



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area
April 2016 - VOLUME 28, NUMBER 4
www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President – Joe Harris, N1QD



The calendar is telling me that Spring has arrived! The snow that I shoveled the other day is telling me otherwise. Still, April is here and that means that the public service event season has begun again. Brett AB1RL has been organizing several events this year, including the Boston Marathon. The full list is in this issue. Also, please see an important notice regarding the use of BARC repeaters during the marathon.

I want to take some time to again recognize all those that donated to the club's repeater fund, as well as for the DMR repeater. The repeater fund is all we have to draw on for repairs and upgrades to the club's repeaters. Brett Smith AB1RL, Blake Haskell K1BTH, Robert DiLibero K1OP, Bob Phinney K5TEC, Mark Duff KB1EKN and Geri Duff KB1ISG, Nathaniel Vishner KB1QHx, J. P. Tuttle KB1TIC, David Jones KB1ZOE, Greg Bennett KC1CIC, Edward Curley KC1CLA, Ted Kouranov KC1EDS, Morris Beverly KC1EKJ, Steve Jamison KC1SJ, Jim Walsh N1DDU, Jim Clogher N1ICN, Ralph Devlin N1LAH, Paul Katz N1LRT, Joe Harris N1QD, Stephen Hersey N1XNX, Gary Toth N2CRT, Erik Beck N7FYO, Joseph Chapman NV1W, Mike Simonds NZ5H, James Hackett W1FBV, Charles Counselman W1HIS, Robert Freed W1RJF, Stephen Jeffries W1SBJ, Howard Mintz WA1CFX, and Bill Moynihan WA1ZKH. (Apologies to Greg KC1CIC for leaving him off the list of DMR donors last month.)

Finally, it's time to start thinking about Field Day! June will be here before you know it, and the club will return to the great outdoors! What did you enjoy most about last year's effort? What could be improved this year? Let us know what your thoughts are! Is there a new exotic mode that you want to demonstrate? Just want to show off how your code speed has improved over the past year? Let's hear all about it on the Yahoo group. What, you aren't signed up for the group? See the link in this issue and join the discussion!

Joe Harris, N1QD

In this Issue of *The SPARC*

- BARC Breakfast
- Public Service Events
- Repeater update
- The New England QSO Party
- Call for speakers for Boxboro 2016!
- 2016 meeting and VE session dates



BARC General Meeting Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 7:30pm

The April General Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the Clay Center Observatory in Brookline. The April meeting will feature a presentation on Digital Mobile radio (DMR); see below for details.

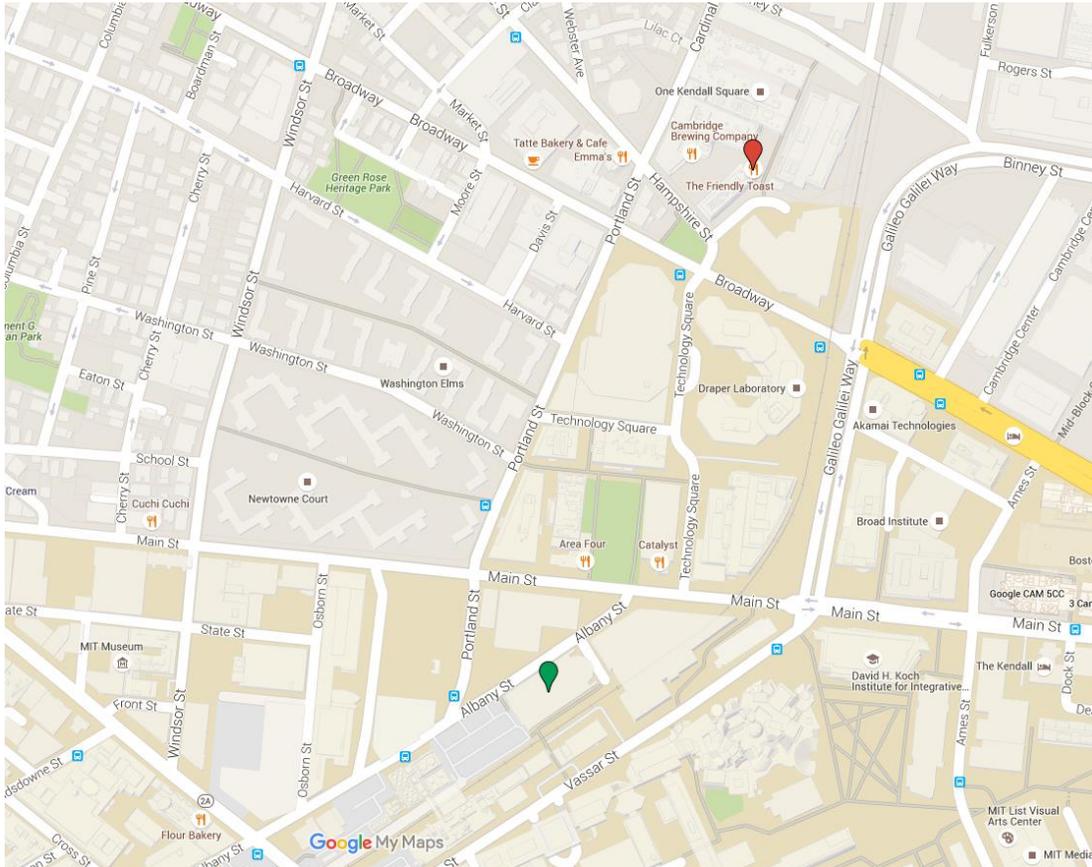
Repeaters: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

BARC Breakfast – Joe Harris, N1QD

The BARC Breakfast returns this spring! Starting on April 17th, the club will hold their monthly breakfast on the third Sunday of the month, coinciding with the MIT Flea Market. We will descend upon The Friendly Toast, located at 1 Kendall Square in Cambridge at 8 a.m. sharp. 1 Kendall Square is a group of buildings bordered by Hampshire St., Binney St., and Cardinal Medeiros Ave. The restaurant is a short walk from the flea site, and there is plenty of on-street parking. See the area map for details.



Red pin is the Friendly Toast. Green Pin is the Albany Street Garage, home of the MIT Flea Market.

BARC’s Online Discussion Group – Joe Harris, N1QD

BARC has an online forum at Yahoo groups. The Yahoo group serves as a sounding board for members to post their suggestions and comments, and is intended to foster discussion. The group can also be used to share photographs from club events! Come visit us at: <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/bostonARC/info>.

Minutes from the March General Meeting – Recorded by Joe Harris, N1QD

The March General Meeting was held at Eastern Bank in Jamaica Plain on Thursday, March 17. Attendance: Joe Harris N1QD (President), Mark Duff KB1EKN (Vice President), Jim Clogher N1ICN (Treasurer), Linda Blair NA1I, Geri Duff KB1ISG, JP Tuttle KB1TIC, Nathaniel Vishner KB1QHX, and Jim Stallions KA1YHJ. Here are the minutes for the business portion of the meeting:

Field Day: Geri KB1ISG will order 20 pins to be distributed at Field Day.

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC

DMR Repeater: Jim N1ICN reported that there was some interest in possibly running a monthly net on the club's DMR repeater. There was discussion regarding whether to have the net in place of a weekly Monday night net, or whether to hold it on a different night during the week. Joe N1QD agreed to reach out to club net NCS Joe W1JJF for his input.

A motion was passed authorizing Joe N1QD to spend up to \$300 on a DMR radio to be used for club events. The funds will be drawn from the club checking account.

Club Assets: Discussion about setting up the DMR radio in a go-kit configuration led to a discussion about the status of club's deep-cycle battery. The battery is in the possession of Hank K1QK, and has been maintained. NA1I mentioned that it should be checked for sulfation. She offered the use of her charger with an anti-sulfation cycle.

Club Events and Meetings: Hank K1QK expressed interest in BARC holding one or more Saturday meetings during the day. A discussion was held with suggestions made regarding possible locations, as well as topics. Nathaniel KB1QHX suggested that the club host a meeting about foxhunting followed by a local foxhunt.

Mark KB1EKN met briefly with the Scituate Lighthouse keeper. There was interest expressed in hosting BARC for a Lighthouses On The Air event. The 2016 event runs from August 20–21. This could also be a weekend club event to be held over the summer.

2016 New England QSO Party – Tom Frenaye, K1KI

This year's New England QSO Party will take place on May 7th and 8th.

The NEQP is a great time to check out antenna systems and offers a moderately paced opportunity to work new states and countries. You'll find a wide variety of participants, from newcomers to experienced contesters, all interested in making contacts with New England stations.

We're working to make sure that all New England counties are active again this year and would appreciate your help. Get on for at least an hour or two and join in on the fun. Please let me know if you can put in any time at all so we can work on activity from the rarest counties. **Will you be QRV? Let us know which county you'll be on from with a message to info@neqp.org.**

Oh yes, the NEQP is also **lots** of fun when mobile. Every time you cross a county line the action starts over again. It's amazing what a 100w radio and mobile whip can do.

The QSO Party is 20 hours long overall, in two sections with a civilized break for sleep Saturday night. It goes from 4pm Saturday until 1am Sunday, then 9am Sunday until 8pm Sunday. Operate on CW, SSB, and digital modes on 80-40-20-15-10 meters. For each QSO you'll give your callsign, a signal report, and your county/state.

Last year we had logs from 139 New England stations and 275 more from around the country and world.

The full rules are here: <http://www.neqp.org/rules.html>.

The 2015 results have been on-line for a week or so and the results since 2002 are also mobile: <http://www.neqp.org/results.html>.

It's just a month until the 2016 NEQP. Please make some QSOs even if you don't want to send in a log.

(BARC note: Joe, NV1W, will be QRV on 40-20-15 meters, mostly QRP CW, from Suffolk County, MA. Maybe he'll make more than the lousy number of Qs he made last year! Send a note to nv1w@arrl.net if you're planning to participate so club members can keep an eye out for each other.)

Doodad Review: Adafruit BNC Terminal Blocks – Joe Chapman, NV1W



Well, I had everything for the PICAXE Timer project in the April issue of *QST* sitting in the parts box except a breadboard-friendly 2.1mm power jack, so I headed over to the Adafruit website (<http://www.adafruit.com>) to order some.

Lo and behold, I stumbled across a useful pair of BNC to terminal block adapters, available in male and female versions for \$0.95 apiece. (Or as Jordin Kare, an old friend from my W1MX days who was infamous around school for not using acroymns, would call them, “Bayonet Neill-Concelman connectors.”) Needless to say, if you even think the phrase “impedance matching” you have an application for which you might want to steer clear of these, but for throwing together a quick hack they’re convenient and easy to use, and unlike the AspectSolar Energy Bar 250 I reviewed last month you won’t have to take out a second mortgage to buy them.

BNC Female Jack Terminal Block, Product ID 2889, and BNC Male Plug Terminal Block, Product ID 2888. Adafruit Industries, <http://www.adafruit.com>. \$0.95 each.

April General Meeting – Joe Harris, N1QD

The Boston Amateur Radio Club visits the Clay Center Observatory for the April general meeting. Joe Harris, N1QD, will give a presentation on the ins and outs of DMR. He will also explain and demonstrate the capabilities of the club’s new UHF DMR repeater. If time permits, there will be a brief programming tutorial.

The meeting will be held at 7:30pm on April 21, 2016. The Clay Center is located at 20 Newton St, Brookline. Directions are available at <http://www.clayobservatory.org/about/directions>.

Upcoming Public Service Events – Brett Smith, AB1RL

April is always the big kick-off month for BARC’s public service season. There’s one remaining event you can help with this month, the Run of the Charles on Sunday, April 24.

Our first public service event in May is our second fundraising walk for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The MS Journey of Hope Walk takes place on Saturday, May 7, in Natick, MA. Volunteers will check in at 8:00 a.m. and stay until the early afternoon. Rick Savage, KB1LYJ, is organizing the hams for this event.

If you’re interested in helping at these or any of the club’s public service events, or have any questions, please contact me at ab1rl@arrl.net.

New Members! – Joe Chapman, NV1W

Welcome back, Jim Stallions, KA1YHJ, of Milton. Jim has rejoined the club after several years’ absence.

As of the end of the 2016 renewal grace period, April 1st, the club has 70 members.

Repeater Update – Joe Harris, N1QD

Both the 145.230 and 449.175 repeaters will be in use for Boston Marathon communications all day on Monday April 18. The DMR repeater will also be disconnected from the DMR-MARC network for the duration of the event. Please, refrain from using either repeater during the Marathon.

Call for Volunteer Examiners – *The BARC VE Team*

BARC could use some more Volunteer Examiners (VEs) for our exam sessions. Recently we had to scramble to get the required three VEs for an exam session. If any unforeseen situation arises and a VE is not able to make a session we would be forced to cancel the test.

There are some BARC members who are qualified VEs that have not been participating in the testing. We urge these VEs to become active. If you can spare one night every couple of months please come to a session.

We can also surely use additional VEs. The test procedure for qualification is simple. Materials are available from the ARRL and the examination is an open book test. Hams with General and Amateur Extra class licenses are eligible to become VEs, though only Extras can administer tests for General and Amateur Extra licenses. If you would like to become a VE and help with testing please contact Linda, NA1I or Jim, N1ICN.

Nominations for Officers, 2016–2017 – *Joe Chapman, NV1W*

Officers for 2016–2017 will be elected at the club’s General Meeting in June. Hank Buccigross, K1QK, has graciously agreed to chair the Nominating Committee again this year, and to propose a slate of nominees for club offices (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary) at the May General Meeting. Additional nominations will be accepted up until the election, and competition is welcome and encouraged! If you are interested in serving as an officer of the club, contact either Hank or President Joe Harris, N1QD.

Call for Speakers at Boxboro, September 9–11, 2016 – *Phil Temples, K9HI*

Don’t just attend Boxboro 2016—BE A PART OF IT! The Boxboro Committee seeks fresh and exciting presentations for this year’s ARRL New England Division Convention. (Note the new date!) As a Boxboro speaker, you will have the opportunity to share your subject and knowledge with Amateur Radio operators from around New England, surrounding states, and Canada.

Last year’s program included top-notch presentations of both a technical, as well as non-technical nature. This year, we will feature workshops on Friday, a Saturday morning keynote address, and an enhanced Sunday program schedule. It’s our hope that Convention attendees will attend the many activities spanning the three-day event.

If you represent a regional club or organization (e.g. YCCC, NEQRP, WRONE, MARS, etc.) we can help facilitate open forums or closed meetings by providing you a meeting space.

Groups who wish to set up information booths should get your requests in early. While the information booths are offered without charge, we ask for some volunteer time in return to assist us with ticket sales and other logistics during the convention.

To register as a presenter, please visit <https://goo.gl/Nrwu1g> and complete the online form. For the latest information on Boxboro 2016! please visit <http://www.boxboro.org>, or email or call us if you have additional questions. We look forward to meeting all of you at the convention!

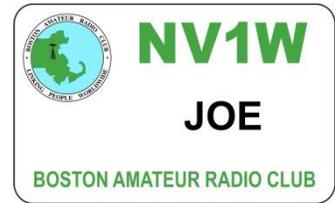
73,

Phil Temples, K9HI
Program Committee Chair,
ARRL New England Division Convention
k9hi@boxboro.org
Tel: 617-331-0183

BARC Badges! -- Joe Chapman, NV1W

Rick, NV5A, the Sign Man of Baton Rouge, is now offering BARC badges. They're full-color plastic badges with our logo and your call sign and first name, at a basic price of \$11.50 for a badge with a safety pin fastener. Rick was a great help in designing a badge for us, and he does good work and ships promptly.

See our listing on the Sign Man's web site: <http://www.thesignman.com/clubs/boston.html> for details and fastener options.



BARC Meeting Calendar for 2015 and 2016

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place at the Brookline Police Headquarters. A map for the new Eastern Bank substitute meeting location can be found below.

General Meetings

April 21	2016	Thu	7:30 pm (at Clay Center, Brookline) — DMR, Joe Harris, N1QD
May 19	2016	Thu	7:30 pm — Public Service, Brett Smith, AB1RL
June 16	2016	Thu	7:30 pm — Elections
September 15	2016	Thu	7:30 pm
October 20	2016	Thu	7:30 pm
November 17	2016	Thu	7:30 pm

VE Sessions

July 11	2016	Mon	7:30 pm
October 10	2016	Mon	7:30 pm

Business Meetings

June 2	2016	Thu	7:30 pm
September 1	2016	Thu	7:30 pm
December 1	2016	Thu	7:30 pm

BARC Net Preamble

The control operator for the BARC Net is Joe, W1JJF. He rarely misses a net, but when he does any ham can take up the position and run the net. To assist you in opening and closing the net The BARC Net Preamble is printed below. Do not be afraid to step up and take the challenge.

Is there any further business for the repeater before we begin the Boston Amateur Radio Club Net? This is «YOUR CALL». Calling the Boston Amateur Radio Club Net. This is «YOUR CALL», my name is «YOUR NAME» and I am located in «YOUR TOWN». This net meets each Monday evening at 9 pm Eastern Time on the 145.230 Boston repeater, PL 88.5. This net is an informal round table discussion concerning matters of interest to the members of the Boston Amateur Radio Club and the Boston Amateur Radio community in general. When checking into the net, please say, "this is" and drop your carrier to check on doubling. Then give your call sign, name and location. All amateurs are welcome to join the net. Any check-in's for the Boston Amateur Radio Club Net please call now.

[Compile the list of the check-in's and proceed with the net.]

Is there any further business for the net before I close? Hearing nothing, this is «YOUR CALL» closing tonight's session of the Boston Amateur Radio Club Net. I would like to thank everyone who participated in the net and those who stood by while I ran the net. The Boston Amateur Radio Club Net will return next Monday evening at 9 pm Eastern Time. This is «YOUR CALL» returning the repeater to general amateur use. 73.

I See the Future

- 17 Apr** **BARC Breakfast, The Friendly Toast, Cambridge, 8:00 a.m.**
- 17 Apr ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB
- 17 Apr Flea at MIT, Cambridge
- 18 Apr Boston Marathon (Rp)
- 21 Apr** **▲ BARC General Meeting**, Clay Center, Brookline
- 23 Apr SKYWARN Training, Needham
- 24 Apr Run of the Charles (Rp)
- 29–30 Apr NEAR-Fest, Deerfield, NH
- 7–8 May New England QSO Party
- 15 May Flea at MIT, Cambridge
- 19 May** **BARC General Meeting**, Brookline Police Headquarters, Brookline

▲ Note change from usual date and/or location
(Rp) = BARC Repeater likely to be used

As you might expect, there are many more events (public service, hamfests, flea markets, etc.) taking place—some only peripheral to ham radio. For information on these, covering much of the Northeast, the “Ham - Electronic Flea Market” and the “PSLIST” lists tell the story. Of course, if you know of an event that would be of interest to the readers, please let the Editor know.

See Yourself in Print! (well, PDF) – Joe Chapman, NV1W

We are always looking for articles for the newsletter. I have reserved this space for your articles, reviews, tips, how-tos, hints, kinks, photos, schematics, or other ham related information. Photos of you operating or your shack are especially welcome, even if you aren’t Herman Munster. Send your submissions to the Editor, Joe, NV1W, at nv1w@arrl.net.

Articles for the May issue must be received by May 7.



The Clay Center Observatory
Welcomes BARC members

www.claycenter.org

Public Astronomy Nights, Astronomy Day Events,
 Amateur Radio Classes, Amateur Radio Youth Club,
 Community and Adult Education, Weather Festival,
 Science Lecture Series, Educational Outreach

20 Newton St., Brookline, near Larz Anderson Park



Businesses Can Advertise Here

The SPARC accepts commercial advertisements. BARC encourages monthly promotion of your products and services which would be of interest to hundreds of our members and others interested in the Amateur Radio Service.

The rates for display advertising are:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 col × 2 in. (business card) | \$15 per issue |
| 1 col × 2 in. (business card) | \$75 per 6 consecutive months |
| 1 col × 2 in. (business card) | \$125 per 12 consecutive months |
| 1 col × 4 in. (½ column) | \$30 per issue |
| 1 col × 9.5 in. (full column) | \$60 per issue |

Repeaters: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

443.550 (-) CTCSS 110.9 Hz

Originals of ads must be presented to the Editor in MS Word or .jpg format to print 1:1. Other composition will be at extra cost. We will be glad to quote other ad sizes and durations. Members are urged to seek prospective advertisers who are appropriate to our readers. For additional information, contact Joe Chapman, NV1W, at 617.267.6349 or nv1w@arrl.net; or Bob Salow, WA1IDA, at wa1ida@arrl.net or 508.650.9440.

Quarterly Business Meetings – Bob Salow, WA1IDA

As the Bylaws require, BARC has Business meetings quarterly. Unless circumstances warrant, BARC Business meetings will be held on the first Thursdays of December, March, June, and September. The next such meeting will be on **2 June 2016** at Brookline Police Headquarters. All members are urged to attend and participate in club affairs. This is where club functions are discussed and decided, and your help is needed to guide us.

A short opening period of each General meeting will continue to be used to bring any immediate business matters to everyone's attention.

To provide continuity of club business between meetings we also have a virtual business meeting via an email list. Any member interested in the affairs of the club can ask to be on this virtual meeting list—just give your name, call and your email address to President Joe Harris, N1QD.

BARC Volunteer Exam Sessions

The Boston Amateur Radio Club schedule has been revised to suit the needs and interests of the applicants and examiners. **The 2016 exam session schedule is shown elsewhere in this newsletter issue.** Generally, sessions are held at Brookline Police Headquarters, 350 Washington St in the Community Room (across from the information desk).

We give all exams (Technician, General, and Extra). *Testing is by reservation only.* Please bring the following with you:

- Your current license and a photocopy for the ARRL, if you are upgrading
- Any CSEs you are claiming, and a photocopy of them
- Valid ID (picture ID preferred)
- A pen and a calculator (if you want to)
- **\$15.00** (good for all the tests you take at that session, except for retests)

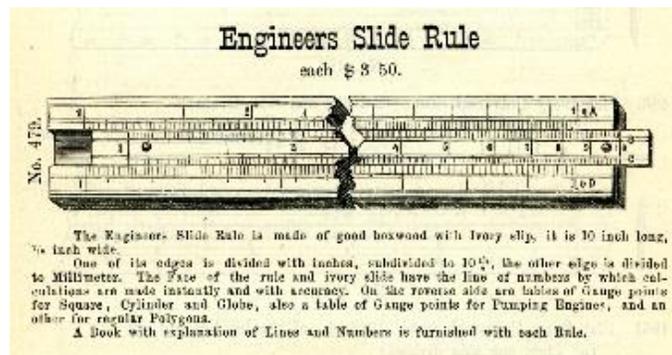
Note: Written tests can be taken sequentially at the same session for the same \$15 fee. The needed FCC forms will be provided.

To reserve a seat or for further information, contact:

Jim Clogher, N1ICN, n1icn@arrl.net, or Linda Blair, NA1I, na1i@arrl.net.

Your Personal Ad Could Have Been Here

Are you a depressed BARC member because you have a treasure you must turn to cash? Cheer up, Bunky! *The SPARC* will run your (non-business) ad for free. Of course, a 10% donation if you sell it will be cheerfully accepted. Just send your ad to the Editor, Joe Chapman, at nv1w@arrl.net.



BARC Officers and Staff

President: Joe Harris, N1QD
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617.267.6349; nv1w@arrl.net

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Newsletter Editor: Joe Chapman, NV1W
617.267.6349; nv1w@arrl.net

The Boston Amateur Radio Club is a non-commercial association of persons interested in the Amateur Radio Service. The Club is organized for the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communication and education, for the establishment of emergency communications in the event of disasters or other emergencies, for the advancement of the radio art and the public welfare, for the representation of the radio amateur in legislative and regulatory matters, and for the maintenance of collegiality and a high standard of conduct.

The Club is open to all persons interested in Amateur Radio without regard to race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, disability, or sexual preference. Our General and Business meeting locations are handicap accessible. Other meeting and activity locations may be handicap accessible by arrangement.

The Club is an ARRL-affiliated Special Service Club, and is a member of the Council of Eastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Clubs (CEMARC) and the New England Spectrum Management Council (NESMC). The Club is also an associate member of the Courage HandiHams system.

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Greater Boston Net Directory

Daily 7 pm	MARI (Mass/Rhode Island CW Net) (NTS)	3.565
Daily 8 pm	Eastern Mass 2M Traffic Net (NTS)	145.230 (PL 88.5)
Daily 8 pm	Slow Speed CW Net	28.160
First Mon 8:30 pm	EMA Section ARES Net	146.610 and all MMRA links
Mon 9 pm	BARC Club Net	145.230 (PL 88.5)
Mon Wed Fri 10 pm	Heavy Hitters Traffic Net (NTS)	MMRA-linked repeaters: 146.610, 146.670, 146.715, 146.820, and all 222 and 440 repeaters
Tue 8 pm	MMRA Club Net	146.610 and all MMRA links
Wed 8 pm	Wellesley Amateur Radio Society Net	147.030; 444.600 (PL 88.5)
Wed 9 pm	Waltham Wranglers Swap Net	146.640 (PL 136.5)
Sat 9 am	Northeast SATERN Net	7.265
Sun 9:30 am	Yankee SSB Net	50.275
Sun 8 pm	Algonquin Amateur Radio Club Net	446.675 (PL 88.5)
Sun 8:30 pm	NSRA Net (with Newsline)	145.470 (PL 136.5)
Sun 9 pm	CAARAnet	145.130 (PL 107.2)