



# **The SPARC**

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Volume XX, Number 4; April 2008

<http://www.barc.org>

w1bos@arrl.net



## **Ramblings and Rumbings**

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA, President

As detailed in the article directly below, at the May Business meeting we decided to be more efficient and cost conscious for our members. It was not an easy decision but we are all feeling the effects of the economy on where we go and what we do. In truth, BARC is in excellent financial health. We have the resources to what we want to do, but we must be mindful of our members' ability and interest to participate in our activities and meetings.

Everyone is encouraged to attend all parts of all meetings. To make the new meeting structure work, it will be helpful to be prompt at the part(s) of the meetings that you do attend – noting that other discussions or activities may be going on at the time.

This was proposed by members for members. Give the new meeting plan a try. Then you can help us determine if it is really a good idea and is achieving the original goals. Then, do you think it can be improved, tweaked, or should it be scrapped?

I realize that the timetable we set cuts right into Field Day, the summer hiatus, and the new term of officers. At the May Business meeting we decided that there is no perfect time, so if the idea is good now, let's start now.

There is another consideration that we discussed. What do we do with the club business that is covered at the present meetings but may be time limited in the new structure? During the weeks between meetings, issues will be mulled on a virtual meeting by email exchanges. If necessary, a summary will be prepared to bring before the business portion of the meeting for little discussion and possible decision. The "attendance" at this virtual meeting (email addresses) will be the officers, the Executive Committee, and those members who usually attend the current Business meetings. Since the practice has been for all members to be welcome at the Business meetings, any member who wishes to attend the virtual meeting need merely to state this to the President along with an email address.

## **Antenna Kits Available**

Kits of parts for the roll-up twin-lead J-Pole VHF/UHF antennas made at the January General meeting are available at no cost for members. Instructions are included, but tools (minimal) and soldering are up to you. Contact Eric, K1NUN at [k1nun@netscape.net](mailto:k1nun@netscape.net).

## **BARC Meeting Structure Changes**

After a good deal of discussion at the April Business meeting, we realized the impact of the economy on members and hams in general. We have had two meetings a month for many years and that schedule has served us well. Times are different now, and we believe it is in our interest to change. By holding one structured meeting each month (except July and August) and some other refinements, travel and other costs for members can be reduced. The club itself is in excellent financial condition, but our members must be considered.

Starting in May, there will be one meeting each month (except July and August), held at the Newton Police Department as we have done for more than the past year. Meetings will begin at 1930 with a 30 minute period limited to club business. This is followed by a 15 minute transition period with announcements of interest to the general membership. At 2015 the general portion of the meeting will begin with a speaker or other presentation of interest to all.

This schedule can work best with cooperative members and firm leadership. Business will be taken care of, the members will be informed, and the speaker will be treated with courtesy.

Still on the calendar will be a summer outing and our Holiday Party in December.

Starting in May, the Boston Amateur Radio Club business meeting will be consolidated with the General Meeting. Club business matters will be discussed starting at 7:30pm, going for thirty to forty-five minutes.

The next BARC Meeting will be held Thursday, April 17rd (3st Thursday of the month,) 7:30 p.m. We meet 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.

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

Simplex: 147.42

## The Elections Are Coming, The Elections Are Coming

Election of BARC officers will be held at the June meeting as designated in our bylaws. The Nominating Committee will report its recommendations at the May meeting for voting in June. Jim Clogher, N1ICN, has been appointed Chair of the committee.

The function of the Nominating Committee is to seek out a slate of candidates for officers, but this does not limit any member from being nominated (or self-nomination) in addition to the slate. The slate is only a proposal and there is no restriction on any member who wishes to run for office. This is your opportunity to help steer the club where you think it should go. All members are urged to consider making this contribution to the hams of our community. If you are interested, please come forward. Contact any officer to have your name placed on the ballot for a particular office.

## Field Day? It's Only Two Months Away

Planning for Field Day 2008 is under way and open to all. Like last year, BARC provides compact HF stations, antennas and generators. Anyone can add to the club activity by providing their own station facilities.

The 2007 result was a resounding success and 2008 will stay with that concept. We set up, operated, and tore down with ease – and had **fun** doing it. Larz Anderson Park in Brookline is the place; 28-29 June is the weekend.

The fun is yours for the taking. We will be discussing it at regular meetings and at planning meetings to be announced. Bring your ideas, or just say you want to be there – to see, to learn, to try, or maybe to see how other people have fun. If you have ideas, or just want the experience, contact Field Day Coordinator, Tom Bertolino, KB1OKP, at [thbe125@yahoo.com](mailto:thbe125@yahoo.com).

## Can You Hear the BARC UHF Repeater?

Our 70 cm repeater on 447.175 MHz ( - ), CTCSS 110.9 Hz, has been reduced in power to accommodate the US Air Force claim of potential interference to the PavePaws radar on Cape Cod. This request, through the FCC and ARRL, applies to all 70 cm repeaters in this area. Since the government has primary use of this band, we must comply.

As expected, the coverage of this repeater has changed significantly, and we want to determine the new conditions. If you are able, try to make a contact on this repeater and note your result. Then please send an email report to [w1bos@arrl.net](mailto:w1bos@arrl.net) with the following information:

Your name and call  
Location of test  
Type of radio, antenna and power output  
Could you maintain a contact?  
Quality of received signal

## 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 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 - [w1ida@arrl.net](mailto:w1ida@arrl.net) or 508.650.9440.

- *MS Boston Walk* – **13 April 2008** – Boston and Cambridge
- *US Olympic Women's Marathon Trials* – **20 April 2008** – Boston and Cambridge
- *Run of the Charles Canoe Race* - **27 April 2008** – Charles River - Needham to Boston
- *Bikes Not Bombs Bike Ride* - **8 June 2008** - Boston, Southern suburbs
- *BAA Half Marathon* - **12 October 2008** - Boston

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.

## 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.

Howard Bleich      W3CW  
Warren Ziegler      K2ORS

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: [w1ida@arrl.net](mailto:w1ida@arrl.net).

## Orange Caps for Public Service Events

BARC has a supply of the bright orange caps for use at emergency or public service events. They are adjustable to fit all but the very largest heads, and proclaim, "Emergency Communications."

The price is \$5.00, and they are available at club meetings, or contact Bob, WA1IDA.

## Hams Needed For the Run of the Charles

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

Ham radio has been part of the Run of the Charles canoe races for more than 25 years. BARC has coordinated the hams for most of that time. This is a well run event which provides wetness for the participants and excitement for the hams (who stay dry). We are looking for more hams to help on **Sunday, 27 April**.

Our duties include reporting from hazardous portages around the many dams on the Charles River from Needham to Brighton. Various assignments start between 0700 and 1200, with assignment completions from 1230 to 1630.

## Hams Needed -

### US Olympic Women's Marathon Trials

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

The 2008 US Olympic Women's Marathon Trials will be in Boston on **Sunday, 20 April**. The contenders for the US Marathon Team will be here

Yes, that's the day before the Boston Marathon. This event is also being managed by the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) and there will be little logistical conflict.

The 26.2 mile course is several laps around downtown Boston and Cambridge, ending at the Boston Marathon finish line on Boylston St. Since these runners are the fastest of the fast, the field should be complete within the morning. Our support has been requested but this will not affect preparations for the Marathon the next day. If you can assist, please mark your calendar and let me know. Nationwide eyes will be on this one. Contact me, at [walida@arri.net](mailto:walida@arri.net) or 508.650.9440.

## 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!

## 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.

## Hurricane Preparation on a National Scale for the April BARC Meeting

Rob Macedo, KD1CY, the Section Emergency Coordinator and SKYWARN Coordinator is recently back from the National Hurricane Conference where he was a presenter and listener. He will share his experience and insight with us at the April BARC meeting.

The next BARC Meeting will be Thursday, 17 April (third Thursday of the month) starting at 7:30 pm. We meet at the Newton Police Headquarters, 1321 Washington St, West Newton, MA (maps are shown on page 7). There is ample nearby parking and the location is handicap accessible. Talk-in is available on 145.230 MHz [-], CTCSS 88.5 Hz.

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.

## Future BARC Meeting Dates

*Note: Business and General meetings now combined into one meeting each month (omitted in July and August).*

(Third Thursdays at 7:30 pm)

17 April 2008

15 May 2008

19 June 2008

*(No Meetings in July and August)*

18 September 2008

16 October 2008

## SKYWARN Training Schedule

-- Rob Macedo, KD1CY, SKYWARN Coordinator

**16 April**, Wednesday - 1800 to 2100

Salem State College

Salem, MA

**8 May**, Thursday - 1900 to 2200

Plymouth Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

44 Obery Street

Plymouth, MA

Preregistration required as the site is limited to 25 people

- Contact Rob Macedo, KD1CY.

**17 May**, Saturday - 1300 to 1600

Boston Museum of Science

Cahner's Theater, Blue Wing Level 2

Boston, MA

Note: Bring Parking Ticket into the building for validation for free parking.

See these links for updates as well as the schedules as posted.

[www.wx1box.org/mod.php?mod=userpage&menu=8&page\\_id=1](http://www.wx1box.org/mod.php?mod=userpage&menu=8&page_id=1)

[www.erh.noaa.gov/box/skywarntraining.shtml](http://www.erh.noaa.gov/box/skywarntraining.shtml)

## W1AW 2007 Spring/Summer Operating Schedule

### Morning Schedule:

Time (UTC)	Mode	Days
1300	CWs	Wed, Fri
1300	CWf	Tue, Thu

### Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

Time (UTC)	Mode	Days
2000	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2000	CWs	Tue, Thu
2100	CWb	Daily
2200	RTTY	Daily
2300	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
2300	CWf	Tue, Thu
0000	CWb	Daily
0100	RTTY	Daily
0145	Voice	Daily
0200	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0200	CWs	Tue, Thu
0300	CWb	Daily

### Frequencies (MHz):

**CW:** 1.8175, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675, 147.555

**RTTY:** - 3.5975, 7.095, 14.095, 18.1025, 21.095, 28.095, 147.555

**Voice:** 1.855, 3.990, 7.290, 14.290, 18.160, 21.390, 28.590, 147.555

### Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM  
 CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM  
 CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

RTTY = Teleprinter Bulletins = BAUDOT (45.45 Baud) and AMTOR-FEC (100 Baud). ASCII (110 Baud) is sent only as time allows.

Code practice texts are from *QST*, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2230 UTC, Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular teleprinter frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0000 UTC Thursdays and 0000 UTC Fridays.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Teleprinter at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half-hour.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 86 in the March 2007 issue of *QST* or on the web at [www.arrl.org/w1aw.html](http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html).

### Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC

1800 UTC to 2045 UTC

FCC licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1400 UTC to 1600 UTC, and then from 1700 UTC to 1945 UTC, Monday through Friday. The station is closed 1700 to 1800 UTC. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur license or a photocopy.

## ARES Training Recommendations

-- The ARES E-Letter, March 20, 2008

All ARES operators and others who respond for emergency and public service events should periodically review their training and qualifications. Now is a good time to do so as we look ahead to the start of hurricane season just a few months away.

First and foremost, hams should take Level One of the ARRL Emergency Communications courses, progressing to Levels Two and Three when possible. Here are links to find out more about the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Courses:

- ◆ Frequently Asked Questions [www.arrl.org/cce/faq.html](http://www.arrl.org/cce/faq.html)
- ◆ CCE Course Syllabus [www.arrl.org/cce/syllabus.html](http://www.arrl.org/cce/syllabus.html)
- ◆ Registration for Online Courses  
<https://www.arrl.org/forms/cce/>
- ◆ Listing of Classroom Courses and Exams  
[www.arrl.org/cce/activity-list.php3](http://www.arrl.org/cce/activity-list.php3)
- ◆ CI/CE Search Page [www.arrl.org/cce/cice-search.php3](http://www.arrl.org/cce/cice-search.php3)
- ◆ Discussion Forum (*Members Only*) [www.arrl.org/members-only/forums/w-agora.php3](http://www.arrl.org/members-only/forums/w-agora.php3)
- ◆ CCE Student Page (*Members Only*)  
[www.arrl.org/members-only/cce/](http://www.arrl.org/members-only/cce/)
- ◆ Course Listing [www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html](http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html)

In addition to the ARRL Emergency Communications Courses, field operators should also complete certain formal training courses:

- ◆ Red Cross combined course in Adult CPR/First Aid Basics
- ◆ Red Cross online Introduction to Disaster Services  
[www.redcross.org/flash/course01\\_v01/](http://www.redcross.org/flash/course01_v01/)
- ◆ FEMA IS-100 (Introduction to Incident Command System)
- ◆ FEMA IS-200 (ICS for Single Resource and Initial Action Incidents)
- ◆ FEMA IS-700 (National Incident Management System)  
<http://training.fema.gov/IS/>

Except for the first two, all courses are free of charge, and CPR/First Aid may be free to members of the Red Cross. CPR/First Aid is the only course that requires periodic refreshers and the only course that must be taken in person rather than on the Internet. The American Heart Association (AHA) also offers Basic Life Support (BLS) courses. Where FEMA courses exist in more than one current version aimed at somewhat different audiences, any of the currently-available versions will suffice.

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A jumper cable walks into a bar. The bartender says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."

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

**Simplex: 147.42**

## Minutes of the BARC Business Meeting

3 April 2008; Recorded by Bob Salow, WA1IDA, Acting Secy.

The meeting was called to order at 1934. Attending were:

Arthur Ashley	N1NHZ	
Tom Bertolino	KB1OKP	
Jim Clogher	N1ICN	Treasurer
Mark Duff	KB1EKN	
Eric Falkof	K1NUN	Vice President
Frank Murphy	N1DHW	
Bob Salow	WA1IDA	President

### Committee reports –

Treasurer – Jim reported a balance of \$4575.52 in the checking account.

Public Service – Bob outlined six events on the schedule for 2008. There has been no word from WGBH for the fall. At present, more hams are still needed for the Olympic Women's Marathon Trials and for the Run of the Charles.

### Other Business –

Jim, N1ICN, was appointed to chair the Nominating Committee.

Tom, KB1OKP, was appointed as Field Day Coordinator. He asked for help and guidance with the needs of the event. Bob has entered our Field Day site on the ARRL Field Day Locator web page.

Eric reviewed the time and topic assignments needed for the weekend Technician course at the Zola Center. Tom has detailed the topic allotments.

A table at Boxboro was declined.

Mark and others recommended we consider the transportation costs of members asked to attend two meetings each month. Discussion evolved to a new meeting structure of one meeting a month with business, announcements and program allotted suitable time. Business issues not covered in such a meeting structure will take place as a virtual meeting by routine exchange of emails.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2115.

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Business matters will now be conducted in the first half hour of monthly meetings. These subjects are acquired in the previous month by a virtual meeting of officers, Executive Committee members, and any member who wishes to join in. If you have any suggestions, questions or comments, this is where to bring them. **All members are welcome (and encouraged) to participate.**

## 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 7.

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](http://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 Ar dai, N1IST, 781.321.7939 [n1ist@arrrl.net](mailto:n1ist@arrrl.net)

## Future Exam Dates

(Second Mondays at 7:00 pm)

14 April 2008

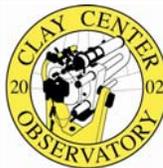
12 May 2008

9 June 2008

*(No Exams in July and August)*

8 September 2008

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



**The Clay Center Observatory  
welcomes BARC members**

[www.claycenter.org](http://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

13 Apr	Multiple Sclerosis – Boston Walk <b>(Rp)</b>
13 Apr	BARC Breakfast
14 Apr	BARC VE Exams
17 Apr	BARC Meeting
19 Apr	NE Antique RC Flea (Manchester NH)
20 Apr	US Women's Olympic Marathon Trials <b>(Rp)</b>
20 Apr	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
27 Apr	Run of the Charles <b>(Rp)</b>
2-3 May	NEAR-Fest Flea (Deerfield NH)
11 May	BARC Breakfast
12 May	BARC VE Session
15 May	BARC Meeting
18 May	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
8 Jun	Bikes Not Bombs – 3 Bike Rides <b>(Rp)</b>
8 Jun	BARC Breakfast
9 Jun	BARC VE Session
15 Jun	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
19 Jun	BARC Meeting
20 Jul	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
17 Aug	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
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. They are posted by e-mail to barc-list and on PBBSs regularly. If needed, contact any club member who has access to these.

## Build Something!

-- Dan Romanchik, KD6NU

*Dan, KD6NU, has been writing for years on various ham radio subjects. Much of his material has been published in club newsletters, and he offers his articles at no cost. We plan to print some of these from time to time. – Ed.*

A couple of years ago, a group of us were talking on the club repeater, and the talk got around to building stuff. One of the guys said, "You can't really build anything anymore." I almost fell out of my chair. That's simply not true. Heathkit may be just a fond memory, but there are still many companies out there selling kits that are not only fun to build, but are useful additions to the ham shack.

Here are several sources:

Elecraft ([www.elecraft.com](http://www.elecraft.com)). In my mind, Elecraft has become the premiere ham radio kit company, if not the premiere ham radio company, period. The new K3, for example, outperforms just about anything on the market by many accounts. Personally, I have built the KX-1, which is a real blast to operate from a park bench or to take on vacation. I also have and use the W1 wattmeter.

TenTec ([www.radio.tentec.com/kits](http://www.radio.tentec.com/kits)). While perhaps known more for their ready-made rigs, they also sell a line of single-band transceivers and receiver kits.

QRP Kits ([www.qrpkits.com](http://www.qrpkits.com)). QRPKits.Com sells kits that were originally projects of the Northern California QRP Club. My current General Class students are going to build the DC40A kit (\$40) as an exercise in building and as a way to learn about how radios work.

Below are some other companies whose kits have good reputations, but with which I have no personal experience:

Small Wonder Labs ([www.smallwonderlabs.com](http://www.smallwonderlabs.com))  
Wilderness Radio ([www.fix.net/~jparker/wild.html](http://www.fix.net/~jparker/wild.html))  
Milestone Technologies ([www.mtechnologies.com](http://www.mtechnologies.com))  
Almost All Digital Electronics ([www.aade.com/index.html](http://www.aade.com/index.html))  
FAR Circuits ([www.farcircuits.net](http://www.farcircuits.net))  
JacksonHarbor ([www.home.att.net/~jacksonharbor/ham.htm](http://www.home.att.net/~jacksonharbor/ham.htm))  
QRPme ([www.qrpme.com/](http://www.qrpme.com/))  
Linear Amp UK ([www.linamp.co.uk](http://www.linamp.co.uk))

QRP clubs are also a good source of cool kits. The problem with QRP clubs is that they order parts for only a very short run of kits. Once they sell out, the kits are no longer available. Even so, here are some clubs that are worth checking out:

American QRP Club ([www.amqrp.org](http://www.amqrp.org))  
Four State QRP Club ([www.4sqr.com/kits/kits.htm](http://www.4sqr.com/kits/kits.htm))  
NORTEX ([www.kk5na.com/nortex.htm](http://www.kk5na.com/nortex.htm))

Ready to rock and roll? Here are a couple websites that you might want to check out before you dive in:

*Electronic Construction from A to Z*

This site includes a page that lists all the tools you'll need to become a successful kit builder.

([www.mtechnologies.com/building/atoz.htm](http://www.mtechnologies.com/building/atoz.htm))

*Crystal Sets to Sideband: A Guide to Building an Amateur Radio Station* ([www.qsl.net/k3pd/book.html](http://www.qsl.net/k3pd/book.html)). This site not only discusses kit building, but also radio theory.

*The Art of Kit Building*

([w2.netnitco.net/users/wt9w/kit%20building.html](http://w2.netnitco.net/users/wt9w/kit%20building.html))

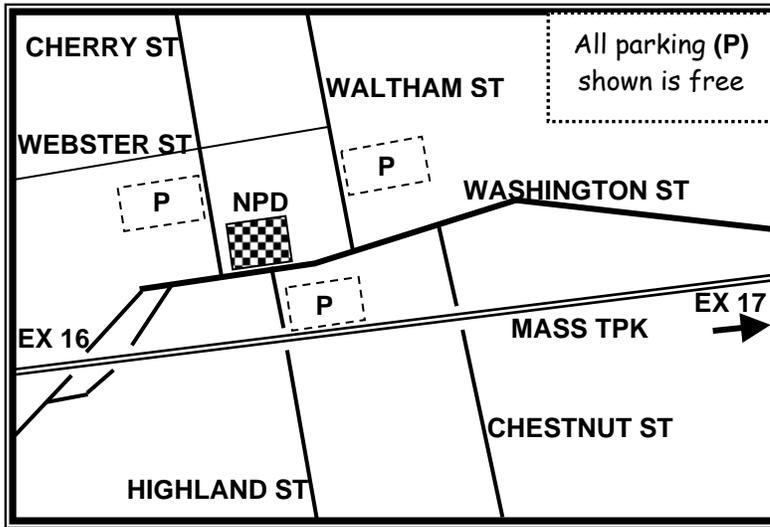
I hope that I've whetted your appetite for building a kit or two. They're a lot of fun to build, and you really do get a rush from operating a radio or using a piece of test equipment that you built yourself.

What have you built lately? Let Dan know. Email him at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

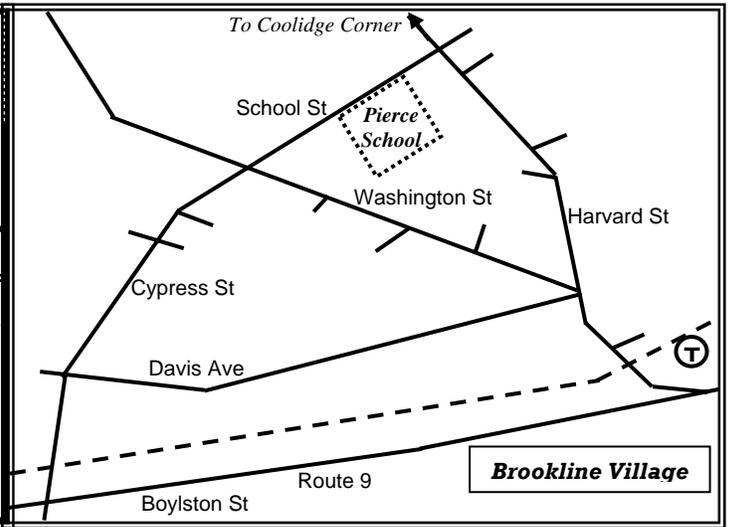
## Got a Question? We May Have an Answer

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.

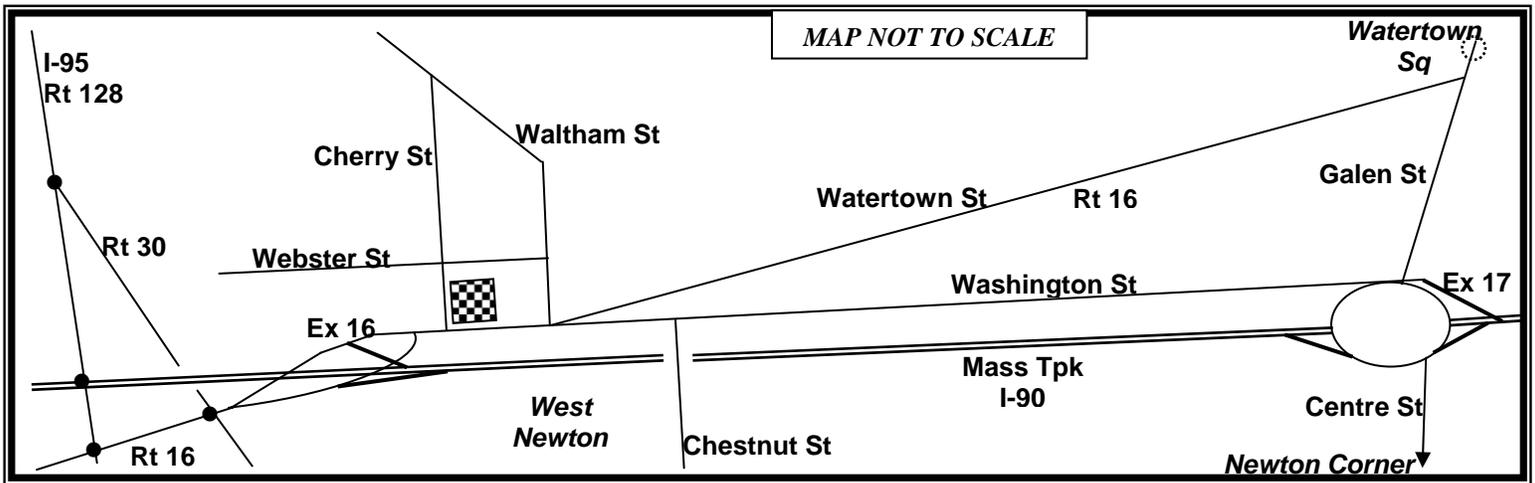
Anyone with a valid answer is asked to send it to the Editor including the question code. Send your questions and answers to the Editor, NITMF, at [n1tmf@pvctronics.com](mailto:n1tmf@pvctronics.com).



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

Simplex: 147.42

## ***THE NATIONAL HURRICANE CONFERENCE HAD THE WORD***

Rob Macedo, KD1CY, attended and presented at the recent NHC. There were a lot of developments all hams should be aware of. He will share this with us at the BARC April meeting. Rob is the Eastern Massachusetts Section Emergency Coordinator and the Regional SKYWARN Coordinator.

*The next General Meeting is:*  
**17 April 2008 at 7:30 pm (doors open at 7:00)**  
**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 March issue of *The SPARC* to Editor, Paul Carter, N1TMF, no later than May 2, 2008.**

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