to KD2X, KA2D, N2AKJ, NO2C, NA2MM, KY0TO, KD2BAH, N2RBP, KE2EKB, KE2ELG, KC2RCE, KD2UZT, KC2KHT, AC2UK, W2YW, W2YMM, KC2MOX, KA2S, W2JPM, W2DIY, KD2ONA. We made 180 QSOs from the EOC.

A big welcome to Chris KY0TO and Daniel W2DIY, who racked up the most QSOs on 15 meters. Thank you to KD2X for helping me with the setup of the radios and computers.

As the warmer weather starts to become more welcoming, we need to get moving on our projects. We need to get the EOC end-fed antenna up so we can add a second station to our club station. We need to add the 6-meter elements to the StepIRR antenna. We need to work on the control cables and feed lines, also. I am still waiting to hear when the ground X-ray will be done. It is a lot of work, and we can use our members' help. If you would like to help, please advise us and email us at info@gsbarc.org or talk to W2HCB or AF2SC.

Our second BuddiHEX has arrived with the new improved feedpoint. We also got the new feedpoint for the trailer BuddiHEX. We modified one of the end-fed antennas to cover 10-40 meters. The shorter wire will give us a smaller footprint for our special event stations.

Among the other improvements on our club trailer is a design for a wrap. AB2ZI came up with a base design, and AF2SC added a few things. AB2ZI has measured the trailer to layout the artwork. When the draft is done, we will show it to you all to make sure everyone agrees it represents everything about our club and all we do.

On May 17, we have our annual American Air Power Museum event, so please add it to your calendars. Setup will start at 9:30 a.m., and we will operate till 4 p.m.

We are also encouraging our members to be a part of Field Day on June 28 and 29. We especially need night operators so we can stay on the air for 24 hours. We will use all modes. We have to be on the air at 2 p.m., so setup time will be at 9 a.m. This will give us plenty of time to make sure everything runs smoothly

Our Monday Night Info Net needs net controllers. If you would like to be part of our net control staff, please let us know. The net script is below.

Continued on page 4...

President's Message cont'd from page 3...

NOTE: Speak slowly, clearly, and into the microphone at all times.

QST, QST, QST.

Welcome to the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club Monday evening information net.

This net is open to all amateurs, you do not have to be a member to participate.

We share notes of interest for the club, DX news, a weekly contest calendar, Amateur Radio Newsline, and more.

This is <Name>, <Call Sign> in <QTH (town)>, and I am net control for tonight's information net.

This net meets each Monday at 7:30 p.m. and is open to all amateur radio operators in the coverage area of the W2GSB and affiliate-linked repeaters, as well as Allstar and Echolink. For repeater frequencies and link info, please visit: www.gsbarc.org.

Before beginning the net tonight, if there are any stations with emergency or priority traffic, please call now.

<Pause for 5 seconds>

Club meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the EOC located in the basement of Babylon Town Hall, entrance around the rear. Open houses are held most Saturdays from noon to 2 p.m. All are welcome.

This is a directed net, which means all calls are to be made to the net control station unless you are instructed otherwise. All amateur radio operators are invited and encouraged to check into the net.

We have a new check-in process where we take check-ins by location. When checking into the net, please announce your call sign slowly and phonetically, followed by your name, and state whether or not you have traffic for the net.

We will now take check-ins in the following groups:

<After each group, pause and review the check-in list, "Call Sign, Name, Traffic / No Traffic." >

West of RT 110, please come now;

Between RT 110 and RT 231, please come now.

Between RT 231 and RT 111, please come now.

East of RT 111, please come now.

Echo link and then Allstar, please come now.

Thank you for these check-ins. (Read back the check-in list)

Are there any corrections to this list? Please call now.

Are there any additional check-ins? Please call now.

<If any check-ins have traffic:>

We will now call on stations that have traffic for the net: XXXYYY. Please go with your traffic.

Before we close the net for tonight, if there are any additional check-ins, please call now.

I wish to thank all stations for taking time out of their busy schedules to participate in tonight's net. Until next Monday at 7:30 p.m. local time, I now close the GSBARC net. The ARRL News and Amateur Radio Newsline will follow.

73 to all this is <Callsign>, clear.

You can also announce upcoming events, meetings, etc., you can even ask a question on the net, ham radio-related.

Staying active with our club by coming to our operating events, work parties, and public service events. Our goal is to give every member the opportunity to have a great time at all of our meetings, events, and open houses.

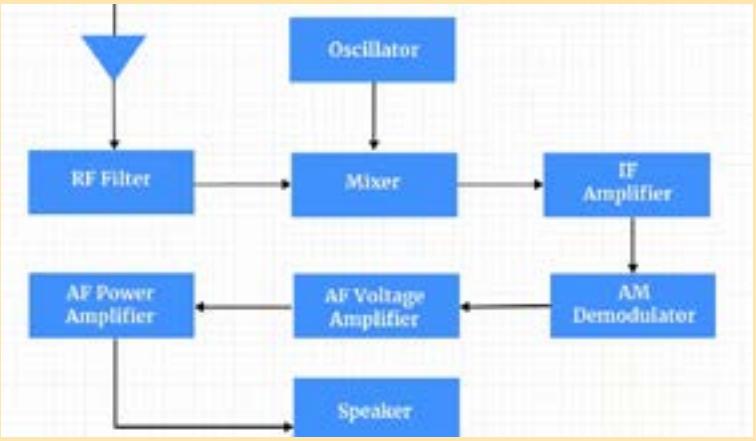
— John Melfi, W2HCB

The Unbalanced Load:

Satire, Ramblings and Non-Sequiturs for Your Amusement from AB2ZI and ChatGPT

"Signal Ride: An Electron's Journey"

They say we're the smallest with the biggest responsibilities. I'm an electron—just one of trillions—but today, I'm on a mission. A broadcast is calling, and I'm riding the wave.



It starts at the antenna, tall and proud, catching electromagnetic waves from a distant radio station. I feel the oscillating electric field wash over me like a rhythmic tide. My charge senses the beat—modulated music encoded in a high-frequency carrier. The wave dances, and I dance with it.

Zzzzap! I'm pushed into motion. I jostle with my fellow electrons in the metal of the antenna, a synchronized sway driven by the incoming signal. Together, we move in harmony, creating a tiny alternating current that mimics the waveform of the broadcast. The signal is weak, fragile—just whispers in copper—but it's enough.

Down the transmission line I go, drawn into the radio's tuning circuit. Coils and capacitors surround me, vibrating with resonance. I only respond to one frequency—the one that matches the natural frequency of this LC circuit. That's the magic of tuning: all other broadcasts fade away. It's like a club with a strict guest list. Only my wave gets in.

Next stop: the detector. This is where things get interesting.

The signal's still riding high frequencies—far too fast for the human ear. But now comes the diode, the bouncer of the circuit, letting electrons like me flow in only one direction. It clips the wave, stripping away the negative half. What's left is a pulsing envelope—the music itself, hidden in the tremble of our energy. We've gone from carrier wave to audio wave, and it's like the message finally reveals itself.

Low-pass filter time. Capacitors smooth out the jaggedness, and the wave becomes clean, steady—pure audio. I can feel the shape of a human voice in the voltage now, the rise and fall of melody and speech.

But we're not done yet.

The signal's still weak, barely a whisper. So we head into the amplifier. Transistors flare to life, boosting our voltage, our strength. I surge forward with confidence, part of a flood of electrons now shaped like sound.

Final destination: the speaker.

Here, I meet the coil of the speaker magnet. My current flows through it, generating a magnetic field that pushes and pulls against a permanent magnet. The coil moves. The diaphragm vibrates. Air shifts.

Sound is born.

Music. Voice. A live sports broadcast, maybe. Whatever it is, it started as a wave in the sky and ended as a vibration in your room—all thanks to a journey through silicon, copper, and magnetic fields. My journey.

I'm an electron. And I just brought you a song.

A Review Of the Bingfu Vehicle Mobile Ham Radio Antenna

John Smale K2IZ

Back in 1971, during the seven-month strike against New York Telephone, I took the test for my amateur radio license; my first call was WB2CHY, which I changed to K2IZ when I passed my Extra. During those years, I hardly ever had a mobile radio in any of the vehicles I drove. The main reason is the XYL really doesn't care to listen to it. There have been times I hooked up a mobile radio in one of the telephone company vans I drove and on the occasional drive to Ohio and back.

I only use my HTs for a few hours a year and that's at public service events – but it's only been since I retired that I've started using my mobile radio or HTs for that: marathons, parades and such. There are times that a regular rubber ducky antenna is inadequate.

I've looked through the various amateur radio catalogs to see the mobile antennas they offer; I also found out that Amazon has a very wide variety of them and for very reasonable prices. They have had some good reviews.

One of antennas that caught my attention was the Bingfu dual-band antenna with ground planes, VHF/UHF with coverage from 136-174MHz and 400-470MHz. It comes with a PL-259 male connector and -- what caught my interest -- an SMA female/PL-259 female adapter. Now I don't care what anyone says, those little adapters always come in handy and you can never find one when you need one. I've bought several of them over the years and I can never find them when I need one. The antenna also comes with six ground radials, three for VHF and three for UHF.

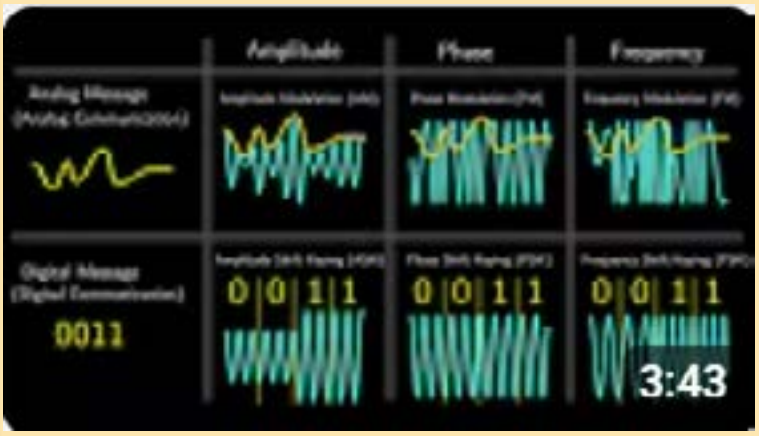
The entire assembled antenna stands 19 inches tall and has a very strong magnetic base. I first used the antenna for the Village of Babylon St. Patrick's Day Parade. I installed the VHF ground planes and I was able to use my BTECH Triband HT with good results. Most of the time I was on the UHF repeater.

I tested the antenna at home using the NanoVNA analyzer. For VHF, I used the sweep for 144-148 MHz and installed the VHF ground radials. The sweep showed the VSWR to be below 2:1. I also did a sweep on the UHF portion and the VSWR was much lower. I installed the UHF ground radials and rechecked VHF and found the VSWR was much lower. The same was true for the UHF portion of the band, I also noticed the reflected power was lower with the UHF radials on both VHF and UHF.

For the amount of mobile operation I'll be doing, this will be fine for me. The only thing I might do is put some Loctite on the screw threads for the ground plane elements. I noticed when I switched the radials out, the threads stayed in the antenna body.

WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY OPEN HOUSE

AB2ZI's YouTube Pics



All Modulation Types Explained in 3 Minutes

How to ACTUALLY Use an Oscilloscope (Beginner-Friendly Guide!)

VHF Antennas on Towers

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, ***Huntingtonnyaresraces.org/***

Div. 3—Town of Islip ARES/RACES
Mondays 8:30 PM
Net: K2IRG 147.345 +600/PL 100.0
EC/RO: Philip Jacobs, W2UV, 631-838-2500

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: Ed Wilson, N2XDD, 631-484-8826

Div. 6—Riverhead ARES/RACES
EC/RO: Steve Casko, 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, WZ2Y, 864-973-9250

Div. 10—Shelter Island ARES/RACES
EC/RO: Vacant
(Neal Raymond, N2QZA, SK)

Suffolk County ARES/RACES Net:

Mon 2100 Local, 145.330/R (136. 5PL)

Alt. Frequency—146.820 (136.5 PL)

New York State RACES Net (HF)

2025 VE Sessions

- ~~January 25th~~
- ~~February 22nd~~
- ~~March 29th~~
- ~~April 26th~~
- May 31st
- June 21st
- July 26th
- August 30th
- September 27th
- October 25th
- November 29th
- December 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 CSCEs you may have. Nonprogrammable calculators are allowed. The exam fee is $15 payable by cash or a check made out to "ARRL VEC."

IMPORTANT!

If you do NOT already have an FCC FRN (Federal Registration Number) you MUST Visit the FCC Universal Licensing page to register for an FRN to use on the paperwork.

Club Name Badges

Club name badges are available from ***The Sign Man*** (***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"

GSBARC Repeaters

146.685 W2GSB -shift 110.9 Hz Encode - 127.3 or CSQ decode

146.685 -shift 127.3 Encode/ Decode (south — receiver site linked to 146.685)

438.475 - shift 136.5 Hz Encode/ Decode

223.860 W2GSB -shift 110.9 PL Enc/ Dec w/ECHOLINK

223.860 -shift 156.7 PL Enc/Dec Local use

440.850 W2GSB + shift 110.9 PL ***Encode, 127.3 PL Decode (NEW)***

446.775 KB2UR -shift 110.9 PL Enc/Dec Fusion Steerable

927.3125 W2YMM -shift D606 Enc/ Dec

440.250 W2TOB/B + shift DSTAR REF020A Babylon

147.255 W2TOB/C + shift DSTAR Steerable

445.725 W2TOB -shift 110.9 PL Enc/Dec *Note: No Longer DSTAR*

Echolink W2GSB-R
AllStar ACESS NODE 465710 affiliated repeater

KB2UQK 449.23750 - SHIFT 114.8 ENCODE / DECODE

Portable Event Repeater (Trailer):
KB2UR 446.3875 - 110.9 Enc/Dec
W2GSB TRP

Club Apparel

Want a shirt, jacket, hat, sweatshirt or T-shirt with a Great South Bay club logo?

We use ***VIKING*** *(previously Mr. Shirt)* located at 80 East Montauk Hwy. in Lindenhurst. We now have a group order page.

Click Here to Place an Order

Now you can get color matched backgrounds on your logo too. Check them out...