

The Compass!

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

July 2026

Volume 54

#7

Best. Field Day. EVER!!!



Inside this edition:

- **Field Day Photos!!!**
- **2026 Events & Meetings**
- **AB2ZI's YouTube Picks**



Long Island's Friendliest Amateur Radio Club!



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



2026

- July 1st: Wednesday Night Open House
- July 9th: Board Meeting
- July 30th: General Membership Meeting
- 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

NEW GSBARC OPEN HOUSE!

***Starting Wednesday night, June 3rd at 7 p.m.
Open House with Projects and More!***

Members have asked for another meeting where they could work on projects and get answers to technical questions. The GSBARC Board heard you and is re-introducing that pre-Covid club favorite:

Wednesday Night Open House!

Starting on June 3rd and monthly on the 1st Wednesday of each month will be an extra open house for a variety of projects including:

- ***Projects (building kits, antennas, Go-Kit Setup, etc.)***
- ***Programming help***
- ***Learn GSBARC's logging system (used for club station QSOs, trailer remote operation logging and Field Day)***
- ***Get trained on the club's HF stations located inside the clubroom***
- ***Get help with anything related to amateur radio***

Start time 7:00 PM

Hosted by Steve KD2X and other Board members

On-the-Air Events

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 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. 📻



AMATEUR RADIO... ON THE AIR!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I wrote this month's message, it was Saturday night around 10:30 of Field Day and the SSB operators, CW operators and of course the run-silent Digital operators were all calling "CQ CQ CQ Field Day W2GSB." They were doing everything that they could do to make contacts, which is sometimes hard to do.

Conditions were not the best at all, and it is especially exciting when a newer operator is thrilled to death to make their first satellite contact.

I am starting this message in the club trailer, listening to all the excitement. This is what Field Day is all about: getting newer operators over any '*mic fright*' and getting them on the air. I am proud to say the event is already off to a tremendous start. We started right away at 1800 UTC and first contacts were made. The setup crew did an outstanding job, the stations came together quickly, and everyone's teamwork helped create a smooth and successful operation.

Scott W2KFG, Walter KA2S and the Buddi Hex setup crew did an excellent job getting the antenna system in place, and the Buddi Hex performed very well. The end-fed antenna crew, led by Dan N2FUK and Rob KD2UQK, also did an excellent job setting up both antennas.

Once the antennas and radios were in place, everything was assessed and proved to be working well. Cliff KE2DKU provided lunch for the crew, and after a short break, testing continued across the site.

- The satellite station was set up by Keith AC2MI with assistance from Joe KE2CDK, several satellite passes were tested successfully.

- The GOTA station was set up by Barbara KD2PIH and me. The GOTA station was an IC 7600 radio with a Buddi Hex and end-fed dipole antenna – the same as the trailer's main stations with both SSB and digital operations tested and the logging software ready to go.

Because the setup took only about an hour and a half, everyone had time to relax before operations began. After the 10-second countdown, we called "CQ Field Day" and got underway.

Several of us helped Jacki, KD2ENX, prepare for the Facebook Live broadcast, and she did an excellent job earning our social media bonus points. Jacki, who also serves as our PIO, wrote an excellent Field Day press release.

Owen NA2MM and John K2IZ copied the Field Day bulletin in CW, and I copied it in MFSK-16.

Dan W2DIY made the first QSO, followed by Rob KD2UQK, and the friendly competition among operators began immediately. The satellite station earned our bonus points at 18:02 Frank WA2NDV and Keith AC2MI helped the new operators get the hang of working the birds.

Joe KE2CDK also showed Ethan KE2IEH how to work the satellites. It was impressive on Sunday morning when Ethan made four contacts on an FO29 pass.

Our younger members did a tremendous job finding their rhythm. Eric KE2IEG and Ethan KE2IEH, our father-and-son team, quickly settled in and began making QSOs using the GOTA call sign W2TOB. It was also great to see Ovi KE2HRO make his first satellite contact. Both Eric and Ethan also worked the main 3F station. I was glad to see the new operators jump in to relieve some tired operators.

Around 6:30 p.m., we began heading down to the club room for dinner. I genuinely appreciate all the compliments on my BBQ, and I was glad to see everyone enjoying the food prepared by several board members and volunteers.

- Thank you to Steve KD2X for the macaroni and cheese, pasta salad, macaroni salad, and coleslaw.
- Thank you to Bill WB2QGZ for the stuffed jalapeños, and to Walter KA2S and Kathy for the delicious corn soufflé.
- Thank you to Scott W2KFG for tracking down the much-needed Sternos to keep the food warm.

Continued on page 6...

Pres's Message: continued from page 5...

The chili was cooked on site for eight hours in two slow cookers and included a little over five pounds of meat. The pulled pork was smoked for 20 hours, and the baked beans were smoked for about six hours. Thank you to everyone who responded to the dinner poll. We ate in shifts to make sure no radio was ever left unattended.

As the evening continued, we were pleased to welcome several visitors to the site. Town of Babylon Supervisor Rich Schaffer stopped by, and we presented him with a special-edition coffee mug and challenge coin for this year's Field Day.

A few hours later, our section manager Jim Mezey W2FV came by for a visit. We also welcomed Town of Babylon park rangers and the Deputy Public Safety Commissioner who received a full tour of the site from Bill WB2QGZ and myself. We also had the Hudson director Ed N2XDD with assistant director Nicole AC2IM stop by.

One of the evening's biggest surprises came around 6:30 p.m., when I heard someone call my name in a voice many of us had not heard in years. It was Iris KB2YEL and her dad, N2UM. Iris had flown in from Michigan on Friday night to join us for Field Day.

Once Iris arrived and started making QSOs, the QSO rate jumped quickly, and Dan W2DIY started to sweat as she began catching up to his contact total. Iris made contacts at an impressive pace and kept going until about 7 a.m. After a short break she was back on the radio. In case you did know Iris's father is a seasoned contester and taught Iris how to contest when she was young.

The overnight crew did an outstanding job. By the time Dan W2DIY returned, Iris had passed him by about one hundred contacts. All stations were in use, and once I gave Dan the 20-meter station, he was off to the races. Congratulations to Dan for making the most contacts during Field Day. He made the last contacts using my radio sport headset to drown out the noise behind him. With all the excitement when he found out he passed the top score, he became even more competitive and added to his QSO count. At 1:59:59, he got the last contact. Alongside him was Walter KA2S getting his last FT8 contact to beat Jeff's KC2ZQO QSO count.

The satellite station worked every pass and averaged about six contacts per pass. With the ISS in repeater mode, it was great to work so many stations, even on low passes. The satellite antenna performed like a champion. Some operators noticed desensing on the

downlink, which also happened last year. Once we lowered the output to 50 watts, the issue improved. Around 10:30 p.m., Pres W2PW arrived with his famous Bananas Foster—a perfect way to end a full day. Pres makes a terrific Bananas Foster, and if you missed it, you will have to wait until next Field Day.

The generator powered the operators' air conditioning, and by morning the batteries had dropped to 33%. I switched on the breaker for a while to recharge them. For nineteen hours, all three stations were running full-duty-cycle modes. Three radios drawing 20--23 amps (each which is 69 amps on our battery system of 800 amp hours) gave the batteries an incredibly good workout.

Sunday morning was pleasant and Joe KE2CDK's parents came by with bagels for us all which as a genuinely pleasant surprise and much needed.

Dan W2DIY finally got a radio and hunkered down and edged Iris off the top spot.

Here are the operator stats at the end.

W2DIY 266, KB2YEL 244, KD2UQK 95, W2HCB 55, AB2ZI 50, KD2X 49, KE2IEG 48, KA2S 43, KC2ZQO 40, KB2IQN 39, NU2M 29, KE2IEH 28, W2UV 26, KE2HRO 25, KE2CDK 14, W2YW 11, WB2GSE 11, KD2UZT 7, NA2MM 6, KE2HTA 2, WB2QGZ 1. TOTAL QSO COUNT WAS 1089.

The GOTA operator stats at the end KE2HRO 30, KE2CDK 27, KE2IEG 27, KE2IEH 26, KY0TO 8, KE2HTA 4. GOTA station count was 122.

Everyone did an excellent job sticking with it despite challenging conditions. We also learned an important improvement for the Buddi Hex: all wires should be installed to achieve the best performance. Scott W2KFG, Walter KA2S, and I will begin teaching more members the proper process of setting it up and taking it down.

After speaking with Jeff KC2ZQO, we are considering a beach day to work the satellites. Look for an announcement soon. We could also set up a Beach POTA station at a state beach, using one radio for HF and the same satellite station we used for Field Day. We are also considering bringing the satellite station to set up at the Fire Island Lighthouse for International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend. We are hoping to have a lot of our members join us for this great operating event.

The takedown crew was ready as soon as we ended on the air operations Dan W2DIY and I saved all the log stats and ADIF and Cabrillo files to send in when I submit our entry to the ARRL.

Thank you to Leon KD2ONC for taking so many photos, including the group picture after takedown. Kevin AB2ZI drew the 50/50 winner — congratulations to George W2GAM, who won and generously donated half of his winnings back to the club. After takedown, a few of us returned to the club room to eat, clean up the food trays and tables, and take out the garbage. Thank you to everyone who helped. All told, the takedown took about 1.75 hours, including parking the trailer back in the DPW yard.

To all our members and visitors of our field day site thank you for stopping by to say hi offer help and just join us for the fellowship of field day weekend.

The Board has decided there will be no open house on July 4. Have a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July weekend and have fun getting on the air and chasing those special event stations.

We have a board meeting on July 9. Members only please.

As I wrap up this message, I have to say this was one of the best Field Days we have had in a long time. When we work together as a team, everything gets done quickly. It was wonderful to relax and enjoy everyone's camaraderie. We had a fun time with all of you on Field Day and cannot wait for our next big operating event, the Fire Island Lighthouse, on August 15 (if it rains, August 16th will be the day). More details will be in the August Compass. Happy DXing to you all. Chase those DXpeditions, the special event stations or if you are chasing satellites, we hope you get great passes.

Enjoy the Fourth of July and we will see each other at our next open house on July 11. Please remember we have a VE session on July 25. And thank you to Kevin AB2ZI for all his hard work putting together our great monthly publication for all of us to enjoy.

Stay radioactive and have a ton of fun.

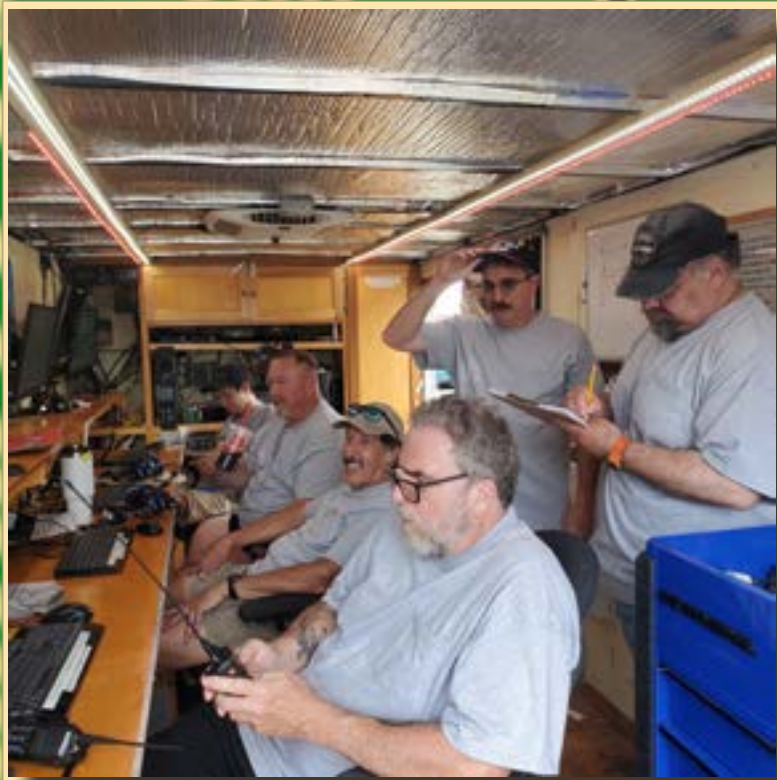
— *John Melfi, W27CB* ©



FIELD DAY 2026







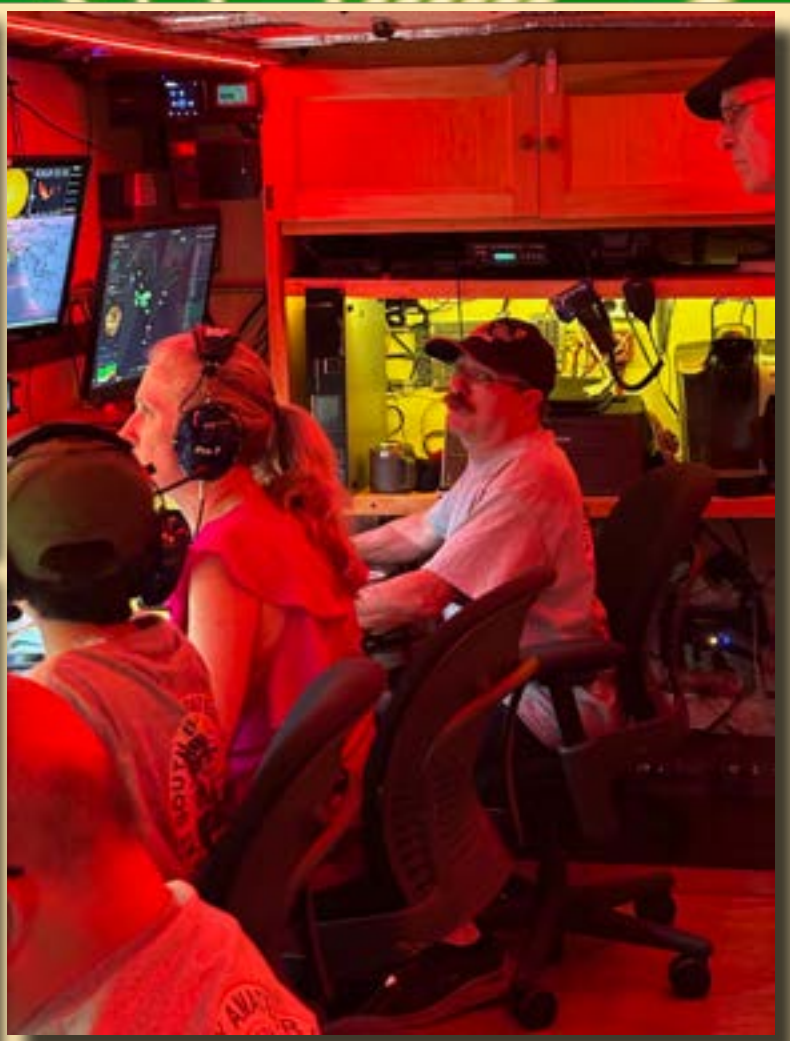












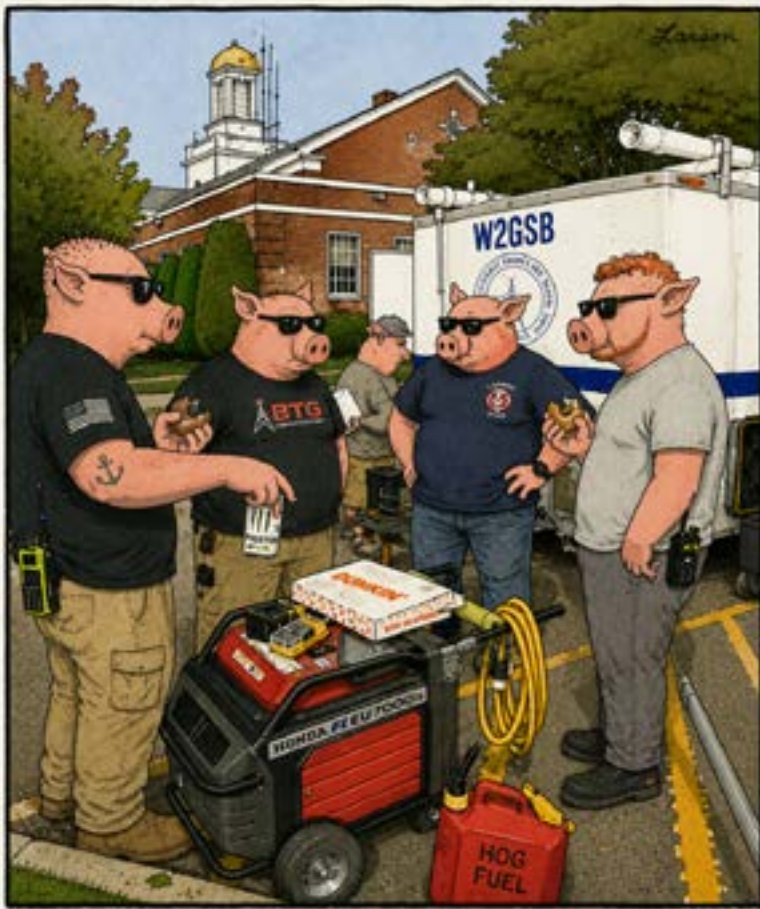








TOONING UP



Hams on Field Day 2026



"Babylon Town Supervisor, Rich Schaffer, visits GSBARC

GB Trudeau



The ISS on a particularly low pass

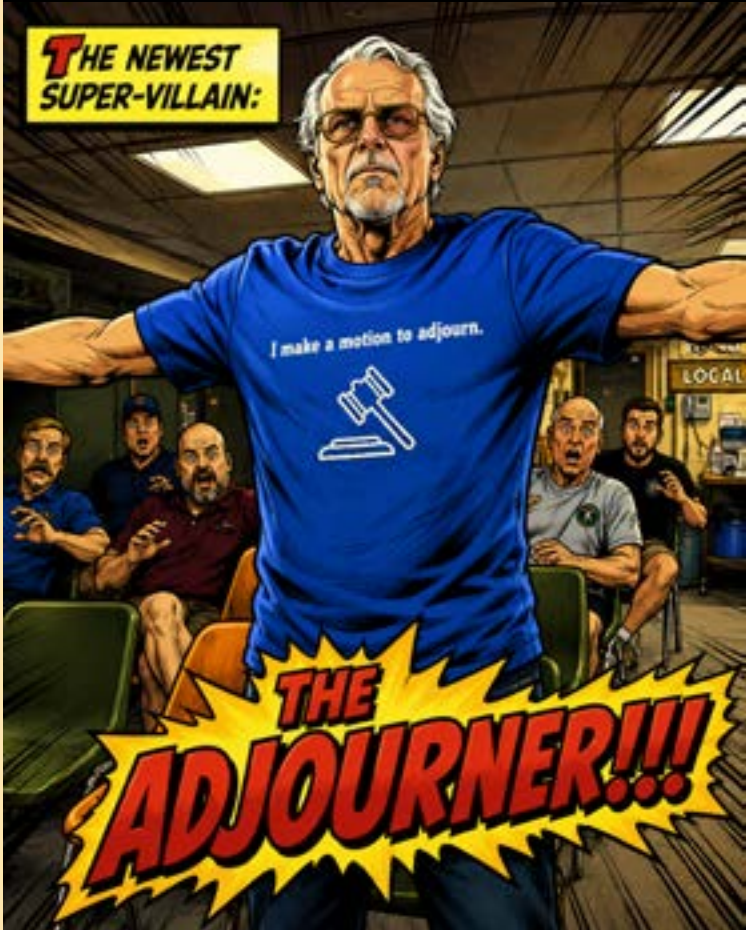


IN GOTHAM CITY, HEROES FIGHT CRIME IN THE SHADOWS. BUT TONIGHT, ANOTHER KIND OF HERO KEEPS THE LIGHTS ON AND THE COFFEE HOT...

NOT ALL HEROES WEAR CAPES. SOME JUST WORK FIELD DAY.



TOONING UP



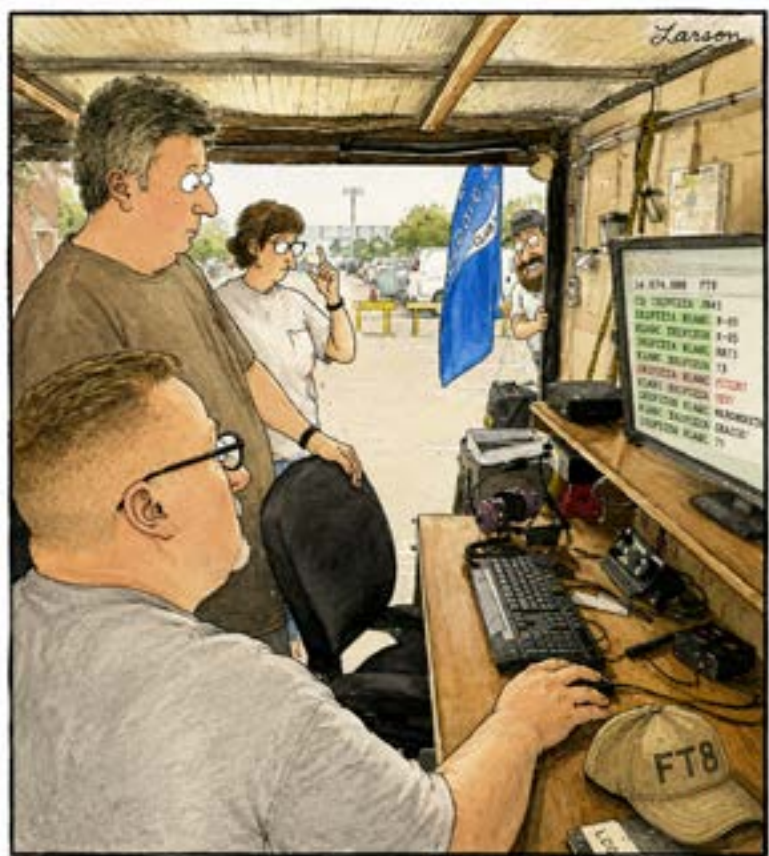
TOONING UP

IRIS RETURNS TO BOOST SCORES WITH THE POWER OF A FEMALE VOICE

CALL	BAND	MODE	SCORE
WZXYZ	20M	SSB	210
KTABC	15M	CW	270
N7QRS	40M	FT8	225
VEJKLM	20M	SSB	204
NDAAA	15M	CW	150
WSPQR	20M	FT8	240
K9DEF	40M	CW	210



Hey guys, look what I found on top of a tri-pod over in the field...



Jeff and Steve use FT8 to order a pizza from Italy.



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).

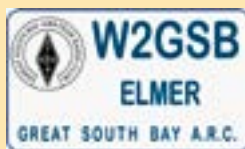
2026 VE Sessions

- ~~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

July:

ARU HF World Championship
July 11th -12th

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... ☺