



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area
April 2017 - VOLUME 29, NUMBER 4
www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President – Joe Harris, N1QD



We appear to have finally emerged from winter; the last snow pile has finally vanished from my driveway. Spring means that there are several ham radio-related events coming soon!

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS!

April is the traditional beginning of the BARC public service event season. Brett AB1RL has published a large list of events in the SPARC, and is always looking for more volunteers. Contact him at ab1rl@arrl.net for more information.

FLEAS!!

The MIT flea market begins its 2017 run on April 16 at the same location on Albany St, where it will run until October always being held on the third Sunday of the month. Details are available at <http://w1mx.mit.edu/flea-at-mit/>. In addition, FARA has their annual flea market the following Sunday, April 23 (<http://w1fy.org/flea.aspx>). Later this spring, NEAR-Fest will hold their spring session at the Deerfield fairground on May 5 & 6.

FIELD DAY!!!

My personal favorite operating event of the year, Field Day is only a little over two months away now! BARC will be operating from the Bare Cove Fire Museum (<http://www.barecovefiremuseum.org>) the fourth full weekend of June.

Of course, BARC still has their monthly meetings as well, and I hope to see you at one!

Joe Harris, N1QD

BARC General Meeting **Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 7:30 pm**

The next BARC General Meeting will be on Thursday, April 20, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. at the Clay Center Observatory in Brookline. Directions to this location can be found elsewhere in this issue. The topic is Radioteletype (RTTY), presented by Dennis Egan, W1UE.

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: <http://groups.yahoo.com/bostonARC>.

New England QSO Party, May 6–7, 2017 – Tom Frenaye, K1KI

The New England QSO Party (NEQP) will take place on May 6th and 7th.

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 of the 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. Top scorers can earn a plaque and everyone who makes 25 QSOs and sends in a log will get a certificate.

Last year we had logs from 179 New England stations and 300 more from around the country and world.

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

The 2016 results were posted over the weekend and the results since 2002 are also available: <http://www.neqp.org/results.html>.

It's just about a month until the 2017 NEQP. Please make some QSOs even if you don't want to send in a log.

April General Meeting, Thursday, April 20 – Joe Harris, N1QD

Please join BARC at the Clay Center Observatory in Brookline at 7:30PM on Thursday, April 20, for our monthly general Meeting. Our guest speaker will be Dennis Egan, W1UE, presenting about RTTY.

W1UE has been a licensed ham for 48 years. His major passion in amateur radio is contesting; he finished in 4th place for WRTC Qualification in the W1-W2-W3 area, is the current president of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club, and is the Chairman of the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee.

His talk includes a brief history of RTTY, how to tune in a RTTY signal, and how to create a RTTY signal. Many of the techniques involved in RTTY (the second oldest digital mode) are applicable to other digital modes.

Receiving Interference on 145.23? – Joe Harris, N1QD

In mid-2016, a DMR repeater went live from Mt. Uncanoonuc in Goffstown, New Hampshire on 145.22 MHz. The site is at over 1000ft elevation, and covers well into Massachusetts. Are any users of W1BOS 145.23 being impacted by this

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repeater? We have received complaints from people on the nightly NTS net, and I am soliciting the membership for feedback. Please send reports to Joe Harris, N1QD at n1qd@n1qd.org.

Participating in the New England QSO Party – Joe Chapman, NV1W

Several BARC members enjoy the state QSO parties that occur a few times a month. They're a nice low-key way to get started with contesting, and I find them useful for gathering needed states for Worked All States (WAS). A great weekend for that is the first weekend in May, which features our own New England QSO Party as well as the US seventh call area, Delaware, and Indiana parties.

Before participating in a contest, you need to know when it is and what the rules are. In general, HF contesting is done on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Some contests (not the state QSO parties) use a subset of these bands, are restricted to specific modes, or have rules about how often you can change bands. Some will also mandate rest periods (for example, they allow an individual to operate 12 hours out of a total 18).

First, you need to choose a class. This is generally based on power (high power/low power/QRP) and number of operators (single or multiple operator). Some contests distinguish between "assisted/limited" and "unassisted/unlimited" operations, depending on whether you use Internet spotting sites (also called "clusters") to find stations. Certain software tools like a CW decoder or skimmer may also put you in the assisted category or be banned entirely. If you're a beginner you will almost certainly be unassisted.

Your aim is to acquire as many points as possible (or, if you're like me, to finally put Idaho in the bag once and for all). In most contests you receive some number of points for each QSO. Some other feature (usually geographic entities like states or countries) contributes to a "multiplier" and your final score is the product of points and multiplier. If you're in the NEQP, stations outside New England use counties as a multiplier, so you'll be popular if you're in Boston proper or on Nantucket.

Contest QSOs are short because people are trying to make as many of them as possible. In CW, people often use a six-dot space between words instead of seven dots, which reminds me of my touring cyclist friends who drill out their toothbrush handles to save weight. The information you exchange (called, duh, the "exchange") is specified in the rules.

The good news is there's a fabulous and free software program, N1MM+, for contesting. BARC uses it on Field Day and SKYWARN Recognition Day, so you won't need to learn a new program if you join us for one of those events. It has a lot of features and is made for hard-core contesters, but as a dilettante I don't find it too difficult to use.

When the contest is over, you need to send in your logs. With N1MM+ it's easy to generate the Cabrillo format file that most contests either require or greatly prefer. With the QSO parties on the first weekend in May, you can send the same log in to each, which makes things easy. Who knows, you may win some obscure category. I'm not Dr Contesting in the least, but I get a surprising number of certificates every year and even saw myself in *QST* for the first time a few months ago.

Some good resources on the web: Contest University at <https://www.contestuniversity.com> is the site for serious learning. The website <http://www.contesting.com> has some useful articles and links. Calendars can be found on the ARRL website under "Contests" and at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal>. Dan Zeitlin, K2YWE, also has an excellent presentation on "Contest Tips for Little Pistols" that you can find by googling.

Field Day is Coming Soon! – Joe Harris, N1QD

When is it too early to start thinking about Field Day?

Yes, it's still a few months away, but all successful events need plenty of preparation. We have our site confirmed; we'll be converging on the Bare Cove Fire Museum on the fourth full weekend of June. Aside from that, not much is set in stone

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yet. How many stations to set up? What antennas to use? Let's take some time to think about what worked (and what didn't work) in the past. Are there any changes you'd like to see? Post your thoughts on the bostonARC reflector!

Getting to the Clay Center Observatory, Brookline

The Clay Center is located at the Dexter-Southfield School, 20 Newton St. in Brookline. For driving directions and a map, see <http://www.clayobservatory.org/about/directions/>. Using public transportation, your best bet is to take the Green Line "D" train to Reservoir station. Then take the 51 bus to the Clyde St. stop opposite Whitney St. (this is just before the stoplight at the Clyde St./Grove St./Newton St. intersection). From there it's about a fifteen minute walk.

BARC Meeting Calendar for 2017

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place at the Brookline Police Headquarters.

General Meetings

April 20	2017	Thu	7:30 pm (at Clay Center, Brookline) — W1UE on RTTY
May 18	2017	Thu	7:30 pm — WA1GXC on CW
June 15	2017	Thu	7:30 pm — Elections
September 21	2017	Thu	7:30 pm
October 19	2017	Thu	7:30 pm
November 16	2017	Thu	7:30 pm

Business Meetings

June 1	2017	Thu	7:30 pm
September 7	2017	Thu	7:30 pm
December 7	2017	Thu	7:30 pm

VE Sessions

July 10	2017	Mon	7:30 pm
October 9	2017	Mon	7:30 pm

BARC Net Preamble

The control operator for the BARC Net is Joe, W1JF. 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.



The banner features a teal background with two circular icons. The first icon, labeled '1', shows a red mobile phone. The second icon, labeled '2', shows two hands being pushed together. Text on the left includes 'Hands-Only™ CPR' and 'Ad Council'. Text in the center says 'Call 911'. Text on the right says 'Push hard and fast in the center of the chest.' and 'Learn more at handsonlycpr.org'. The American Heart Association logo and 'Learn and Live' slogan are in the bottom right corner.

I See the Future

15 April	BAA 5K (Rp)
16 April	ARRL Rookie Roundup, Phone
16 April	Flea at MIT, Cambridge
17 April	Boston Marathon (Rp)
20 April	BARC General Meeting, Clay Center, Brookline, 7:30 pm ▲
23 April	Framingham ARA Annual Spring Flea Market, Framingham
30 April	Run of the Charles (Rp)
5 May	NEAR-Fest, Deerfield, NH
6 May	Deadline for articles for the May SPARC
6–7 May	New England QSO Party
18 May	BARC General Meeting, Brookline Police Headquarters, Brookline, 7:30 pm
19–21 May	Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH
21 May	Flea at MIT, Cambridge
27–28 May	CQ WW WPX Contest, CW

▲ **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. Send your submissions to the Editor, Joe, NV1W, at nv1w@arrl.net. Articles for the May issue must be received by May 6.



**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



Photographic view of the CALIFORNIA KILOWATT in open position and ready to transmit or receive.

The **KLUGE** "California Kilowatt"

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 **1 June 2017** at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline. 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.

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

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.

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 next exam session will be on July 10, 2017.** 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 picture ID or two valid non-picture IDs
- 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 Joe Chapman, NV1W, nv1w@arrl.net.

BARC Officers and Staff

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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 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 8 pm	New England DMR Net	DMR New England Talk Group (TG 3181)
Mon 9 pm	BARC Club Net	145.230 (PL 88.5)
Sun 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)

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