

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

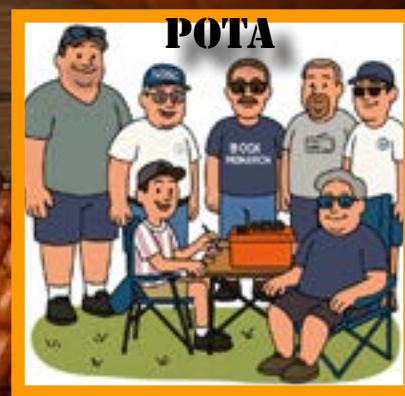
October 2025

Volume 53

#10

Inside this edition:

- **NOTE: All GSBARC Official Meetings begin at 7:30 PM!**
- **General License Class Starts Tues., Oct 7th @ 7PM**
- **Pictures from September's Heckscher POTA Operations**
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- **GSBARC Turns 50!!!**



Long Island's Friendliest Amateur Radio Club!



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



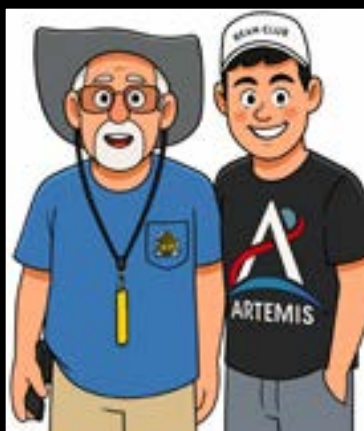
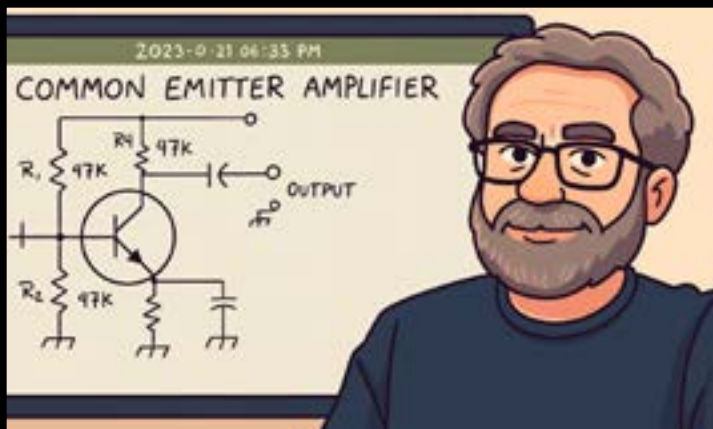
2025

- **October 19th** — Suffolk County Marathon
- **October 30th** — General Meeting
- **November 8th** — W2TE Memorial Event: Captree Park Overlook Lot
- **November 13th** — Board Meeting
- **November 20th** — General Meeting — Nominations
- **December 18th** — Annual Business Meeting and Elections

Subscribe to us on the Web at www.gsbarc.org

TUNING UP THE BAND

...more 'tunes on page 4! Can you JD everyone?



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



October Update: As September winds down and we head into cooler weather, I wanted to take a moment to update everyone on what's ahead for the club. We've got some exciting events and projects coming up, and I encourage you to get involved and make the most of them!

Upcoming Events

Our biggest event in October is the Suffolk County Marathon on October 19th. A big thank you to everyone who has stepped up to help with the marathon; your support makes these events a success. We've also got a POTA event at Captree State Park on November 8th, so mark your calendars and don't forget to bring a chair to relax in!

For those looking to get active on the air, we're gearing up for the CW Sweepstakes from November 1st to November 3rd, and the SSB Sweepstakes from November 15th to November 17th. These are great opportunities for all members to participate in exciting contests and help represent the club.

Club Improvements and Updates

On September 17th, AF2SC Stu and I made some significant upgrades to our club room equipment. We paralleled two Astron power supplies to boost the amperage for our three HF stations. During a load test, we found that with all three rigs running RTTY at 100W, we were pulling around 59 amps from the batteries, which gives us 49 hours of battery power remaining. This means we're all set to operate the CW Sweepstakes and SSB Sweepstakes on battery power, a major win for the club!

We also received our QSL card from the International Space Station from a pass on June 29th. You can see it featured on our website in the incoming QSL section.

RF Committee & Remote Station Project

The RF committee has been hard at work, and

we've noticed a significant decrease in D-STAR usage. W2TOB is planning to switch to DMR in the future, and the committee is actively seeking replacement equipment for this transition.

Now is a great time to get involved with our remote station project. We're in need of help with cable runs and several other tasks. If you'd like to lend a hand, please keep an eye on our GSBARC groups.io page for upcoming work party announcements.

Education & VE Session

Our next VE session will be on October 25th at 10 a.m. so if you know anyone looking to take their test, please share the link to register:

[October VE Session Registration](#)

We're also excited to announce that a General Class will be starting on October 7th at 7 p.m. If you're a Technician this is a great opportunity to upgrade your license and gain more operating privileges. Kevin AB2ZI does an excellent job with this class, and it's a fantastic way to expand your knowledge and get ready for the General exam.

Looking Ahead

Looking forward, we have a great presentation planned for our October meeting on the Mesh network — don't miss it! Please make sure to arrive early as the meeting will start at 7:30 PM sharp.

While we're excited about everything on the horizon, we also need more active participation from our members. We've been calling on volunteers for event support, work parties for the remote station project, and other club activities. If you're able to pitch in, please check the GSBARC Group IO for updates and let us know how you can help.

A Final Word

Amateur radio is a journey of learning, exploration, and connection, and it's an exciting time to be a part of this wonderful community. Whether you're a seasoned operator or just starting out, you play a key role in our success.

As we continue to grow and evolve, I encourage you all to get involved—your energy, ideas, and enthusiasm make all the difference! We have so much potential, and together, we can make this club even stronger.

Thank you again for your commitment to GSBARC. I'm proud to be part of this amazing group, and I look forward to seeing what the future holds for us.

—John Melfi, W27CB ©

AB2ZI's YouTube Pics



GSEBARC Turns 50!

By John Melfi, W2HCB



Dear Members,

DThis year, we stand together to celebrate a monumental milestone—50 years of amateur radio excellence! It's a true honor to serve as your president as we reflect on half a century of achievements, friendships, and, of course, our shared passion for the radio waves.

When our club was founded in a Copiague dining room of K2TV in 1974 few could have imagined the incredible journey we'd embark on over the next five decades. From our humble beginnings, we've grown into a vibrant and dynamic community, supporting each other through the evolution of technology, innovation, and the changing landscape of amateur radio. In those 50 years, we've weathered challenges, embraced new opportunities, and continuously adapted, always keeping the spirit of curiosity and communication at the heart of everything we do.

This anniversary is not only a time to celebrate our past, but also to recognize the importance of each and every member—past and present—who has contributed to our success. You've helped shape our club into what it is today, whether by mentoring new operators, organizing events, participating in on-air activities, or simply sharing your love for the hobby. Your involvement has made this club a place where learning and fellowship thrive.

As we look to the future, I encourage you all to continue this tradition of active participation. The next 50 years hold incredible potential for our club, and it's up to us to make the most of it. Whether you're a long-time member or a newcomer to the hobby, there's always room for fresh ideas, new connections, and exciting projects. Together, we can ensure that our club remains a beacon of amateur radio for many generations to come.

Thank you for being part of this extraordinary journey. I am incredibly proud of all that we've accomplished and deeply excited about what lies ahead. Here's to 50 years of outstanding service, and to the next chapter in our club's remarkable story. 📻

Summary of September Meeting Presentation: WRTC 2026

Presented by Mark K1RX



During our September meeting, attendees enjoyed an informative presentation by Mark K1RX focused on the upcoming World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC), scheduled for 2026 and held in England.

Mark provided valuable insights into the event's background, its significance, and the reasons it is held every four years.

The World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) is a premier international amateur radio competition. Organized once every four years, WRTC gathers top radio operators from across the globe to compete as two-person teams. The event is widely regarded as the "Olympics of Amateur Radio," highlighting skill, teamwork, and excellence in radio contesting.

History: Mark K1RX explained the origins of the WRTC, which was established to foster camaraderie among amateur radio enthusiasts and to showcase contesting ability at the highest level.

Purpose: The event aims to promote international goodwill, technical innovation, and the spirit of friendly competition among radio operators.

Frequency: WRTC is held every four years to provide ample time for planning, qualifying, and preparation. This schedule ensures a high standard of competition and allows for global participation.

Looking Ahead to 2026: Mark shared details about what to expect in the 2026 championship, including anticipated challenges, opportunities for participants, and ways the community can get involved. 📻

In the beginning...

by Bob Myers K2TV



During 1974, the Babylon Town Amateur Radio Emergency Corps, now ARES, held its Monday net on 28.610 MHz SSB. The newly organized group found itself with an increasing membership from both Babylon and Islip towns.

Someone in the net suggested that since there was no amateur radio club in the Babylon-Islip area ever since the old Mohawk Radio Club disbanded several years earlier, that we form a group to meet one Monday a month from the ARES membership.

The historic first meeting was held in the summer of 1974, at the QTH of WA2JZX (now K2TV) in Copiague, NY. Unfortunately, there are no written records of the meeting, so I am going by recollection.

Among those attending were John WB2CHY (now K2IZ), Bernie WB2DQH (now N2GCK), Walt W2TE, Frank WA2TQT, George WB2KAW, Bill WA2PUG, Wyn WA2CZY, Ken WA2SUB, George WB2BAU, Pat WB2CRY and Dick W2RNT.

It was not until the beginning of 1975 that the name "Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club" was adopted. The first meetings were held at members' homes first and then at the Lindenhurst Jr. High School. Through the years we had meetings at the Lindenhurst Rainbow Senior Citizens Center, Babylon Town Hall, Islip Town Recreation Center, The Babylon Village Hall, The Babylon Town Office Annex, and now back to the Town Hall. We moved around as the club outgrew its meeting places.

Our first constitution was adopted after a great amount of deliberation by the constitution committee headed by George WB2BAU, and John WB2CHY (K2IZ). The constitution was kept as simple as possible, so that we could have the flexibility that a new club needed to grow and prosper.

The club's foundation was Public Service and since the beginning it has remained an important part of club activity. From early on, we have had very good

relations with the officials at Babylon Town, and we are proud of the fact that we can be of service to our community.


About a year after the club was formed, we applied for and received a coordinated repeater frequency from the ARRL Repeater Coordinator. The frequency of 146.085 input, 146.685 output, was the last one available in the upper 2 MHz in the Long Island area. We also applied for our club call, WB2FKZ (now W2GSB) from the FCC.

The first repeater was designed and built by Bernie WB2DQH and Steven WB2ZSE. It consisted of a GE "Progress Line" machine running 8 watts into a 5/8ths wave antenna on the tower behind Town Hall.

We decided on a club logo: the compass rose with the ARRL symbol inside. Frank WA2TQT volunteered to write and edit a newsletter. The membership voted to call it "The Compass." This was a sort of a play on words as WA2TQT's last name is Kompass. It was not long before the club started amateur radio classes. Since their inception, the radio classes have introduced many new hams into our ranks. The first classes were taught by Bill Collins WA2PUG and George Roderick WB2KAW and were held in the Lindenhurst Senior High School, which is now the Junior High. Over the years we have had many dedicated instructors (Elmers) sharing with the newcomers " the best hobby in the world."

Our first Field Day was held in 1977 with the call W2SN/2. We decided that Field Day activities should be open to the public and the site next to Town Hall was sought so we could show everyone what amateur radio public service was about. To this day this site remains as "our spot." Another Field Day tradition has been to use a "two letter" call of a different member each year than the longer club call.

Through the years the club has had its ups and downs and at various times membership has been over 100 people. We have tried to be an "all around" radio club, welcoming all classes of licenses into our ranks. We have in our membership old timers and new comers, all classes of licenses from SWL to Extra, all types of interest including DX'ers, traffic handlers, ragchewers, VHF/UHF experimenters, RTTY ops / computer buffs, etc.

Our common aim is to provide an emergency communications service to our community. This is the strength of our organization. We can all share and help one another. We have a common bond, and that is, that we are all interested in amateur (ham) radio and are willing to use our various talents to help the community as well as ourselves. 

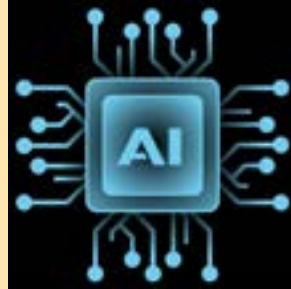
— 73 de Bob Myers K2TV February 4, 1998

HECKSCHER STATE PARK POTA ACTIVATION — SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2025 —





Should HOAs Have Authority To Ban Amateur Radio Antennas And Towers?



ChatGPT said:

This is a long-running debate in amateur radio circles, and the answer depends on law, policy, and perspective. Let me break it down:

1. Legal Standing

- HOA covenants (CC&Rs) are legally binding contracts that homeowners agree to when they buy into a community. Courts generally uphold them, including antenna restrictions, because they are considered a matter of private contract rather than government regulation.
- FCC rules: The FCC's PRB-1 (1985) protects amateur radio antennas from "unreasonable" municipal or state restrictions, but it does not apply to private agreements like HOAs.
- OTARD Rule: The FCC's Over-the-Air Reception Devices Rule protects small satellite dishes and TV antennas from HOA bans, but explicitly excludes amateur radio antennas.
- So, unless federal law is changed, HOAs do have authority to restrict or ban ham antennas.

2. Policy Considerations

- Arguments for HOA authority:
- Preserves "uniform aesthetics" and property values in deed-restricted communities.
- Ensures all homeowners abide by rules they knowingly agreed to.
- Avoids conflicts between neighbors over structures some may find unsightly.
- Arguments against HOA authority:
- Amateur radio is federally recognized as a service with emergency and public-safety value. Restricting antennas undermines this role.
- "Voluntary" HOA contracts often aren't truly voluntary—many buyers have little choice, as a large fraction of new housing is under HOAs.
- Antennas can be designed to be low-profile or

concealed, balancing aesthetics with function.

3. Legislative Efforts

The ARRL has pushed for federal "reasonable accommodation" legislation (the Amateur Radio Parity Act and later bills), which would extend PRB-1-style protections to HOAs. These efforts have stalled in Congress, often due to opposition from real estate and HOA lobbies.

There is currently an [ARRL webpage](#) for submitting your opposition to HOA restrictions.

4. Practical Realities

Some HOAs will work with hams on compromise installations (attic antennas, disguised flagpoles, small verticals).

Others enforce absolute bans, leaving amateurs with portable, mobile, or stealth solutions.

Moving to non-HOA property remains the only guaranteed legal way to avoid restrictions today.

Bottom line:

Right now, yes—HOAs do have the authority to ban amateur radio antennas, unless and until federal law changes. But whether they should have that authority is debated: HOAs prioritize aesthetics and contracts, while hams argue for public service and emergency communications needs. 📡



Which view do you prefer?



Ham Radio University

**Spreading Ham Radio
Knowledge and Know-How**

Saturday, January 10, 2026

8 AM to 4 PM

**“A day of education to share ideas, experiences,
knowledge and fellowship among Amateur Radio operators”**

Our 27th annual event!

Free Admission with \$10 suggested donation

LIU-POST

Hillwood Commons Student Center

**720 Northern Boulevard,
Brookville, NY 11548**



Forums are the heart of HRU!

**There will be over 20 forums about different aspects
of Amateur Radio.**

**Forum topics will range from Introduction to Amateur Radio, how
to get started setting up your station, the basics of operating, to
the latest in digital communications and everything in between!**

HamRadioUniversity.org

Ham Radio University
HRU 2026
Our 27th Year!





Babylon ARES/RACES Information

Div. 1: Town of Babylon ARES/
RACES

Net: 440.850/R, Sundays 8:45 AM

EC/RO: John Melfi, W2HCB,
631-669-6321

Suffolk County ARES/RACES Net:

Mon 2100 Local, 145.330/R (136.5 PL)

Alt. Frequency—146.820 (136.5 PL)

Current License Pool Expirations



Technician (Element 2)

July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2026

General (Element 3)

July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027

Amateur Extra (Element 4)

July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2028

Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club, Inc., currently has all **Arrl License Manuals** in stock and available for purchase at the discounted rate of \$30 (normally \$32.95 plus shipping).

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

LINKED 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)

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

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

Echolink W2GSB-R
AllStar ACCESS 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...