

The Compass!

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

April 2026

Volume 54

#4

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Long Island's Friendliest Amateur Radio Club!



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



2026

- April 9th: Board Meeting
- April 30th: General Membership Meeting
- May 14th: Board Meeting
- May 28th: General Membership Meeting
- June 11th: Board Meeting
- June 25th: General Membership Meeting
- July 9th: Board Meeting
- July 30th: General Membership Meeting
- August 13th: Board Meeting
- August 27th: General Membership Meeting
- September 10th: Board Meeting
- September 24th: General Membership Meeting
- October 8th: Board Meeting
- October 29th: General Membership Meeting
- November 12th: Board Meeting
- November 19th*: General Membership Meeting
- December 10th: Board Meeting
- December 17th*: General Membership Meeting

**Note: November and December General Meetings 1 week earlier due to Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.*

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

On-the-Air Events

Marconi Day

Marconi Day will be observed on Saturday, April 25, 2026. Operations will take place at the Babylon Village Historical Society Museum, the former home of the Marconi School for radio operators. On April 25th, stations will be active from 13:00 UTC to 20:30 UTC. Three stations, operating in all modes, will be on the air. Participants who contact the special event station will receive a commemorative certificate.

American Air Power Museum Special Event

On May 16–17, 2026, GSBARC will honor all veterans by operating from inside the historic World War II hangar at the American Air Power Museum, where “Rosie the Riveter” became famous. Operations will occur from 13:00 UTC to 20:00 UTC on May 17. Two stations will be active using all modes, and participants who make contact with the special event station will receive a certificate. This event is dedicated to honoring those who have served and defended the country and democracy.

Field Day

Field Day is open to the public and will be held from June 28 to June 29, 2026, at 200 East Sunrise Highway, North Lindenhurst, NY. Operations will run from 18:00 UTC on June 28 to 18:00 UTC on June 29, with three stations using battery power in all modes. The public is warmly invited to attend, learn about amateur radio, and experience the excitement of live operations.

Fire Island Lighthouse Event

The Fire Island Lighthouse event will take place during the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend on August 15–16, 2026. Set up begins at 12:00 UTC, and operations are scheduled from 10:00 UTC to 20:30 UTC on August 16. Two stations will operate using all modes. The lighthouse is designated US0019 and is also identified as IOTA NA-026 and POTA park US-0679. Participants who contact the special event station can receive a certificate to commemorate their involvement.

POTA Activation: Heckscher State Park

GSBARC will host a Parks on the Air (POTA) activation at Heckscher State Park on September 5, 2026. Set up begins at 13:00 UTC, and operations will continue until approximately 20:30 UTC. Operators are encouraged to use the club simplex channel upon arrival. All modes will be used, and the club trailer will be present. Members and guests are invited to join in for a fun and engaging experience.

Suffolk County Marathon

The Suffolk County Marathon will take place on October 18, 2026. All posts are to be manned by 6:00 AM, and the marathon will start at 7:00 AM, running until approximately 2:30 PM. Many posts may be secured earlier. Volunteers interested in helping with this event should contact Suffolkcountydec@outlook.com.

POTA Event to Honor W2TE

The second annual special Parks on the Air event honoring W2TE will be held at Captree State Park Overlook on November 8, 2026, from 13:00 UTC to 20:00 UTC. All operators—including CW, SSB, and digital—are welcome to participate in this meaningful tribute. 🇺🇸

AMATEUR RADIO... ON THE AIR!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



March brought a variety of challenging weather conditions to Long Island, including both snowfall and several days of strong winds, making it a notably eventful month. Despite the inclement weather, the W2GSB 440.850 repeater received a significant update. Special thanks are due to the dedicated repeater crew for their consistent efforts in maintaining this vital equipment. Club members are encouraged to take full advantage of the repeaters covering the range from New York State to the East End. Don't hesitate to get on the air — whether you're heading to work or returning home, let's make radio communication enjoyable and active!

During the week of March 15th, the VHF repeater encountered an issue when the AllStar hub went offline, causing some confusion during the Information Net. Special recognition is extended to KD2UQK for quickly addressing and resolving the problem, restoring normal operations. In addition, the W2TOB UHF repeater at Town Hall has been converted to a DMR repeater, which is offline right now for a massive improvement. For the latest information on all repeater systems, members are reminded to check the repeater page on the club website regularly.

The Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club played an essential role in supporting the Babylon Village Saint Patrick's Day parade. The club's operators performed admirably throughout the event, earning sincere appreciation from Babylon Village officials who were extremely pleased with the level of assistance provided. Thanks go out to all members who participated and helped ensure the event's success. We hope everyone enjoyed the experience. This parade serves as an excellent starting point for those interested in public service activities.

Looking ahead, Marconi Day is scheduled for April 25th in Babylon Village. The event promises to be engaging for all participants. Please note that the Emer-

gency Operations Center will be closed on that date, as all club members will be attending the Marconi event. The Village has officially approved our request, so preparations are finalized and everything is set for a successful day. We kindly ask that you bring a chair for your comfort when you are not operating. The trailer is scheduled to arrive at 7 a.m. and we will require several members to assist upon arrival. We plan on operating until 4 p.m. There are many great places to get lunch from in the village.

Kevin, AB2ZI, is organizing a Technician class to take place on April 7th. If you know someone interested in participating, please contact Kevin as soon as possible to ensure a spot.

The club's open houses continue to offer unique projects and enjoyable experiences, drawing strong attendance at each event. General membership meetings have also been well received, often featuring door prizes and the popular 50/50 raffle, which add to the excitement and camaraderie at our gatherings.

Those who assisted with preparations for the Babylon Village Saint Patrick's Day parade are aware of the challenges faced with the club's 7,000-watt Honda generator. The good news is that it is back in operation, thanks to the installation of a new injector and fuel pump. It's hard to believe, but the generator is now 12 years old. While an aftermarket fuel pump was used for the recent repair, the club intends to purchase an original replacement, as aftermarket parts tend to last about one year, compared to the original which lasted ten. The generator now features a new spark plug, fuel injector, battery, and fuel pump, and is running smoothly once again.

Our VE Sessions are now being done using Exam Tools as the League is doing away with paper tests. This month's session is on April 18.

Did you get to work Pat N2IEN's CY0S DXpedition team on Sable Island? Conditions were not the best with all the solar activity and KP index at 5.75 to 6.5. It was tough. If you got them congratulations to you all! I was able to get them on SSB on 40 meters and also got to work them using the club call. They were active until the 31st of March. Here are two more listings from DX news <https://dxnews.com/3xfsg/> <https://dxnews.com/t31t/>

Sincere thanks to Kevin AB2ZI for his outstanding work on the Compass newsletter. We hope that all members find it as informative and enjoyable as the club leadership does. If you have a story to share about something in amateur radio and would like to share it. Please let us know we are always looking for new topics.

— John Melfi, W27CB 

BREAKING: Amateur Radio Operators Successfully Activate “P5 Portable” From Undisclosed Slightly Terrified Location



In what experts are already calling “either the boldest DXpedition in history or the worst-planned field day ever attempted,” a team of eight highly motivated amateur radio operators has reportedly completed the first fully roving, semi-clandestine, “please don’t notice us” DXpedition from inside North Korea.

The group, operating under the special event call sign P5/“We Regret Nothing”, described the activation as “logistically challenging,” “morally ambiguous,” and “a real test of QRP discipline.”

“We Thought It Would Be Like Bouvet, But With More Surveillance”

Team leader Carl “Propagation” Henderson, speaking via a weak but determined 20-meter signal, said the expedition began as a simple club discussion.

“One of the guys said, ‘You know what would really juice the DXCC totals this year?’ and someone else said, ‘What’s rarer than Bouvet?’ And that’s when it all went downhill.”

Unlike traditional DXpeditions, which involve cargo ships, helicopters, and months of permitting, this one reportedly relied on “extreme discretion, excellent hiking shoes, and a firm belief that 5 watts can solve most geopolitical tensions.”

Roving Strategy to Avoid Becoming a Documentary

Rather than setting up a traditional base camp, the team adopted what they described as a “hyper-portable, hyper-nervous” operating model.

Operators reportedly:

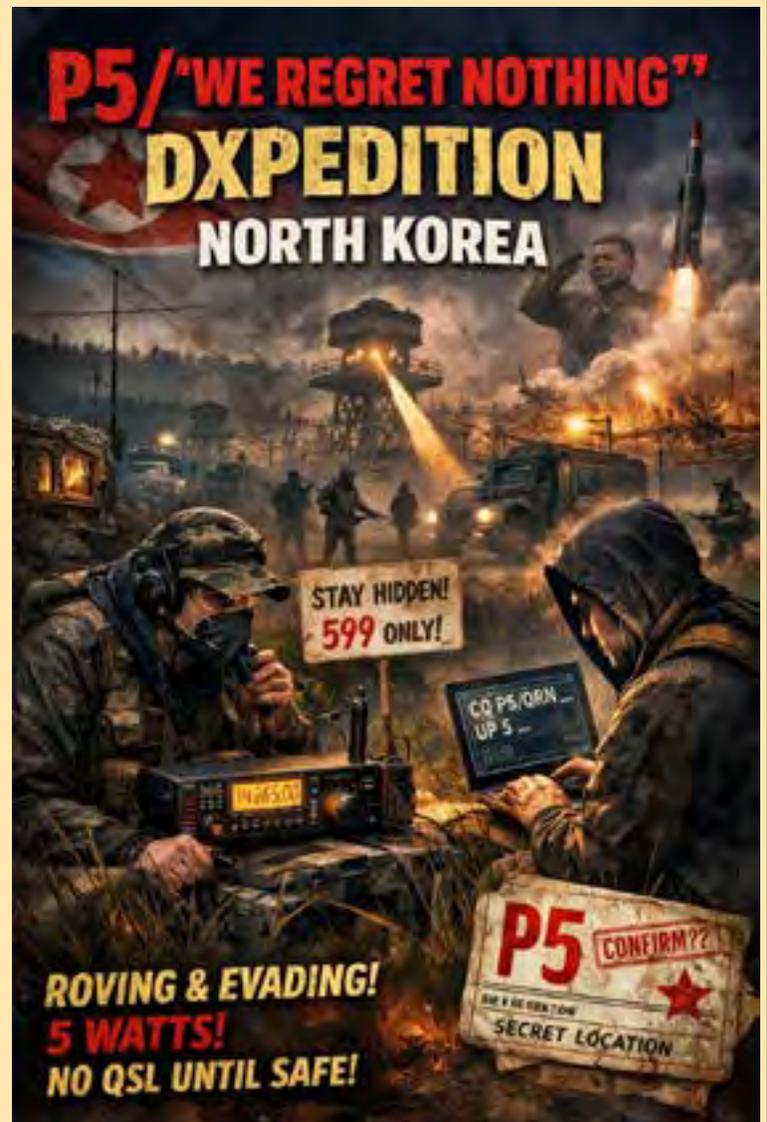
- Transmitted for exactly 4 minutes and 59 seconds at a time
- Packed down full HF stations in under 90 seconds
- Used collapsible vertical antennas disguised as “very enthusiastic walking sticks”
- Referred to pileups as “acoustic evidence of imminent complications”

“We call it ‘POTA: Parks On The Air.’ Over here it’s more like ‘ROTA: Run On The Air,’” one operator whispered before abruptly signing off with a hurried “73 and please don’t triangulate.”

Pileups Heard From Orbit

Despite operating at low power and constantly changing locations, signals were reportedly strong enough to trigger historic pileups.

DXers worldwide described the experience as “absolute chaos.”



"I haven't heard a pileup like that since Navassa," said one East Coast contester. "Except this one had a slightly higher sense of international consequence."

FT8 operators, meanwhile, reported that the expedition's digital signals appeared briefly before vanishing mid-sequence, creating what analysts are calling "the first propagation report ever annotated with 'possible diplomatic incident.'"

Innovative QSL Policy

The team announced that QSL cards will be handled "carefully and hypothetically."

- Direct cards: "Maybe."
- Bureau: "Eventually."
- Confirmation: "If we're still around."
- LOTW upload: "Immediately upon safe re-entry into a nation with Wi-Fi."

Rumors that QSL cards will feature a photo of a tent hidden behind a suspiciously shaped shrub have not been confirmed.

Equipment List (Allegedly)

Sources close to the expedition claim the team traveled with:

- Two QRP rigs
- Three lithium battery packs
- One collapsible vertical
- One mag loop
- Eight identical "tourist" backpacks
- And an unreasonable amount of instant ramen

One operator admitted the biggest challenge wasn't avoiding detection.

"It was resisting the urge to call CQ for just one more contact."

DXCC Committee in Mild Panic

Officials monitoring the activation have described the situation as "deeply impressive but possibly inadvisable."

"We admire the technical achievement," one anonymous awards manager said. "But we would prefer future rare-entity activations not involve evasion-themed operating techniques."

The Final Transmission

The expedition's last reported transmission was heard on 17 meters:

"CQ CQ this is P5 portable, roving, very roving... up 5... up 10... up—"

The signal then disappeared.

Hours later, a brief FT8 decode appeared on screens worldwide:

"RR73"

Whether it marked the end of the activation or simply the team relocating behind a particularly dense cluster of shrubs remains unknown.

Club Meeting Debrief

Back home, local club members are reportedly preparing a PowerPoint titled:

"Lessons Learned: Why Maybe We Should Just Do Winter Field Day Again."

Early agenda items include:

- Risk assessment versus DXCC count
- Whether stealth antenna deployment counts as a new operating mode
- And a motion to officially redefine "portable" as "somewhere safer."

As of press time, the expedition has been credited with 47,212 QSOs, 9,000 nervous glances, and one unanimous agreement that next year's big adventure should involve a lighthouse, a food truck, and significantly fewer international complications.

73,
Probably. ☺



Babylon Village St. Patrick's Day Parade











TOONING UP

AB2ZI's YouTube Pics



Review of BAOFENG UV 5-RM

By John Smale, K2IZ



I bought the original BAOFENG UV-5 when it first came out. Yes I'd read the reviews about "cheap Chinese junk" but I still do a lot of public service events and I like a radio that doesn't cost the proverbial arm and a leg to use for those events. The first HT I purchased was a Yaesu VX-6 R, great Tri-band radio but at the time it cost over \$300. This was not a radio that I wanted to use for the Maggie Fischer Cross Bay Swim with all that exposure to salt water. And if I dropped it overboard, I'd be out \$300.

Baofeng UV-5R

- **Positive:** Many users praise the **affordability and ease of use** of the UV-5R. It is a favorite among beginners and those looking for a reliable, low-cost radio for casual use.
- **Negative:** Some users mention **limited power output and battery life**, making it less effective for long-range communication.



The UV-5 R goes for less than \$30.00. I can handle that.

I saw advertisements for the UV-5 RM and it's a nice upgrade to the UV-5 R. I like that it is a 10-watt vs 5-watt output; the display and touch-tone pad buttons are much larger; the display is also in color and the charging is via USB-C instead of a drop-in type charger.

The UV-5 RM also has more frequency coverage than the original UV-5 R. Besides the basic dual bands of 144-148 MHz and 420-450 MHz transmit/receive, it also covers 76-108 MHz FM, 108-136 MHz AM, 136-174 MHz (that includes NOAA WX stations) 220-260 MHz (receive) 350-390 MHz (receive) and 400-520 MHz (receive). The antenna connection is the standard female SMA. The RM comes with a long whip antenna; testing with a Nano VNA shows it to be the same as a Nagoya dual-band antenna of the same size.

The physical size difference between the two radios is notable: The UV-5 RM feels like a small brick, something that I like because of my large hands. It has got a good solid feel to it. The flashlight is much brighter than the one on the UV-5 R, the on/off knob is much bigger than the one on the UV-5 R -- again, for someone with large hands, it's easier to use.

I used the UV-5 RM this past weekend at the Village of Babylon St. Patrick's Day Parade. NCS was on the club's 440 repeater; my post was Montauk Highway and Carll's Avenue. NCS had no trouble copying me, audio was good and there was no advice to move to a better location in order to be heard better. All of that works just fine for me. 📶



Editor's Note: Check Amazon.com for deals.

TOONING UP



Local Residents Confused After Evolving Ability To Receive 20 Meters Directly In Their Heads



—Scientists Confirm Mutation Likely “Perfectly Reasonable Given The Last 120 Years of RF Exposure”

CENTRE MORICHES, NY — In what researchers are cautiously describing as “a predictable neuro-electromagnetic adaptation event,” residents across Long Island began reporting Tuesday that they could faintly hear 14.074 MHz FT8 traffic without the aid of radios, antennas, or even basic consent.

“I thought it was tinnitus,” said local resident Mark H., who initially blamed his condition on lawn equipment. “But then I clearly copied ‘CQ DX’ followed by a grid square. I don’t even know Morse.”

Neurologists now confirm that a previously dormant biological structure—microscopic magnetite inclusions long known to exist in human tissue—has organized into what one research paper delicately calls a *distributed cranial antenna array*.

The Science (Unfortunately Checks Out)

According to a joint statement from the departments of neurobiology and electromagnetics at a major university that would prefer not to be named:

- Humans already possess trace **biogenic magnetite crystals**, similar to those used by migratory birds for geomagnetic navigation.
- Decades of escalating anthropogenic RF exposure have applied consistent selection pressure.
- A rare mutation appears to have encouraged the crystals to align along neural microtubules, forming what is effectively a lossy but functional dipole.
- The human skull, researchers confirmed with visible exhaustion, acts as a dielectric cavity.

“We’re not saying the brain is a superheterodyne receiver,” said one physicist. “But if it were, it would explain why several subjects appear to be heterodyning AM broadcast inside their frontal lobes.”

Functional MRI scans show the auditory cortex lighting up not in response to acoustic stimulation—but to incident RF energy.

Children under age ten appear particularly adept at decoding phase-shift keyed signals.



“We believe cortical plasticity allows them to demodulate FT8 intuitively,” the report states, before trailing off into what appears to be a quiet scream.

Local Hams Report “Finally, A Useful Mutation”

Members of the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club were largely unsurprised.

“I’ve been copying CW in my head for 40 years,” said one club member calmly. “This is just better sensitivity.”

Several operators report they can now:

- Distinguish between AM and SSB based on “texture.”
- Detect solar noise increases during geomagnetic storms.
- Sense when 20 meters is about to open “like a sinus pressure change, but patriotic.”

One Extra-class operator claimed he could feel the difference between vertical and horizontal polarization while standing in his driveway.

FCC Releases Statement Asking Everyone To Please Stop Thinking On 75 Meters

In an emergency press conference, the Federal Communications Commission reminded citizens that:

“Unauthorized mental transmission remains subject to Part 97.”

The agency declined to clarify how it intends to enforce power limits on thoughts.

Shielding Sales Surge

Local hardware stores report a run on copper mesh and aluminum screening as families attempt to build Faraday bedrooms.

Unfortunately, early tests indicate that while aluminum foil hats reduce perceived 40-meter traffic, they significantly increase susceptibility to AM sports radio.

“We are urging calm,” said one materials scientist. “The human cranial antenna exhibits a low Q factor. Most people are only receiving strong local signals and occasional sporadic E.”

The Solar Connection

Astrophysicists note that this development coincides with an above-average solar cycle.

“We suspect enhanced ionospheric reflectivity increased environmental field strength just enough to push borderline neural resonances into detectability,” said a solar physicist who admitted, reluctantly, that this sentence made sense.

Sunspot activity appears correlated with reports of:

- Heightened irritability during 75-meter nets
- Sudden urge to identify every ten minutes
- Compulsive internal tuning noises

Psychological Community Requests Everyone Stop Calling It “The Open Mind”

While some spiritual groups have labeled the event “The Awakening,” neurologists insist it is simply emergent RF sensitivity.

“We are not evolving telepathy,” clarified one expert. “We are evolving a badly filtered wideband receiver.”

What’s Next?

Preliminary modeling suggests:

- The mutation will stabilize within two generations.
- Brains may naturally develop adaptive filtering.
- A small subset of the population could achieve something approximating DSP.

There are unconfirmed reports that one teenager in Iowa has already mentally decoded a weak-signal transmission from Europe while inside a basement.

He reportedly described the experience as:

“Kind of like when Wi-Fi bars go up, but in your skull.”

Club Advisory

GSBARC reminds members:

- Ground yourself properly.
- Stay hydrated.
- Avoid operating barefoot during thunderstorms.
- And please, for the love of Maxwell, do not attempt to “amplify” your thoughts with a linear.

Further updates will be provided after the next solar flare.

Until then—

You are now monitoring the noise floor.

And apparently, so is your brain. 🧠





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).

2026 VE Sessions

- ~~January 31st~~
- ~~February 28th~~
- ~~March 28th~~
- **April 18th***Date change
- May 30th
- June 20th
- July 25th
- August 29th
- September 26th
- October 31st
- November 28th
- December 26th

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

2026 Contests

ARRL Int'l Digital Contest:

June 6th – 7th

VHF Contest:

June 13th – 15th

ARRL Field Day:

June 27th – 29th

IARU HF World Championship
July 11th – 12th

CQ WW SSB Contest

October 24th – 25th

ARRL November Sweepstakes:

CW: November 1st – 3rd

CQ WW CW Contest November
28th – 29th

ARRL November Sweepstakes:

SSB: November 21 – 23

ARRL 10 Meter

December 12th – 13th

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...