NEWSLETTER

November Events

The Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club hosts the Hope for The Warriors Run on November 9th this year. ***Volunteers*** are always needed for this special event. Think you can help out? Click: http://www.gsbarc.org/2014-HFW-Invite.pdf

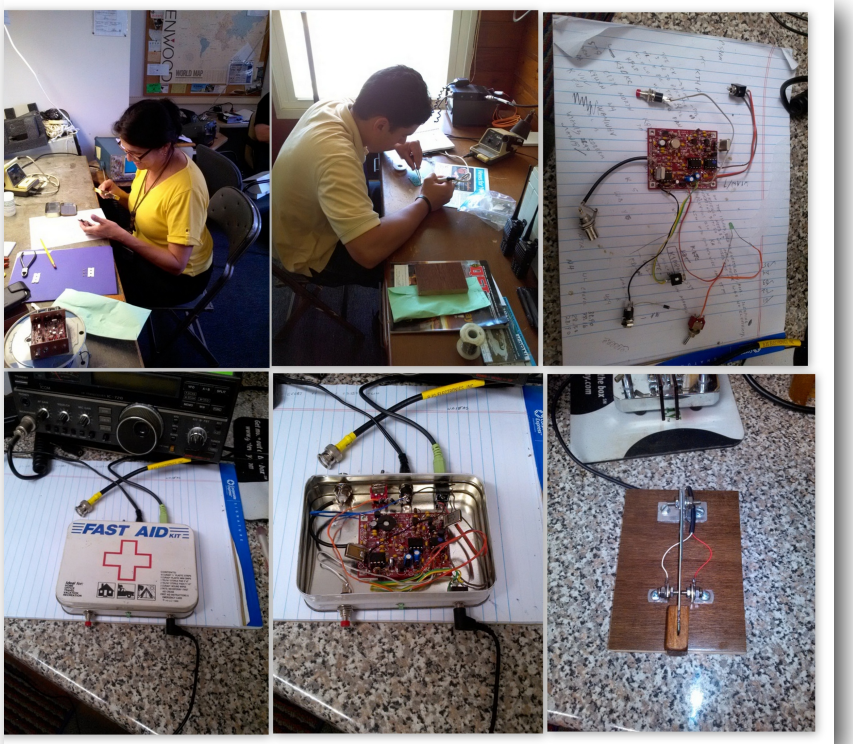
Next Club Meeting

The next club meeting is scheduled for ***November 18th*** at the Ham Shack.

Club Officers

- President: KF2P Nick
- VP: KA2DRR Rich
- Secretary: KE2GS Gary
- Treasurer: N2RRQ Rich Conte

Rockmite QRP Project



Photos By Nick KF2P

Ivy and Cris melting solder in the shack on their kits.
My 2014 Rock Mite connector-ized and ready for testing.
My 2014 Rock Mite in its metal home – working after some fits and starts.
My 2014 Rock Mite's innards.
The single lever paddle kit I put together for the group – I love mine.

The original Rock Mite from 2002 working fine after BNLARC trouble shooting.

After graduating 22 new Hams to the hobby, what would we do next to keep their interest perked and help them grow in skill, etc. First, we started a Friday noontime Newbie net. This got people taking their textbook knowledge and putting it on the air. With the Baofeng inexpensive Handy Talkie radios, we inspired several new Hams to get on the air and chat once per week about anything they wanted.

Next, we offered a CW class in case anyone might be interested in learning The Code and getting on the air with their limited HF privileges. Ten meters happened to be open at noontime, and a few newbies made contacts with DX stations from the BNL shack. But what next...

Gary – KE2GS – suggested we all buy an inexpensive QRP kit to build, build it, and get on the air to practice CW and get familiar with building a radio from scratch, soldering, and testing. Several members bought the 40 Meter Rock Mite kits from QRPme.com at $40 each. Knowing they would all need an input device, I designed and kitted a single lever paddle they could build and use with their new QRP radios. The project was a success.

The Rock Mite was a 2002 design introduced to the QRP world on the email reflector qrp-l that I am a member of. I built the original Rock Mite in 2002, but never finished or tested the project. So I dug mine out of the attic moth balls and realized it didn't work. First order of business was to get my original kit working, then we would be ready to trouble shoot the newbie kit builders with theirs.

So far, several in the group, building the new Rock Mite, have a working radio. Most recently, two members, Cris and Ivy (see in-progress building photos), finished theirs and successfully tested them at the BNL shack on the same day. So, what's next? Well they need an antenna at their home QTH so they can get on the air with something they built themselves and practice. I guess we'll have a 40 meter antenna building project coming soon.

It is so great to see new Hams get into the hobby and feel the excitement of building their own radio station. They are such a wonderful group. I look forward to working them on the air with their new rigs and antennas. While there are so many aspects of Amateur Radio to get involved with, I always marvel at the primitive roots of our hobby - - - a simple transceiver using CW and a wire antenna that can make contacts with other stations around the world. It's like magic!

72/73, Nick – KF2P dit dit

2015 New York City / Long Island Section Convention

ARRL The national association for AMATEUR RADIO

Welcome to Ham Radio University 2015

Doors Open 7:30
1st Forum 9 AM

Our Sixteenth Annual Event- January 4, 2015

Spreading Ham Radio Knowledge and Know-How

Suggested Donation $3

"A Day of education to share ideas, experiences, knowledge and fellowship among Amateur Radio Operators"

Celebrating 100 Years of Amateur Radio

HRU 2015 Highlights

* **Keynote Speaker: To be announced**
* **28 Forums with new forums including Antique Radios, LINUX and Ham Radio, Emergency Power & more!**
* **New York / Long Island Section Convention**
* **Workshops - Cables/Connectors & PSK-31**
* **Special Event Station W2HRU & demos**
* **Volunteer Exam Session starts at 1:30 pm**
* **Amateur Radio Club & Organization Tables**
* **Door Prizes. Food and Refreshments available**
* **Talk-in on 146.850 Mhz (136.5 PL)**

Ham Radio University 2015 held at:
Briarcliffe College
1055 Stewart Ave
Bethpage, NY 11714

HRU 2015 is sponsored by the local Amateur Radio Clubs in conjunction with the ARRL NY City / Long Island Section.

Special thanks and appreciation is extended to Briarcliffe College. The HRU Committee also thanks each of the forum moderators for sharing their knowledge and expertise, and the clubs and organizations who worked hard to make the event a success.

Participating Amateur Radio Organizations

American Radio Relay League (ARRL) / AMSAT
Civil Air Patrol / Central Jersey D-Star Group
Grumman Amateur Radio Club
Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club
Larkfield Amateur Radio Club
Long Island QRP Club
MetroCor Repeater Coordinators
Nassau County ARES / Nassau County CERT
Nassau County Police Amateur Radio Club
Peconic Amateur Radio Club
Radio Central Amateur Radio Club
Suffolk County Radio Club
U.S. Coast Guard Axuiliary
CQ Communications / LI AR Simplex Club
American Red Cross Emerg. CommsSvc.
Friends of Long Island Wireless History
Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club
Kings County Radio Club
Kings County Repeater Association
Long Island DX Association
Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club
Nassau Amateur Radio Club
New York City ARES
Quarter Century Wireless Association
SATERN
Tri-State SKYWARN Group
Wantagh Amateur Radio Club
Briarcliffe College Amateur Radio Club

HRU 2015 Committee

Tom Carrubba KA2D, Chmn.

KB2BSL,K2DO,KA2EJD,N2YBB N2GA,K2KNB,W2HCB,WA2KXE, N2MUN,N2STU,N2TKA,KC2KY, WB2ZEX.

ARRL Section Manager NYC/LI
Jim Mezey W2KFV

Visit the Ham Radio University Webpage at http://www.HamRadioUniversity.org

*Can you believe that these guys were actually running a **DXpedition**?*
That's right! It's from a place called Scarborough Reef and control of the territory (if you want to call it that) has been in dispute between governments.

A Bit About HF Propagation

Get Current East Coast Propagation Charts From The ARRL http://www.arrl.org/propagation

For the East Coast and Mid-West, Long Path propagation (LPP) during the late Winter and Early Spring often occurs during the first hour after sunrise.

Since the Earth is close to the Sun, the ionosphere rapidly ionizes.

Early morning LPP during this time period usually favors 20 and 15M, and LPP openings to all of Africa and the Indian Ocean are likely to occur.

Also during the Late Winter and Early Spring LPP openings to VK/ZL and the S. Pacific are likely to occur during the last two hours of the afternoon just prior to sunset.

For the East Coast and Mid-West LPP openings in the Late Summer and Early Fall usually favor the lower bands such as 30 and 40M.

During the first hour prior to sunset and the first hour after sunset, good LPP openings to the Far East and S.E. Asia are possible.

These LPP openings on the lower bands are most likely to occur when the Solar Flux Index is < 150.

A Bit About DXing and DX Clusters

Like any other subject, there are many websites where you can get great information about propagation forecasting and details about DXpeditions. A favorite DX info site of mine is dxcoffee.com.

Another well known approach for chasing DX approach is to *hang your hat* on a DX Cluster.

Originally, DX call lists were the only way to be informed of a DX Spot. When I first got started chasing DX, getting wind of a Spot was done by strictly by telephone.

As a member of Radio Central Amateur Radio Club back in those days, you'd get yourself added to the DX Spot call up list. Then, if you or one of your "list" buddies worked a DX station, they'd call you in the middle of the night so you could work 'em. Needless to say, that wasn't too popular with the XYL or family!

From there the DX Cluster evolved into rather primitive software running on a server in the ether only available by remote telnet session. Telnet DX Clusters still exist to day but have largely been replaced by DX Clusters on the Web.

My favorite DX Cluster is QRZCQ.COM Registration is free and the site has a lot of of other nice features.

Twitter: another tool in the ham radio toolbox

Just Passing Along A Monthly Newsletter I Get From Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

It all starts innocently enough. You get a computer to do your logging, and before you know it, you're working digital modes. Then, you snake an Ethernet cable down to the shack or connect to your wireless router. Pretty soon, you can't do without having a browser window open to one of the DX clusters or ReverseBeacon.Net or QRZ.Com or all three simultaneously.

Well, now's there another Internet service that I can't do without down in the shack: Twitter! I get on Twitter all the time now when I'm in the shack, and I love it. It's truly enhanced my amateur radio experience.

One of the ways it's done this is by bringing me all kinds of interesting technical information. I not only follow @hackaday and @DIYEngineering, and @EDN.Com, but a bunch of hams who are doing fun things. I

hate to list some, for fear of leaving some out, but I will give a shout out to @NT7S, @AA7EE, @mightyohm, @caulktel, @LA3ZA. There's even @HiramPMaxim (the P stands for "parody"). If you go to my blog at KB6NU.Com and search for "From my Twitter feed," you'll find links to some of the most interesting Tweets that have found their way to me.

I'm also following a couple of amateur radio retailers. Today, for example, @DXEngineering is offering $55 off the RigExpert AA-54 Antenna Analyzer.

I also use it to get information about weather conditions and band conditions. For example, I follow @edvielmetti, who is KD8OQG. He's always tweeting about local severe weather. A Tweet from him gets me to turn on my 2m radio to monitor the local SkyWarn net.

As far as band conditions go, I throw out a Tweet, asking about band conditions, and in seconds, I'll get reports from my followers here in the U.S. and around the world. I try to do my part as well. When I fire up the rig, I'll Tweet out a report of how the bands seem to me.

While all of this is great, it's really all about the people. I currently have more 2,200 followers and I follow more than 900. I would never have met some of these hams if it wasn't for Twitter, and I have since worked several of them on the air after first meeting them on Twitter. Last May, we had a "Tweetup" at the Dayton Hamvention. There were at least 20 of us there. How cool is that?

Twitter isn't for everyone, but I'd encourage you to give it a try. I'm having a lot of fun on Twitter, and I think you will, too. If you do set up a Twitter account, please follow me, @kb6nu. If you mention that you read this column, I'll be sure to follow you back.

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When not Tweeting about his latest amateur radio exploits, you'll find KB6NU working 30m CW or teaching ham radio classes. If Twitter isn't your thing, you can still follow him by reading his blog at www.kb6nu.com.

Pssst = Looking for Ham Radio Equipment? Visit ehamstore.com/hamradio.html