



The SPARC

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Volume XIX, Number 8; August 2007

<http://www.barc.org>

w1bos@arrl.net



Ramblings and Rumbings

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA, President

The job of President is much more than sitting at the head of the table, calling for committee reports, deciding who speaks next, introducing speakers, and managing voting on issues. That is, if a club with vitality is to be here for *you*. *You* are the club. *You* make it run. *You* give it life so *you* can benefit.

I have appointed the following members to assist me and the other officers in the management of BARC. According to our bylaws, they and the officers form the Executive Committee. However, this does not change the responsibility of all the other members to lend their skills, knowledge and passion to help us learn more, teach more, and enjoy more the privileges we have in the Amateur Radio Service.

Executive Committee:

- ☞ Mike Ar dai, N1IST
- ☞ Hank Buccigross, K1QK
- ☞ Mark Duff, KB1EKN
- ☞ Phil Temples, K9HI

They and the officers are available to hear what you have to say and answer your questions. Don't hesitate to contact them (or me).

It's a little too early to say the summer is winding down, but while we haven't had General meetings during July and August, the expected BARC summer picnic has been pushed into September. The details are elsewhere in this issue. This family event is going to be a good time to socialize and see your fellow members somewhere other than at a meeting. Because of our newsletter publishing schedule, this is the only formal notice of the picnic before it happens. Get in the groove and let's have some fun. Then brace yourself for the excitement of the September General meeting.

Your Personal Ad Could Have Been Here

Are you a depressed BARC member because you have a treasure you must turn to cash and you couldn't make it to the last flea market? Well, cheer up, Bunky! *The SPARC* will run your (non-business) ad for free. Of course, a 10% donation if you sell it (and of course you will) will be cheerfully accepted. Just send your ad to Editor Paul Carter, N1TMF.

Why do banks charge you a "non-sufficient funds fee" on money they already know you don't have?

Fire Up the Barbeque

-- Mark Duff, KB1EKN

Reserve the afternoon of **Sunday, 9 September** for the BARC cook out party. Hingham is the place, and getting there will be easy with pre-arranged car pools (if necessary). The location will be at the Bare Cove Fire Museum which gives us plenty of time and space to get to know each other and our families. Yes, this is a family opportunity to have some fun.

Starting at 1:00 pm and running at least until 4:00 pm, BARC will provide grilled hot dogs and hamburgers (or you can bring your own vittles), soft drinks (no alcohol allowed), and the fixings.

The picnic will take place rain or shine since we have indoor access. Note that the Fire Museum will be open for visitors. We are also planning an HF station for those who want to taste the ether.

To help the planning, you and your family must sign up for this great time. If you want to help or just eat, send me an email at: emgmt@comcast.net. Please let me know *before 1 September*. Travel and other details will be provided when you are signed up.

A License Class in a Modified Weekend

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

At the request of the Zola Center in Newton, we are in the early stages of planning a Technician Class course likely to be held in October. The location and audience have been determined but the time schedule is dependent on completion of renovations to the building – and you know how accurate a contractor's schedule can be.

The Zola Center is a non-profit support service for people with varying degrees of disability. The potential students have expressed a great interest in ham radio following a presentation by Phil, K9HI, a few months ago. The course is, however, open to all who apply, but the class size will be limited. As an accommodation, we presently plan to hold an introductory session a week before the actual training weekend. The full review course weekend then consists of a Friday evening, all day Saturday, and Sunday morning. The VE exam will be given Sunday afternoon. Two weeks later we plan to hold a day of, "What do I do now that I have a license?"

For the present we are looking for instructors and other helpers to solve and implement some of the little details that make such a plan work. Jump in by contacting Eric, K1NUN, at k1nun@netscape.net.

Repeaters: 145.23 (-) PL 88.5 447.175 (-) PL 110.9

Simplex: 147.42

Looking Ahead At Public Service

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA


When hams engage in public service as mandated by the FCC Rules, the benefits go well beyond just following the rules. We can enjoy our hobby - have fun! We protect the health and safety of event participants. We support worthy charities. We learn to work within an organized effort. We experience the technical aspects of operating under adverse conditions. We practice communicating under emergency conditions. We can demonstrate these qualities to the communities we serve and thus promote our service for their acceptance.

Throughout the year BARC coordinates numerous public service events. Most of these are open to hams who are new to helping at such events as well as experienced hams. Here is a general look ahead at some of the events in 2007 that we will be asked to support. Formal recruiting will not take place until closer to each event. Feel free to contact Bob Salow, WA1IDA, if you have any questions - wa1ida@arrl.net or 508.650.9440.

- ☞ BAA Half Marathon – **7 October** - 13.1 miles; 98% in Boston, 2% in Brookline.
- ☞ Blue Hill Observatory – **13 October** – Open House; ham demo (Tentative), Milton.
- ☞ WGBH Open House (w/Ice Cream) – **13 & 14 October** - Logistics management; ham radio public awareness in Boston.
- ☞ SKYWARN Recognition Day – **1 December** – at Blue Hill Observatory, Milton.

Other events may jump in on short notice. Among our skills is the ability to apply our technical, organizational and staffing quickly and proficiently. Join our team and join in the fun and learning.

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A California Club President

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

Word from the west side: BARC member Peter Grace, KB1CVH, has been elected President of the Simi Settlers ARC in Simi Valley, CA. Their newsletter, <www.simissettlers.org>, shows a very active club.

VE Sessions Omitted in July and August

The Boston Amateur Radio Club usually holds monthly VE sessions on the second Monday of each month. Sessions are held at 7:00 pm at the Pierce School, 50 School St in Brookline, Room 110, next to the cafeteria. A map is shown on page 7.

For further information, contact:

Mike Ar dai, N1IST 781.321.7939 nlist@arrl.net

Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ 617.527.2968 ka1tuz@arrl.net

Future Exam Dates

(Second Mondays at 7:00 pm)

(No Exams in August)

10 September 2007

8 October 2007

12 November 2007

10 December 2007

14 January 2008

If Brookline schools are closed, the VE exams will be canceled.

BARC Growth

It's a rare month when we fail to add a few new members. Periodically we publish their names so that you can give them a special welcome. There may also be some upgrades and long lost members who rejoin, so greet them, too.

Charlie Bures WA3ITR

Please welcome the new BARC members and congratulate the new upgrades. Make it a point to introduce yourself when you see them at a meeting. In addition, we would like to note here all call sign changes. If you fit any of these categories, please promptly notify the Keeper of the Database, Bob Salow, WA1IDA at: 508.650.9440 or email: wa1ida@arrl.net .

Have Breakfast With BARC

BARC holds a social breakfast on the second Sunday of each month at the Old Country Buffet in the Watertown Mall. Breakfast is served from 0800 to 1130.

We just get together, socialize and eat, without any formal club events or business. Family and friends are welcome. The extensive buffet breakfast is *very* good. The cost is reasonable (seniors get a discount).

The Old Country Buffet is in the Watertown Mall, 550 Arsenal St. in Watertown. There is plenty of parking. From Memorial Dr, continue on Greenough Blvd to the Watertown exit, turn right on Arsenal St. The #70 T bus from Central Square Cambridge to Watertown Square to Waltham stops right at the Watertown Mall. For you GPS people: 42° 21', 51.1" N; 71° 09', 28.5" W. We hope to see all of you there – and bring your appetite!

How come Superman could stop bullets with his chest, but always ducked when someone threw a gun at him?

Repeaters: 145.23 (-) PL 88.5 447.175 (-) PL 110.9

Simplex: 147.42

General Meeting Omitted In August

BARC is taking our traditional summer break. General meetings will resume in September. The Business meetings will be held on their regular schedule.

BARC's General and Business Meetings are held at the Newton Police Headquarters, 1321 Washington Street, West Newton, MA. There is ample nearby parking and the location is handicap accessible. Talk-in is available on 145.230 MHz [-] 88.5.

If you have any ideas about topics that you would like to see presented, please feel free to contact one of your officers and we will see what we can do to make it happen for you. Remember, this is *your club* and we are here to serve you.

Future General Meeting Dates

(Third Thursdays at 7:30 pm)

(No General Meeting in August – watch for other activities!)

20 September 2007 *(Note our excellent Newton location)*

18 October 2007

15 November 2007

20 December 2007 *(Holiday Party)*

17 January 2008

Minutes of the BARC Business Meeting

2 August 2007; Recorded by Mike, N1IST, Acting Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 1937.

Those attending:

Mike Ardai	N1IST	
Jim Clogher	N1ICN	Treasurer
Arthur Ashley	N1NHZ	
Tom Bertolino	KB1OKP	
Bob Salow	WA1IDA	President
Joe Harris	N1QD	
Mark Duff	KB1EKN	

Committee Reports -

Treasurer Jim reports a bank balance of \$3057.85.

Repeater Mike acknowledges the 145.230 is a bit noisy. Part of this is due to ducting.

Public Service Bob notes the following schedule:

- ✓ BAA Half Marathon - Sunday, 10/7
- ✓ WGBH Open House - 10-/13, 10/14
- ✓ Blue Hill Observatory Open House - 10/13
- ✓ SKYWARN Recognition Day – 12/1

Contact KB1EKN if you are interested in helping at the Blue Hill events. Contact WA1IDA if you can help with the others.

Other business -

WA1IDA provided a report from the ARRL NE Division Director's meeting which he attended on 7 July.

BARC will be creating an announce-only e-mailing list to members for sending (only) announcements and the roster.

The BARC cookout-picnic will be at the Bare Cove Fire Museum in Hingham on 9/9 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. All members *and their families* are invited. See *The SPARC* for more info.

The Zola Center in Newton has requested that we present a weekend ham radio class to their clients. It will probably start in October. Help is needed with some of the details and teaching. Contact Eric, K1NUN, at k1nun@netscape.net.

We are planning to have coffee and donuts at the General meetings – with doors opening at 1900 for social interaction.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2130.

The Business meeting is where the real business of BARC is conducted. If you have any suggestions, questions or comments, this is where to bring them. **All members are welcome (and encouraged) to attend these meetings.**

The next Business meeting will be held Thursday, September 6 (first Thursday of the month), starting at **7:30 pm**. **Meetings are held at the Newton Police Headquarters**, 1321 Washington St, West Newton. There is ample parking on-the street and in nearby public lots. Maps appear on page 7 of this newsletter.

Talk-in is available on 145.230 MHz [-], CTCSS 88.5 Hz.

Future Business Meeting Dates

(First Thursday at 7:30 pm)

6 Sep 2007 *(Note our excellent Newton location)*

4 Oct 2007

1 Nov 2007

6 Dec 2007

3 Jan 2008

FCC Says OK to Paid Hams

-- ARES E-Letter, 18 July 2007

The FCC once again made clear that Part 97, "...does not prohibit Amateur Radio operators who are emergency personnel engaged in disaster relief from using their Amateur Radio bands while in a paid duty status." This changed this past December in WT Docket 04-140, the "Omnibus" Amateur Radio Report and Order (R&O).



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

I See the Future

12 Aug	BARC Breakfast
19 Aug	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
6 Sep	BARC Business Meeting
9 Sep	BARC Breakfast
9 Sep	BARC Picnic/BBQ
10 Sep	BARC VE Session
15 Sep	RIFMRS Flea (Forestdale RI)
16 Sep	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
20 Sep	BARC General Meeting
4 Oct	BARC Business Meeting
6 Oct	MTARA Flea (Feeding Hills)
7 Oct	BAA Half Marathon (Rp)
12-13 Oct	NEAR-Fest (Deerfield NH)
13 Oct	Blue Hill Observatory Open House
13-14 Oct	WGBH Open House/Ice Cream (Rp)

(Rp) = BARC repeater(s) may 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 New England and some of New York, the "Ham - Electronic Flea Market" and the "PSLIST" lists tell the story. They are posted by e-mail to barc-list and on PBBs regularly. If needed, contact any club member who has access to these.

Profile: Eric, K1NUN

-- Phil Temples, K9HI

Eric currently serves as BARC's Vice President and is a past President. Licensed since 1960, Eric currently holds an Amateur Extra license.

"I got into the hobby when I found out that I had to learn Morse code as a Boy Scout," Eric recalls. "My father told me that there were people who actually used Morse code to communicate on the radio. I found this fascinating."

Eric's father pulled out an old radio dating back to before World War II for Eric to listen to. "I'd hear all sorts of foreign broadcast stations across the dial. But in between the markings, I would also hear people talking to one another."

Eric went to a local library and asked for books on Amateur Radio. He checked out all four to read; within a matter of weeks Eric had read them all - and within a year, he had his ticket.

"I didn't know anyone in the hobby, so I made a phone call to the Newton Civil Defense Headquarters." There, Eric met Stewart, W1UVE. Stewart administered the Novice exam to Eric and he passed.

"The Novice ticket was good for only one year in those days, and it was non-renewable" says Eric. That meant he had to quickly acquire a receiver and transmitter so he could get on the air. "Three or four months into my one-year license, I bought an EICO 720 transmitter and a Gonset G-33 receiver. A month or two after that, I had a fully operational station. I worked 20-25 states before my license ran out."

Eric recalls how it was back in those days for Novices. "In those days, nobody had a transceiver. You would use one of your few crystals for the transmit frequency to call CQ, and then you carefully tuned across the band for a reply. The answering station could be many kilohertz away."

A while after his Novice license expired, Eric attended a summer camp. One of his counselors was Steve, W1WSN, who ran a radio class at the camp. "It was at the camp that I earned my Technician license. I got on six meters AM at home with a Lafayette radio. A year later, I got my General class. I never looked back."

For those who know Eric, it's safe to say that he is considered a "boat anchor" enthusiast. Eric has collected (and continues to collect) a large number of vintage transmitters and receivers from the 1940s, '50s and '60s. Although Eric "claims" that he's been paring down his collection, when I interviewed him he had just returned from a trip with his car loaded down with a collection of boat anchors from the estate of another ham.

Eric is also an avid QRP enthusiast. He possesses several small, solid-state rigs built inside of tiny Altoid peppermint cases! Eric says he uses standard designs from clubs and other organizations across the country to build his QRP kits. Also, he's building a collection of test equipment with which to test his kits. "I just acquired a combination frequency counter, time domain reflectometer, dummy load *and* noise bridge for only fifty dollars."

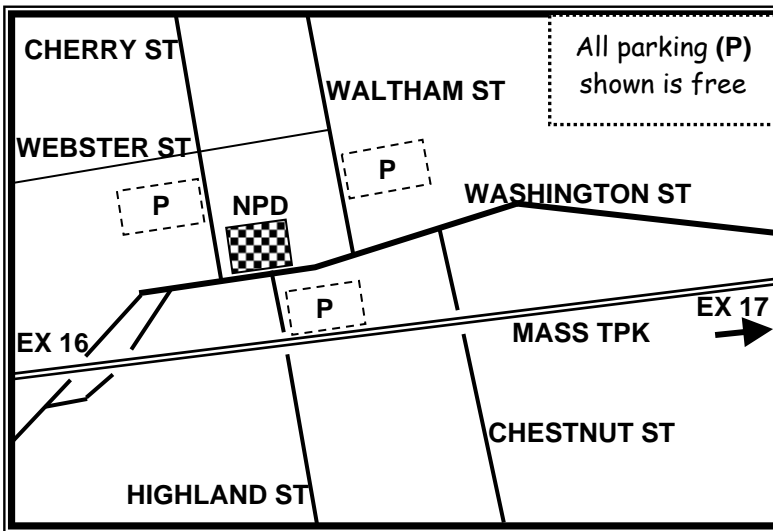
Over the years, Eric has been involved with SSTV, RTTY and other digital modes of communication. "These days I'm challenged for available time, but you can find me operating on the repeaters during the commuting hours." For relaxation, Eric turns to Morse code. "I find it a form of meditation, when I focus on the sending and receiving. It produces a 'Zen-like' state in me."

Eric is currently employed at Hewlett-Packard as a project leader. He works with engineering and manufacturing groups worldwide to bring common practices and standards into the design and manufacturing process. Eric is a member of the ARRL and is active in public service communications.

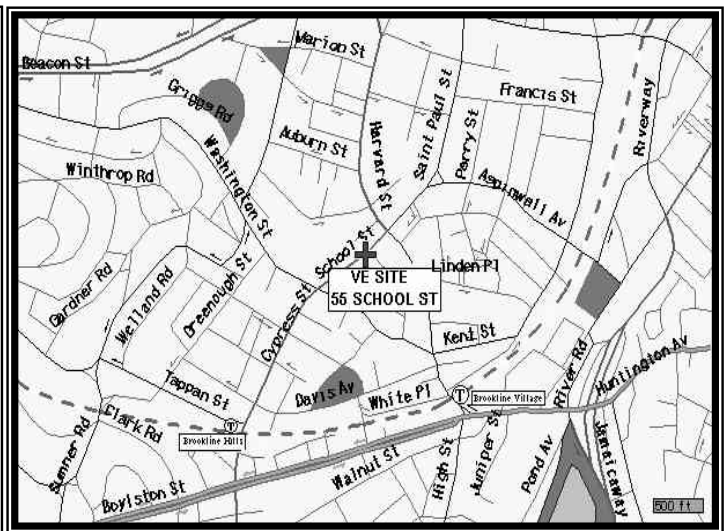
He grew up in Newton and now lives in Wayland with his wife, Nancy, KB1OCP. They have been married for over thirty years. They have two children, and no animals - at least none that he is aware of.

Ze Blanc Spaze

Z
e Blanc Spaze heer iz becoze you failed to submit yor name to pozterity by writin an articule for ze memberz to reed. Yore help iz needed! Pliz putt your thought (one to a customer) on paper so we can all dijest it. If you have mor than wun thought, hang on to it for a later articule. Send yor thinkin to the Editor or the President.



BARC Meeting Location
 Newton Police Dept., 1321 Washington St., West Newton



VE Session – Pierce School
 50 School Street, Brookline, Room 110 next to the cafeteria

BARC Officers and Staff

President	Bob Salow, WA1IDA	508.650.9440	walida@arrl.net
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	Phil Temples, K9HI	617.331.0183	phil@temples.com

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 a participant in Partnerships Advancing Technical Hobbies Which Attract Youth to Science (PATHWAYS). The Club is also an associate member of the Courage Handi-Hams system.

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Greater Boston Net Directory

Daily 5:30 pm	Eastern Mass/Rhode Island Phone Net (NTS)	3.915
Daily 7 and 10 pm	Eastern Mass/Rhode Island CW Net (NTS)	3.658
Daily 8 pm	Eastern Mass 2M Traffic Net (NTS)	145.230 (PL 88.5)
Daily 8 pm	Slow Speed CW Net	28.160
Daily 10:00 pm	Heavy Hitters Traffic Net (NTS)	MMRA-linked repeaters: 146.610, 146.670, 146.715, 146.820, and all 222 and 440 repeaters
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)
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	HHTN Swap Net	146.640
Thu 8:30 pm	AMSAT Net	146.640
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

Repeaters: 145.23 (-) PL 88.5 447.175 (-) PL 110.9

Simplex: 147.42

WHAT? NO AUGUST GENERAL MEETING??

Yep, General meetings are omitted in July and August. We do have a Business meeting coming up (the next one is Thursday, 6 September), so c'mon down.

The next General Meeting is:
20 September 2007 at 7:30 pm
at the Newton Police Headquarters
Community Room
1321 Washington Street
West Newton
Parking in nearby lots
Talk-in on 145.230 MHz (CTCSS 88.5 Hz)

Help eradicate blank space!

Get your news, views, stories and other contributions for the August issue of *The SPARC* to Editor, Paul Carter, N1TMF, no later than September 7, 2007.

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