

The Compass!

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

August 2026

Volume 54

#8

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- AB2ZI's YouTube Picks
- Fire Island Lighthouse this month!
- Be a Better Communicator



Long Island's Friendliest Amateur Radio Club!



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



2026

- August 5th: Wednesday Night Open House
- August 13th: Board Meeting
- August 27th: General Membership Meeting
- September 2nd: Wednesday Night Open House
- September 10th: Board Meeting
- September 24th: General Membership Meeting
- October 7th: Wednesday Night Open House
- October 8th: Board Meeting
- October 29th: General Membership Meeting
- November 4th: Wednesday Night Open House
- November 12th: Board Meeting
- November 19th*: General Membership Meeting
- December 2nd: Wednesday Night Open House
- 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

GSBARC TECH OPEN HOUSE

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT • 7:00 PM
at the GSBARC Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

Everyone Welcome!

**HELP • LEARN
BUILD • OPERATE**

*Your Amateur
Radio Resource!*



GET HELP WITH YOUR PROJECTS

- Building kits & circuits
- Antennas & troubleshooting
- Go-Kit setup & portable ops
- Programming & software
- Digital modes & interfaces
- Test equipment & more
- Anything related to amateur radio!



LEARN & USE CLUB RESOURCES

- Get trained on the club's HF stations
- Learn the club's logging system (station QSOs, trailer remote ops & Field Day)
- Remote operation procedures
- Club equipment & operating procedures



ASK QUESTIONS GET ANSWERS

Bring your radio, laptop, cables, or that "mystery box" you've been meaning to figure out—chances are someone can help!

*No agenda.
Just help, learning
and good conversation.*



LEARN • BUILD EXPERIMENT • HAVE FUN

Work on your own projects, learn new skills, help others, or just enjoy talking radio with friends!



NEW HAMS EXPERIENCED HAMS VISITORS

*All are welcome!
Come as you are.
Leave with new
ideas and friends.*

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH!
WEDNESDAY • 7:00 PM
GSBARC EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC)

GREAT SOUTH BAY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
W2GSB
COMMUNICATIONS FOR OUR COMMUNITY



gsbarc.org

On-the-Air Events

Fire Island Lighthouse Event

The Fire Island Lighthouse event will take place during the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend on August 15th (rain date the 16th), 2026. Set up begins at 12:00 UTC, and operations are scheduled from 10:00 UTC to 20:30 UTC on August 15. Two stations will operate using all modes. The lighthouse is designated US-0019 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 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 third 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.📻

GET ON THE AIR!
JOIN THE ADVENTURE!

GSBARC SPECIAL EVENTS ALL YEAR LONG!

WITH CRAZY JOHN!

GREAT PEOPLE!
GREAT EVENTS!
GREAT RADIO!
THAT'S THE GSBARC WAY!

POTA ACTIVATIONS
TAKE HAM RADIO OUTDOORS!

FIRE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE
HAMS ON THE AIR BY THE BEACH!

AMERICAN AIR POWER MUSEUM
HONORING OUR HEROES WITH HAM RADIO!

FIELD DAY
OUR BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR!

MARCONI DAY
CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF WIRELESS!

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY WHEN IT MATTERS MOST!

HOLIDAY SPECIAL EVENTS
JOIN THE FUN ALL YEAR LONG!

73!

MAKE FRIENDS! LEARN! OPERATE! SERVE! THAT'S HAM RADIO!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



August is here, and it is time for a fun day at the beach as we get ready for International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend at US-0019, the Fire Island Lighthouse. This operating event is a special opportunity to connect with radio operators and lighthouse enthusiasts around the world. If all goes well, the satellite station will also make an appearance this year, featuring the newly modified antenna system that Keith AC2MI worked on after Field Day. Attendees can look forward to seeing the updated setup in action and enjoying a memorable weekend at one of Long Island's most iconic lighthouse sites. We will be there on August 15th and meeting in Parking Field 5. Plan to get there early if you want to avoid the parking fee. According to the New York State website, Robert Moses State Park begins charging at 6 a.m., so arriving by 05:45 a.m. should help you avoid the fee.

If you have the Empire State Pass, you're all set. Would you like to see which lighthouses will be the air with us? Click the link below.

<https://www.lighthouse-weekend.international/index.php/entrants-list-2026>

The website, fireislandlighthouse.org, describes the Fire Island Lighthouse as "an important landmark for transatlantic ships coming into New York Harbor at the turn of the last century. For many European immigrants, the Fire Island Light was their first sight of land upon arrival in America." Its importance grew as New York emerged as a busy port.

Sandbars made the trip dangerous; in fact, hundreds of shipwrecks involving the sandbar were not uncommon.

The first lighthouse, lit on Nov. 15, 1826, had a light that was visible out at sea as far away as 10-14 nautical miles. A new tower was made possible after Congress gave \$40,000 to the construction project in 1857. It was first lit on Nov. 1, 1858. Its light was seen at a greater distance – between 21 and 24 nautical miles out to sea.

By 1973, time caught up with the lighthouse's role as a navigation aid. It was decommissioned on Dec. 31 of that year, replaced by a "small flash tube optic" on the top of the Robert Moses State Park Water Tower.

The lighthouse's eventual electrification, its ability to withstand storms, and its continued improvements over the years are detailed on the lighthouse website.

GSBARC has operated from the Fire Island Lighthouse since 1977, making this our 50th year operating at this wonderful location. In the early days, we ran a 24-hour station, hung dipoles from the top, set up a tower and beam on the south side near the old life-saving pole, and camped overnight beside the lighthouse. Some of us even slept inside the lighthouse. Times have changed but the experience of operating from this absolutely wonderful location is amazing. Sitting beside the lighthouse calling CQ in whatever mode. We always meet a few new people. Last year we meet a fellow amateur from Germany. As a matter of fact, he also came to one of our Saturday open houses to visit a few months after that. We hope to see a lot of our club members join us for this terrifically operating event.

What should you bring? Please bring drinks, snacks, lunch, sunscreen, and a chair. CW operators should also bring their own CW key.

Vital information: We are not allowed to drive to the lighthouse and we cannot park there. Only KA2S and I can drive in to unload and once at the end of the day to reload. August has become an international month for lighthouse activities, with countries around the world participating in events that celebrate lighthouse history and amateur radio operation. In the United States, Congress designated August 7 as National Lighthouse Day, and during that first week of August, amateur radio operators set up portable stations at lighthouses to contact one another as part of U.S. National Lighthouse Week.

In Britain, the Association of Lighthouse Keepers, [ALK](#), conducts International Lighthouse Heritage Weekend on the same weekend as the ILLW in August. Their objective is to encourage Lighthouse managers, keepers, and owners to open their

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...Pres. Message cont'd from page 5

lighthouse or light station and related visitors' centers with a view to raising the profile of lighthouses, light vessels and other navigational aids, and preserving our maritime heritage. However, the major event which takes place in August is the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend, ILLW, which came into being in 1998 as the Scottish Northern Lights Award run by the [Ayr Amateur Radio Group \(AARG\)](#). The ILLW usually takes place on the third full weekend in August each year and attracts over five hundred lighthouse entries located in over forty countries. It is one of the most popular international amateur radio events in existence probably because there are very few rules and it is not the usual contest type event. It is also free and there are no prizes for contacting large numbers of other stations.

CQ, W2GSB, Fire Island Lighthouse, for International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend. No shoes or shirts required: CQ CQ CQ... or, "CQ CQ CQ, W2HCB, from the beautiful and historic Fire Island Lighthouse, US-0019. CQ CQ CQ."

The Fire Island Lighthouse weekend will be on August 15th; the rain date is August 16th.

GSBARC's monthly Open House and Tech Night are held on the first Wednesday of each month. It has become a valuable opportunity to work on projects, get operating time, receive help with radios, and become familiar with the logging system we use for events and contests. KD2X hosts Tech Night and continues to do an outstanding job.

July was fun with on the air events and of course the Maggie Fischer Cross Bay Swim. Thank you to all who helped out with that event.

On July 3, several of us got together with Ed KD2ADC, a member who moved away five years ago, and his wife Jean while they were visiting for the Fourth of July. We presented Ed with one of our Field Day shirts, stickers, a challenge coin, and the special-edition Field Day mug.

Hopefully, band conditions will improve this month after a challenging July. Have fun chasing DX stations or making stateside contacts toward your Worked All States award. To our satellite operators, have fun working those metal birds.

I hope everyone enjoyed chasing the Thirteen Colonies special event stations. I had some trouble until July 7, when I was lucky enough to work all



AB2ZI

the remaining stations I needed during a three-hour window after running the GSBARC Info Net. I hope you had similar success, even though conditions were challenging at times. Congratulations to our CW, SSB, and digital operators who earned a clean sweep in one mode or across many modes. I submitted my PDF log and am now waiting for the special-edition Thirteen Colonies certificate to arrive.

Have you checked into our GSBARC Info Net? We need more members to participate and could also use additional net control operators.

On July 12th, GSBARC received a generous equipment donation from the family of WB2ATZ/SK, Albert E. Sayers. How did this come about? In June, I received a phone call from a friend who said he had given my number to someone whose family had equipment they wanted to donate. Then, in July, I received a call. When I answered, I spoke for the first time with Helen, Albert's sister. She explained that her brother had passed away last year and had left behind a large amount of equipment. She told me the family wanted to donate it to GSBARC for us to use as we saw fit.

I asked for help to get the equipment and want to thank Scott, W2KFG, Carl, K2TZY for stepping up to assist. We drove to the family home in Sands Point. When we arrived, Helen met us outside and helped guide us into the driveway. She then led us to the living room, where the floor was covered with radios. I asked again whether the family wanted any money for the equipment, and the answer was an emphatic no. Scott looked up the radios online and explained that they were valuable, but Helen and her husband insisted that we take everything back to the club. They said the club could sell the radios to people who needed them. We thanked them sincerely and even received a tour of their beautiful, spacious yard. The donation included two Kenwood TS-940 HF rigs, a Kenwood TS-830, an Icom IC-775DSP 200-watt radio, a Kenwood TS-2000 still in the box and never powered up, two Ten-Tec HF rigs with power supplies, a Gonset GSB-100 HF radio, a Collins 32S with power supply, and a complete Drake station with crystals. Whoever purchased any of these great radios will carry a piece of WB2ATZ's legacy forward. We never had the chance to meet Albert, but I am sure he would be smiling knowing his radios would once again be on the air.

What did we do with all the equipment? Well, we held a sale on July 18th of the equipment, and the funds from this sale will go to future operating upgrades. Some of our members got some exceptionally good deals on some vintage equipment.

On July 25th, we held our monthly VE exam. Congratulations to all the candidates who passed their Technician Class test. After the exams were completed, two lucky test takers received new Baofeng UV-32 radios, which Dan N2FUK quickly programmed up. At our general meeting, the first thirty-two members who arrived received a terrific book on quad antenna systems by Bob Haviland W4MB.

We will start the continued work on the remote station soon. We have to pull cables from the junction box to inside the building where the station will be. We will also be pulling out the trailer to air it out and get what we need for the Lighthouse event.

Amateur radio is a wonderful way to connect with people and make friends around the world, even in space. One of my favorite moments happened while I was on vacation in Germany and wearing my GSBARC lighthouse shirt. Someone called out the club call sign, and when I turned around, he told me he had worked our club several times on FT8 during Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend, which amazed me. Another time, while I was on a cruise ship, someone in an elevator recognized my call sign and mentioned it to his wife. She did not seem especially thrilled when he started talking with me about amateur radio, but from then on, we had something to talk about every time we saw each other. They were from California. Wherever you go, there is a good chance you will meet another amateur radio operator.

Our general meeting will be on August 27th at 7:30 PM. As always, I want to wish you all good DXing, POTA chasing, to CW, SSB, Digital operators' and also our QRP'ers. Whatever mode you do enjoy it and have a blast. When conditions are horrible the CW and digital operators always seem to do well. Always check band conditions sometimes they are great and sometimes downright awful. Choose your modes wisely.

— *John Melfi, W2HCB* 



Becoming a Better Communicator —On the Air and Off

By Kevin, AB2ZI



One of the most valuable skills in amateur radio has nothing to do with antennas, propagation, or the latest transceiver. It's the ability to communicate effectively.

As hams, we spend countless hours exchanging information. Whether we're passing traffic during a public service event, chatting on a local repeater, making a DX contact, or discussing technical topics at a club meeting, our success depends on how well we communicate. Surprisingly, the biggest obstacle to good communication isn't usually speaking—it's listening.

Listen to Understand, Not to Reply

Most of us have experienced it. While someone is still talking, our mind has already shifted into "response mode." We're mentally constructing our reply, thinking of the next question, or remembering a similar story we'd like to tell.

The problem is that once our attention shifts inward, we're no longer fully listening.

Instead, try listening with only one goal: understanding what the other person is saying. Imagine that you'll be asked to explain their point of view to someone else afterward. That simple mental shift forces your brain to pay attention instead of preparing a rebuttal.

You'll often discover details you would have missed otherwise.

A useful technique is to briefly summarize what you heard before responding:

"So if I understand correctly, you're saying..."

This isn't just polite—it confirms that both people are discussing the same idea before the conversation moves forward.

Remember Before You Respond

Good listening isn't passive. It's active.

As the other person speaks, mentally organize what you're hearing into a few key ideas rather than trying to remember every sentence word for word. Our brains are much better at recalling concepts than exact wording.

Think of it like logging a contact. You don't try to memorize every sound coming through the speaker. Instead, you pick out the important information—the callsign, signal report, location, and perhaps a few notes.

Conversations work the same way.

When the speaker finishes, pause for a second. That brief moment gives your brain time to organize what you've heard before you answer.

Silence isn't awkward—it's often a sign that someone is thinking.

Reading Requires Listening Too

The same habits apply when reading emails, text messages, and online discussions.

Many misunderstandings happen because we begin composing a reply before we've finished reading.

Sometimes we skim the first few sentences, assume we know where the writer is going, and mentally hit the "Reply" button before reaching the end.

Instead:

- Read the entire message first.
- Resist the urge to stop and formulate answers along the way.
- After finishing, summarize the main point in your own mind before responding.
- If something seems unclear, ask a question rather than making an assumption.

You'll be surprised how often you'll discover that the message wasn't saying what you initially thought.

Beware of Mental Interference

Radio operators know that interference can make it difficult to copy a weak signal.

Conversations have interference too.

Except instead of static, the interference comes from our own thoughts:

- “I know where this is going...”
- “That reminds me of...”
- “I disagree...”
- “Wait until I tell them...”

Every one of those thoughts steals attention from the speaker.

The cure is simple: whenever you notice your mind wandering toward your response, gently redirect it back to the person speaking.

Think of it as adjusting your receiver back onto frequency.

Communication Is a Two-Way Skill

We often judge ourselves by how clearly we speak.

Others judge us by how well we listen.

People enjoy talking with those who genuinely pay attention. They feel respected, understood, and valued. Better listening also leads to better questions, fewer misunderstandings, and more productive conversations.

Whether you're checking into a net, discussing antennas at Field Day, helping a new ham program a radio, or simply talking with family and friends, becoming a better listener will make you a better communicator.

As amateur radio operators, we're always trying to improve our stations. Perhaps the most important upgrade isn't a new antenna or amplifier at all.

It's learning to tune our ears before we key the microphone.

73, and good listening! 🎧

AB2ZI's YouTube Pics



IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
FIELD DAY 2026...

GSBARC

GEARS UP FOR SERIOUS SPECIAL EVENT DEPLOYMENTS!

GREAT JOB
EVERYONE! NOW
LET'S TAKE IT TO
THE NEXT LEVEL!

FROM CLUB T-SHIRTS TO
SERIOUS "WE GOT THIS" GEAR.

NEW MISSION.
NEW GEAR.
WE GOT THIS.

GSBARC
SPECIAL EVENTS
UNIT

UPGRADED OUR COMMUNICATION
TRAILER TO MILITARY LEVEL.

MAST SYSTEMS
DEPLOYABLE
IN MINUTES

HF / VHF / UHF
MULTI-MODE
CAPABILITY

SOLAR POWER
& BATTERY
BACKUP

GSBARC
COMMAND & CONTROL



SATELLITE LINK
STAY CONNECTED
ANYWHERE

SHOCK & EMP
HARDENED

BUILT FOR
ANY MISSION

**MISSION
READY!**

AT THE REQUEST OF K2IZ... A NAVAL VERSION
WAS ALSO ACQUIRED AND IS CURRENTLY
DEPLOYED AT AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION.

TACTICAL COMMS.
DISCREET OPS.
MISSION CRITICAL.

GSBARC
NAVAL COMM UNIT

K2IZ-1

**LOCATION
CLASSIFIED**

SPEARHEADING THE NEW
GSBARC SPACE INITIATIVE!

WE WANTED TO WORK
MORE SATELLITES AND
THIS IS ONE WAY TO GET
REALLY, REALLY CLOSE
TO THEM AND BEAT
THE PILEUPS...



SO WE DID WHAT ANY DEDICATED
HAM RADIO CREW WOULD DO...

**TO THE
SKIES!**

NEW FREQUENCIES. NEW FRONTIERS.
SAME PASSION.

CQ CQ CQ
GSBARC-1
CALLING CQ
VIA SATELLITE!

...BECAUSE FROM
THE GROUND OR
FROM ORBIT—
WE'RE ALWAYS
ON THE AIR!



GSBARC: READY FOR ANY EVENT.
ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.
EVEN OUT OF THIS WORLD.

73 FROM THE GSBARC CREW...
ADVENTURE CONTINUES!

STAY TUNED, STAY READY,
AND AS ALWAYS...

73!

BREAKING NEWS

LIVE

FROM BACKYARDS TO THE STARS... GSBARC TAKES AMATEUR RADIO TO NEW HEIGHTS!



LIVE 12 NEWS

HAMS TAKE FIELD DAY TO NEW HEIGHTS!

ANTENNAS UP... SPIRITS HIGHER!

TOP STORY

GENERATORS RUNNING • COFFEE FLOWING • CONTACTS MAKING • FUN MAXED OUT!

AT THE REQUEST OF K212, A NAVAL VERSION IS ALSO DEPLOYED AT AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION.



WITH MILITARY-GRADE GEAR AND A MOBILE COMMAND UNIT, GSBARC IS ALWAYS READY TO DEPLOY!



ON LAND, SEA, OR... THE FINAL FRONTIER... OUR TEAM IS MISSION READY!



WE WANTED TO WORK MORE SATELLITES... THIS IS ONE WAY TO GET REALLY, REALLY CLOSE TO THEM AND BEAT THE PILEUPS!



AND NOW... WE MAKE HISTORY.

CQ CQ CQ FROM THE MOON! THIS IS W26SB/LUNA!



BREAKING NEWS

LIVE

HISTORY MADE!

GSBARC MEMBERS FIRST TO COLONIZE THE MOON WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST LUNAR QSO PARTY!

CQ CQ CQ FROM THE MOON! THIS IS W26SB/LUNA!



BREAKING NEWS

MOON MISSION UPDATE

FIRST LUNAR QSO PARTY UNDERWAY!

GREAT SOUTH BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MAKES CONTACT ACROSS THE UNIVERSE... AND IN HISTORY!



BREAKING NEWS 10 • FIRST MOON COLONY ESTABLISHED 10 • LUNAR QSO PARTY LIVE NOW 10 • HAM RADIO MAKES HISTORY!

FROM FIELD DAY TO THE FINAL FRONTIER...

GSBARC — CONNECTING WORLDS, MAKING HISTORY!

73 & 88! SEE YOU ON THE AIR!





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. 5PL)

Current License Pool Expirations



Technician (Element 2)

July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2030

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~~
- ~~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

August:

- 1st - 2nd: 222 MHz and Up
Distance Contest
- 8th - 9th: EME - 2.3 GHz & Up
- 15th - 17th: 10 GHz & Up -
Round 1
- 16th: Rookie Roundup RTTY

September:

- 5th - 6th: EME - 2.3 GHz & Up
- 12th - 14th: September VHF
- 19th - 21st: 10 GHz & Up -
Round 2

October:

- 3rd - 4th: Collegiate QSO Party
- 19th - 23rd: School Club
Roundup
- 24th - 25th: CQ WW SSB
Contest
- Oct 31/Nov 1 EME - 50 to 1296
MHz

November:

- 7th - 9th: Nov Sweepstakes: CW
- 28-29 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz
- 21-23 Nov Sweepstakes:
Phone

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... ☺