



The SPARC

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Volume XX, Number 1; January 2008

<http://www.barcl.org>

w1bos@arrl.net



Ramblings and Rumbings

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA, President

For me, at least, the holidays went by fairly quickly – never did get saturated with the jingly music. Having to move the near-record snow from one place to another did divert my attention. I hope you and your family had pleasant and rewarding holidays.

Time to look ahead to making BARC fun and productive for you in 2008. Resolutions don't work... determination does. The club exists only for you. Want something out of it? You get out what you put in. The club has a reservoir of knowledge, skills and excitement. These are contained in the people like yourself who want to make ham radio fun and productive.

As has been said many times, ham radio has many facets. Some interest you, some do not. However, some of the facets may be of interest to you, if only you had a clue about them. Where do you expand your present knowledge, and where do you gain brand new knowledge? It's in the club. Have fun!

The season of ham public service is rapidly approaching. New to ham radio? Old hand at it? Helping your community with critical communications is the place to serve and have fun at the same time. Athletic events, charity events, large crowds need ham support. Pick up your radio and join in.

Field Day is 28-29 June. Not too early to start thinking about it. We don't need all the details worked out yet, but there are items to be dealt with. Like – is Field Day relevant, or even necessary? Should we participate, or should we prepare even if we don't set up? Field Day started more than 75 years ago as an annual demonstration of emergency preparedness (with a little evolution toward being a contest). Fun and experience are part of the deal. What do you think?

Speaking of experience, two things are constantly wrestled with when setting up stations for Field Day and other major (generally outdoor) events. Coaxial cable takes a beating and deteriorates. Ropes used for guys get cut, knotted and tangled. We tested all our coax and discarded the bad ones (most of what we had). All the rope went into the trash. We have bought new coax and new rope – lots of both. The coax has a polyethylene jacket rather than the usual PVC, reducing deterioration. We still do not have the perfect solution for getting the line over the tops of trees.

We did have an error in the December issue of *The SPARC*. Because of miscommunication, the announcement of the speaker for our January General meeting was incorrect. Warren, K2ORS, will present his program on the low frequencies later in the spring.

January General Meeting – Put an Antenna in Your Pocket

How's about having a 2-Meter antenna that fits in your pocket and deploys to perform better than a quarter-wave whip (and of course, better than the proverbial "rubber duck"). Now, you can make one of these gems with your own two hands at the BARC General meeting on Thursday, 17 January.

It's called a "Twin-lead J-Pole" that can be rolled up, taken out, and used anywhere necessary. All the materials will be supplied, and tools will be available. Experts will guide your every move and help test your finished treasure. *Yes, you can do it!*

The BARC January General meeting will be held on Thursday, 17 January. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm, but the doors open at 7:00 for a social half hour beforehand.

Our meetings are held at the Newton Police Headquarters, 1321 Washington St, West Newton, MA. There is ample nearby parking and the location is handicap accessible. Talk-in is available on 145.230 [-], CTCSS 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. Remember – this is *your* club and we are here to help *you* have fun and get the most out of ham radio.

Correction: The announcement in last month's The SPARC of the speaker for our January General meeting was incorrect. Warren, K2ORS, will present his program on the low frequencies later in the spring.

Future General Meeting Dates

(Third Thursdays at 7:30 pm)

17 January 2008
21 February 2008
20 March 2008
17 April 2008
15 May 2008
19 June 2008

BARC Drops VE Code Testing

As a result of Morse code no longer being required for ham licenses, requests for CW testing at the VE sessions have dropped to zero. The BARC VE sessions will not provide CW testing in the future.

K1NUN Named 2007 BARC Ham of the Year

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

Eric Falkof, K1NUN, was named BARC Ham of the Year for 2007 by membership vote. The presentation of a plaque was made at the Holiday Party on 12 December. Eric had been BARC President, and is now Vice President. For the past year he has managed the identification of our assets and the disposition of the excess. Of course he has many other qualities to suggest that he was an outstanding choice. He has always been ready to help at public service events and supports the club in many internal functions. Hearty congratulations and thanks to Eric.

Minutes of the BARC Business Meeting

3 January 2008; Recorded by Paul Olivieri, N1ZKR, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 1830 hours. Attending were:

Mike Ardai	N1IST	
Paul Olivieri	N1ZKR	Secretary
Hank Buccigross	K1QK	
Bob Salow	WA1IDA	President
Mark Duff	KB1EKN	
Blake Haskell	K1BTH	
Jim Clogher	N1ICN	Treasurer
Tom Bertolino	KB1OKP	

Committee reports -

Treasurer Jim reported a balance of \$2461.49 in the checking account.

Repeater Mike reported that the present 145.230 repeater seems to have started behaving again. The new repeater is on order with delivery to the dealer expected in mid-January so it can be programmed and ready for installation. Mike also said that he had received notice of a firmware update for the controller.

Public Service Bob told us that the MS "Journey of Hope" walk will be in Newton and nearby towns on Saturday, April 5, 2008. The Boston MS Walk will be on Sunday, April 13. The Women's Olympic Marathon Trials will be on Sunday, April 20, (the day before the Boston Marathon).

Other business -

Final arrangements for the program for the January General meeting are being made.

Bob is looking into the status of the club's Federal Tax exempt status.

After a discussion about what is needed, Hank moved, seconded by Blake, to purchase new coaxial cables for the club's use at various events. The motion passed

It was generally agreed to explore the possibility of having a joint meeting with the Wellesley ARS sometime in early 2008.

The training program at the Zola Center has been put on hold due to reconstruction at their building.

Bob mentioned that he would be attending the ARRL New England Director's "Cabinet" meeting in Springfield, MA on

Saturday, January 5, and asked for any issues that we would like aired there. Several suggestions were made.

The newsletter folding will be at the CambridgeSide Galleria in the lower food court on Tuesday, January 8 at about 6:30pm.

It was noted that as Morse code exams are no longer required or being administered at the VE sessions, references to CW tests should be removed from the VE article in the newsletter. .

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2150.

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, 7 February 2008 (first Thursday of the month), starting at **7:30 pm**. Meetings are held at the **Newton Police Headquarters**, 1321 Washington St, West Newton which is handicap accessible. There is ample parking on-the street and in nearby public lots. Maps appear on page 5 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)

7 Feb 2008
6 Mar 2008
3 Apr 2008
1 May 2008
5 June 2008
3 July 2008

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. We hope to see all of you there – and bring your appetite!

Coming in February

At our February General meeting Phil McNamara, N1XTB, will bring us up to date on developments in Winlink 2000 and how to get going with it.

It's Membership Renewal Time

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

The BARC fiscal year is the calendar year, so our membership renewal process begins again. If you have not yet renewed for 2008, the Membership Information form for 2008 is included with this issue of the newsletter. We need your support to help you get the most out of ham radio. Our club is one of the strongest and best around; your help is needed to keep it growing.

Please help the Treasurer by renewing promptly. Also, please consider receiving the newsletter electronically to save BARC significant money. You can complete the form online (at our website) and use PayPal or your mailed check. Or you can fill out the hard copy and mail it with your check to the address shown, or bring it to the club meeting. Of course, we would love to see you at the meeting(s).

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.

Ward Gigante N1NQO
Walt Piescik

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: walida@arrl.net.

Got a Question? We May Have an Answer

A new (occasional) entry in this newsletter will be a Q&A for you. We will rely on you to ask the questions and we believe another reader will come to your aid with an answer.

When you pose a question, include a means for a direct answer. If you wish to remain anonymous, any answer will appear on these pages. Anyone with a valid answer is asked to provide the Editor with a copy of the answer, including the question code. Send your questions and answers to the Editor, N1TMF, at n1tmf@pvctronics.com.

Public Service on the Horizon

-- 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 2008 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 - walida@arrl.net or 508.650.9440.

- **Multiple Sclerosis Journey of Hope** – 5 April 2008 –Newton
- **Multiple Sclerosis Boston Walk** – 13 April 2008 – Boston and Cambridge
- **Women's Olympic Trials**: 20 April 2008 –Boston and Cambridge.

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.

I See the Future

13 Jan	BARC Breakfast
17 Jan	BARC General Meeting
7 Feb	BARC Business Meeting
10 Feb	BARC Breakfast
16 Feb	AARC Flea (Marlboro)
17 Feb	Antique Radio Flea (Westford)
21 Feb	BARC General Meeting
23 Feb	RANV Flea (Milton VT)
6 Mar	BARC Business Meeting
8 Mar	MTARA Flea (Feeding Hills)
5 Apr	Multiple Sclerosis - Journey of Hope (Rp)
6 Apr	FARA Flea (Framingham)
13 Apr	Multiple Sclerosis – Boston Walk (Rp)
20 Apr	US Women's Olympic Marathon Trials (Rp)
20 Apr	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
2-3 May	NEAR-Fest Flea (Deerfield NH)
22-24 Aug	ARRL NE Div Convention (Boxboro)

(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. If needed, contact any club member who has access to these.

Winter vs. Meetings

Winter will be here regardless of how many dances you do. This raises the possibility of meeting cancellations due to fierce winter conditions.

Our early warning system: Official announcements will be made – at least by 1700 before scheduled meetings – on the Boston repeater (145.230 MHz) and by a message on *barc-list*. Someone will be designated to monitor the repeater for inquiries. Please stay safe by checking before starting out to a meeting in hazardous weather.

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

Simplex: 147.42

BARC Volunteer Exam Sessions

The Boston Amateur Radio Club usually holds monthly VE sessions on the second Monday of each month. Sessions are usually 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 5.

If the Brookline Public Schools (or the Pierce School itself) is closed due to inclement weather or other problems, the exam session for that month will be canceled.

There is a free parking garage at the circular driveway. If driving, enter School St from the Washington St side (opposite 394 Washington), rather than from Harvard St. Check: www.barc.org/barc/school_map.gif : for more info.

For those traveling via the **T**, take the "D" branch of the Green Line to the Brookline Village station. Walk north along Harvard St 0.2 miles to School St, then turn left. The Pierce School is on the left. The #66 bus runs on Harvard St, crossing School St.

Talk in on 145.230 MHz (-), PL 88.5 Hz.

We give all exams (Technician, General, and Extra). You don't need to pre-register. Please bring the following with you:

- Your current license *and a photocopy for the ARRL*, if you are upgrading
- Any CSCEs you are claiming, and a photocopy of them
- Valid ID (picture ID preferred)
- A pen and a calculator (if you want to)
- **\$14.00** (good for all the tests you take at that session, except for retests)
- Code and written tests can be taken together at the same session for the same \$14 fee.

The needed FCC forms will be provided.

For further information, contact:

Mike Ardai, N1IST, 781.321.7939 n1ist@arrl.net
Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ, 617.527.2968 ka1tuz@arrl.net

Future Exam Dates

(Second Mondays at 7:00 pm)

14 January 2008
11 February 2008
10 March 2008
14 April 2008
12 May 2008
9 June 2008

Get Your Newsletter On Line

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

In an effort to conserve club resources, we are offering early access to *The SPARC* on line. It saves the costs of paper, printing and postage, and you get the news faster. Even if you have already renewed your 2008 membership, but neglected to check to accept receiving the newsletter electronically, all you need to do is send an email to the Keeper of the Database at

walida@arrl.net. Let him know you want to help BARC save money.

Please provide your name, call and an accurate email address. You will be notified by email each month as soon as the issue is ready for access at a member web site as quickly as it is published.

BARC-Net Net Control Ops Needed

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

Joe, W1JFF, has been doing a spectacular job as Net Control for our Monday evening net. But sometimes even Joe gets hit with work (ugh) interfering with his ham radio fun. Worse, he doesn't find out about the imposition until the afternoon – only hours before the net. We need potential short notice Net Control operators from among those who usually check into the net.

You may be reluctant to jump into unfamiliar territory, but it's not a burdensome job. Pencil, paper and the steps to follow are all you need. The opening and closing statements are below. Beyond that, just keep track of those who check in, review the week ahead as shown in the newsletter. Then go around the group asking for comment or announcements. Remember – they are your friends and they would make the same mistakes you might make. They wouldn't dare criticize your errors.

Joe rarely misses a net, but you can take up the slack and your fellow hams will appreciate it.

BARC Net Preamble

>>>>>

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 Local 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.

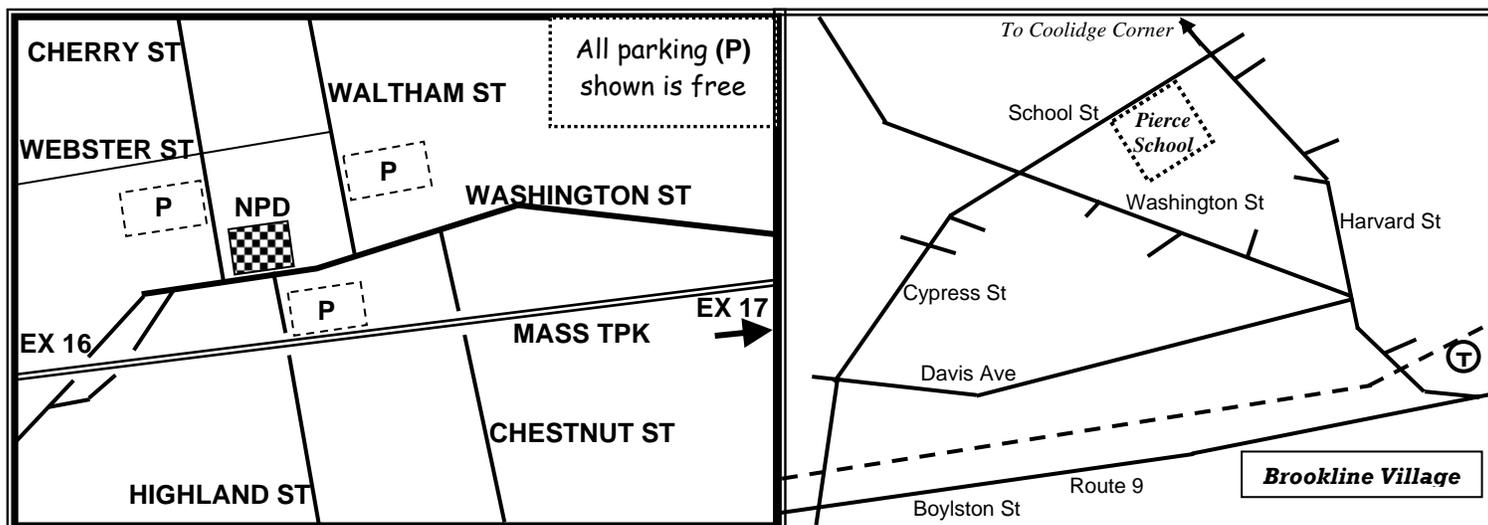
When checking into the net, please say, "this is" and drop your carrier to check on doubling. Then give your call sign, name and location. All hams are welcome to join the net. Any checkins for the Boston Amateur Radio Club Net please call now.

=/=/=

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.

>>>>>



*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
Vice President	Eric Falkof, K1NUN	508.358.4554	k1nun@netscape.net
Secretary	Paul Olivieri, N1ZKR	617.782.4005	n1zkr@juno.com
Treasurer	Jim Clogher, N1ICN	617.364.4658	n1icn@arrl.net
Volunteer Exams	Mike Ardai, N1IST	781.321.7939	n1ist@arrl.net
	Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ	617.527.2968	ka1tuz@arrl.net
Membership Services	Arthur Ashley, N1NHZ	617.661.2988	n1nhz@arrl.net
Public Service	Bob Salow, WA1IDA	508.650.9440	walida@arrl.net
Newsletter Editor	Paul Carter, N1TMF	617.232.6982	n1tmf@pvctronics.com
Programs & Activities	Eric Falkof, K1NUN	508.358.4554	k1nun@netscape.net
	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



Boston Amateur Radio Club

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION - 2008

Members: if you have already renewed for this year, please use this form to sign up a friend.



Please do not omit any items below New Renewal

Full name _____ Call sign _____

Name used on the air _____ Evening phone(_____) _____

Address _____ Daytime phone(_____) _____

_____ Cell phone (_____) _____

City/Town _____ State _____ ZIP (9 digits) _____

E-mail address _____

LICENSE CLASS <input type="checkbox"/> Novice <input type="checkbox"/> Technician <input type="checkbox"/> Tech Plus <input type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced <input type="checkbox"/> Extra <input type="checkbox"/> Former ham <input type="checkbox"/> Not yet a ham	ARRL MEMBERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> Life <input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Not a member	The BARC membership list is for club use only , including publishing the roster to our members only . Do you wish to restrict such limited distribution: <input type="checkbox"/> OMIT ADDRESS <input type="checkbox"/> OMIT EVENING PHONE	IMPORTANT NOTE: To save the club significant costs, you are encouraged to voluntarily receive (and read) our newsletter, <i>The SPARC</i> , online, rather than by postal mail. You will be notified monthly by email to go to a limited access web page where the earliest posting will be available. If you accept this cost saving plan, be sure to indicate above your best email address . E-MAIL <input type="radio"/> POSTAL MAIL <input type="radio"/>
	EMCOMM? 1 2 3		
Are you an ARRL certified VE? YES NO	Have you taken ICS-700? YES NO		

Membership Category	Full year 2008 if paid between Dec 07 to 31 July 08	Half year 2008 if paid between 1 Aug 08 to 30 Nov 08
REGULAR MEMBER: Not otherwise qualified below <input type="checkbox"/>	\$23.00	\$11.50
JUNIOR MEMBER: Are you under age 18? <input type="checkbox"/>	\$12.00	\$ 6.00
SENIOR MEMBER: Are you over age 64? <input type="checkbox"/>	\$12.00	\$ 6.00
FAMILY MEMBER: [Regular member I live with _____] I am the family member to receive club mailings YES NO Note: Each member in the family must complete a separate form.	\$12.00	\$ 6.00

If you are able, please help support the club's activities and repeaters: ➔ \$

Total \$

Signature _____ Date _____

©BARC

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Welcome to the Boston Amateur Radio Club! Join in the fun of being a ham! ➤ Your cancelled check is your receipt; membership acknowledgement is for the year shown on the newsletter address label. ➤ Make checks payable to: BOSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ➤ Please write your call sign on your check. 	Give to any officer or mail to: BOSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB PO Box 15585 Boston MA 02215-0011
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Dues \$ _____ Addl \$ _____ Recd by _____ Date _____

DB by _____ Memb Nr _____ Date _____ Loc _____

Gratuitus est per

MAKE A GOOD TWO-METER ANTENNA THAT YOU CAN PUT IN YOUR POCKET!

At the January meeting each of us will build a two-meter "Twin-lead J-Pole" antenna. Simple to do, and all parts and tools will be provided. When you take it out of your pocket, you will have a fully functional antenna, better than a quarter-wave whip and definitely better than the "rubber duck" that came with your radio.

Come to the January General meeting, have some fun, meet the members, and go home with more than you came with.

The next General Meeting is:
17 January 2008 at 7:30 pm (doors open at 7:00)
at the Newton Police Headquarters
Community Room
1321 Washington Street
West Newton
Free 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 February issue of *The SPARC* to Editor, Paul Carter, N1TMF, no later than February 1, 2008.

First Class Mail
Dated Material - Do Not Delay

Boston Amateur Radio Club
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