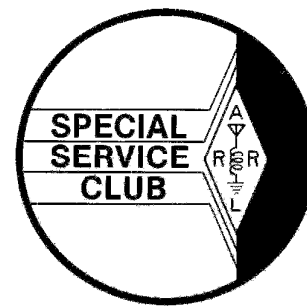




The SPARC

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Volume XXI, Number 4; April 2009
<http://www.barc.org>
w1bos@arrl.net



Nominating Committee for Officers

As designated in our bylaws, the election of officers will take place at our June meeting. On track to that, a Nominating Committee will be appointed at the April meeting.

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) from the floor 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. In fact, we would recommend a competition for the offices so that each nominee would present qualifications and proposals to the members.

The Nominating Committee will report its slate at the May meeting for publication. Nominations for each office by members are open until balloting at the June meeting.

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.

A National Racing Tradition Begins in Boston – Hams Needed

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

For many years, on the day before the Boston Marathon, there was an informal run on the streets of Boston. That all changed last year when Boston was awarded the US Olympic Women's Marathon Trials. BARC responded with communication support for the 26.2 mile event run in Boston and Cambridge.

This year, to keep the date and advance the running sport, the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) presents a sanctioned 5K (3.1 miles) race followed by a series of four invitational 1-mile races. This series is intended to become a permanent event on the racing calendar. All races will give the runners the thrill of crossing the Boston Marathon Finish Line.

We have been asked to provide ham communications for these events. The date is **Sunday, 19 April**, with hams assembling at 0700 near the Boston Public Library (more details later). All events are expected to be over by 1130.

Note that there will be no interference with preparations for the Boston Marathon the next day. If you can assist or have any questions, contact me at w1ida@arrl.net or 508.650.9440.

The BARC April Meeting Program

Around here April brings a flood of ham activity – from the here and now to planning for the immediate future. By the time you read this the Boston area will have had ham support for two public service events and will have three more before the end of the month. And then there is Field Day to be made what the club makes it – with more than twenty years of experience.

This month's General meeting on **Thursday, 16 April** will explain the fit of 2 Meter and 70 centimeter radios and repeaters into public service – how to help you use them and how the communication supports the event.

This will be followed by review of our general plan for Field Day. You will understand how the set-up and the operations will be of the greatest benefit to you. Any class of license can experience the HF bands. Our main objectives are learning and *fun*.

A significant change from last year will be a set up of a "Get-On – The-Air" (GOTA) station. Under the rules a GOTA station may be operated on any Field Day band by any ham licensed since the previous year's Field Day, as long as a valid licensed operator is present for that band. The rules allow the GOTA station points to count in the Field Day score, but the station count is free. What does all that mean and how does it affect you? Come to the meeting and find out.

Our General meetings start at 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month at the Salvation Army third floor auditorium. The address is 147 Berkeley St, but the entrance is on Columbus Ave. The nearest **T** stations are Back Bay on the Orange line or Commuter Rail (exit the rear of the station), and Arlington on the Green line. Free parking is available in the adjacent lot entered from Columbus Ave (across the street from the firehouse). A map appears on page 5 of this newsletter.

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

(Third Thursdays at 7:00 pm)

- 16 April 2009 – General Meeting
- 21 May 2009 – General Meeting
- 4 June 2009 – Business Meeting
- 18 June 2009 – General Meeting
- (no General Meetings in July and August)*
- 17 September 2009

Field Day? It's Only Two Months Away

No, no, it is not too early to start planning for Field Day 2009. Start by thinking about how our 2008 Field Day went. We opted for a limited club contribution, but open to all. We provided compact HF stations, antennas and generators. Beyond that, anyone could participate in the club activity by providing their own station facilities – and they did.

The result was a resounding success. We set up, operated, and tore down with ease – and had **fun** doing it. Larz Anderson Park in Brookline is the place; **27-28 June** is the weekend.

The fun is yours for the taking. We will be discussing it at our General meetings and at special 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. The point here is that even if you hold a Novice or Technician license, you can operate on the HF bands and get the feel for your upgrade.

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. For 2009, we have already been tasked with several events, and more are expected. Feel free to contact Bob Salow, WA1IDA, if you have any questions - wa1ida@arrl.net or 508.650.9440.

- *BAA Boston 5K Race & 1 Mile Races* – **19 April 2009** – (Boston)
- *Run of the Charles Canoe Race* – **26 April 2009** – (Charles River: Needham to Boston)
- *Bikes Not Bombs Bike Rides* – **7 June 2009** – Boston and southern suburbs
- *BAA Half Marathon* – **11 October 2009** - 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.



HF Packet Experiment

-- Cory Golub, N1URA

I am experimenting with a QRP HF packet station on 80 meters and I would like to have as many hams as possible try to connect. I want to see how the station would operate as a backup mailbox in Maine, New England and perhaps farther, under low power operation using an NVIS antenna.

The packet station will remain on 3595.50 kHz until further notice. I am interested in knowing the location from which you are trying to access (town and state and/or grid number), signal report, type of antenna and polarization, and what time of day you tried to access the station.

Try the station at any time since 80 meters varies by time of day. The mailbox is N1URA-1 at 300 baud. Leave a message or email your observations to n1ura@arrl.net. Please pass the word to anybody you know who may be able to operate HF packet (either through a soundcard with MixW software or using a TNC). You can also reach me at cory.m.golub@gmail.com.

Hams Needed For the Run of the Charles

-- Tom Bertolino, KB1OKP

BARC has coordinated the hams for almost all of the 26 years of the Run of the Charles canoe and kayak races. The races consist of 24, 19, 9 and 6 miles of rapid spring current on the Charles River. This is a well run event which provides wetness for the participants and excitement for the hams (who stay dry). We need your help on **Sunday, 26 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. This is an excellent way for those new to public service to get your feet wet (figuratively only) and learn how hams can support the safety of the community.

It's an outdoor event, yet safe for hams. Because of the terrain along the river bank, a hand held radio with an antenna better than a "rubber duck" and a full 5 watts is necessary.

If you can help, contact me, Tom Bertolino, at kb1okp@arrl.net or 781.608.6186.

Membership Services Rejuvenated

BARC Membership Services has been an important, if quiet, function for many years. It has been ably supported by Arthur, N1NHZ, and he has earned the right to retire from a job well done. Picking up the task is the team of Charlie Goumas, KB1RCN, and Rosie Goumas, KB1RCO. They can be reached at either coasterrider@rcn.com or ronamoss@rcn.com, or at 617.776.6249.

This is where you can go to get club information, technical guidance, or have new hams or other interested parties directed to the club. No, they may not have all the answers immediately, but they are your conduit to the answers.

SKYWARN Training Schedule

The National Weather Service in Taunton MA gives SKYWARN spotter training at several locations in Southern New England. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. The training session is free of charge, and there is no need to register. However, participants will be asked to fill out a short form during the class.

Official Spotter numbers will be given to anyone who attends a training and is at least 16 years of age or older. People younger than 16 who desire a spotter number, and who can present special circumstances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Following is the current SKYWARN Training Schedule for 2009. Please check for updates at www.wx1box.org/node/36.

April 14, 1800 to 2100

Salem State College (North Campus), Room TBD
Salem, MA
Sponsored by: Salem State College

April 18, 1100 to 1400

Dexter-Southfield School - Clay Center Auditorium
20 Newton St.
Brookline, MA
Sponsored by: Brookline EMA and Dexter-Southfield School and Amateur Radio Club



**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

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.

Angie Covey	
John Frye	N1OTY
Noel Groves	KB1RUM
Mike Holodinski	KB1RSF
Austin Wolfe	KB1CCJ

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

NOTE: The breakfast date has been changed to the third Sunday of each month to coincide with the MIT Flea Market.

BARC holds a social breakfast on the **third** Sunday of each month at the Old Country Buffet in the Watertown Mall. Breakfast is served from 0800 to 1030 (although we rarely stay beyond 1000).

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!

I See the Future

13 Apr	BARC VE Exams
16 Apr	BARC Monthly General Meeting
18 Apr	NE Antique RC (Manchester NH)
19 Apr	Boston 5K Race, Mile Races (Rp)
19 Apr	BARC Breakfast
19 Apr	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
26 Apr	Run of the Charles (Rp)
1-2 May	NEAR Fest (Deerfield NH)
11 May	BARC VE Exams
17 May	BARC Breakfast
17 May	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
21 May	BARC General Meeting
4 Jun	BARC Business Meeting
5-7 Jun	ARDF National Championships
7 Jun	Bikes Not Bombs Rides (Rp)
8 Jun	BARC VE Exams
18 Jun	BARC General Meeting
21 Jun	BARC Breakfast
21 Jun	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
27-28 Jun	Field Day

(Rp) = BARC repeater(s) may be used

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.

BARC Volunteer Exam Sessions

The Boston Amateur Radio Club 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 5.

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

Simplex: 147.42

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)
- **\$15.00** (good for all the tests you take at that session, except for retests)
- Written tests can be taken sequentially at the same session for the same \$14 fee.

The needed FCC forms will be provided.

For further information, contact:

Jim Clogher, N1ICN, 617.364.4658 nlicn@arrl.net
Tom Bertolino, KB1OKP, 781.395.5538 kb1okp@arrl.net

Future Exam Dates

(Second Mondays at 7:00 pm)

13 April 2009

11 May 2009

8 June 2009

(Exams are omitted in July and August)

14 September 2009

Let's Get on the Maker Bandwagon

-- Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A short while ago, I got an email from a ham in Texas who had attended the Maker Faire (makerfaire.com). "Makers" are people who love to tinker and make things. They even have their own magazine, *Make* (www.makezine.com).

He was amazed at the lack of any Amateur Radio content. He wrote, "The Maker Faire was unbelievable. Incredible stuff. Pedal powered carnival rides, robots, computer drive routers, kits... Outside of a table with a Vecronics kit, and a license manual, and a QRP book, the only radio stuff was from a pirate radio group."

I'm kind of amazed at this as well. It just goes to show how disconnected Amateur Radio is getting from the mainstream.

These are exactly the kind of people we want to get interested in Amateur Radio, yet there was no one there representing us.

Ham radio needs to be at these events and get plugged into the "maker community." The Faire has not yet released attendance figures for this particular Faire, but more than 65,000 people attended the Faire held in May 2008. Dayton, with its attendance of about 20,000, looks anemic by comparison.

I blogged about this back in May 2008 (<http://kb6nu.com/why-cant-dayton-be-more-like-the-maker-faire/>). One of the things I suggested then is moving Dayton to some place like Austin. Seriously, if you were a new ham, where would you rather go, Dayton, OH or Austin, TX? Let's be real here.

And can there be a worse place for an event than Hara Arena? The parking lot, where they hold the flea market looks like a mine field, and it usually rains, making the flea market a wet, unpleasant experience. Is it any wonder that fewer and fewer vendors choose to haul stuff out there? Some of us older hams might fondly reminisce about the bargain we found while traipsing around wearing a trash-bag poncho, but a story like that is not going to resonate with new hams.

Please don't get me wrong. I don't mean to badmouth the Dayton Amateur Radio Association or the Hamvention. I actually think they do a great job, all things considered. I'm just pointing out that if ham radio wants to again be part of the mainstream, we have to get with the program. Unfortunately, that program probably won't be at the Hara Arena.

Ham radio has got to figure out how to latch onto the Maker phenomenon. At the very least, the ARRL should have a booth at the next Maker Faire. In addition to all the books and T-shirts, they need to come up with some kind of demo or display to attract makers into ham radio. I don't know what exactly, but I'm willing to start talking about it.

This phenomenon might also be a boon for clubs who hold hamfests. Just as the computer craze turned ham swaps into ham and computer swaps in the '80s, perhaps ham clubs could turn their hamfests into a combination hamfest and Maker Faire in their communities.

As I said earlier, Makers are exactly the kind of people we want in ham radio. Let's go out and get them.

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

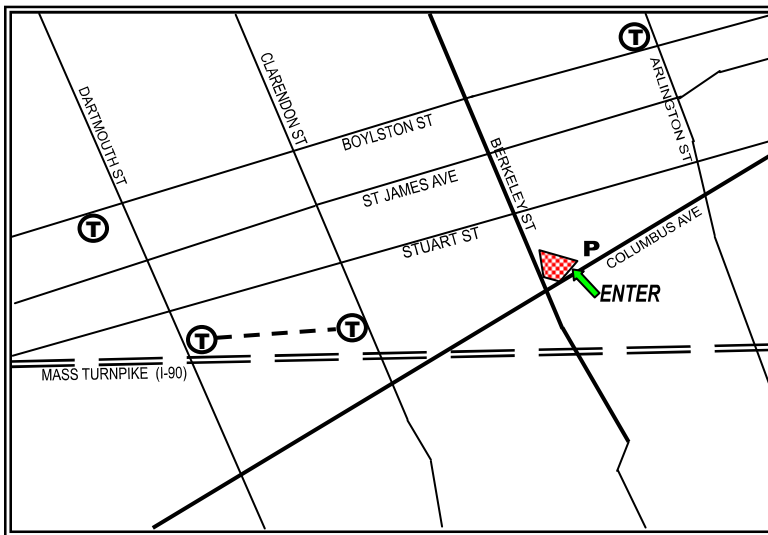


224 N. Broadway - Ste. D12
Salem, NH 03079
(603) 898-3750 • 800-444-0047
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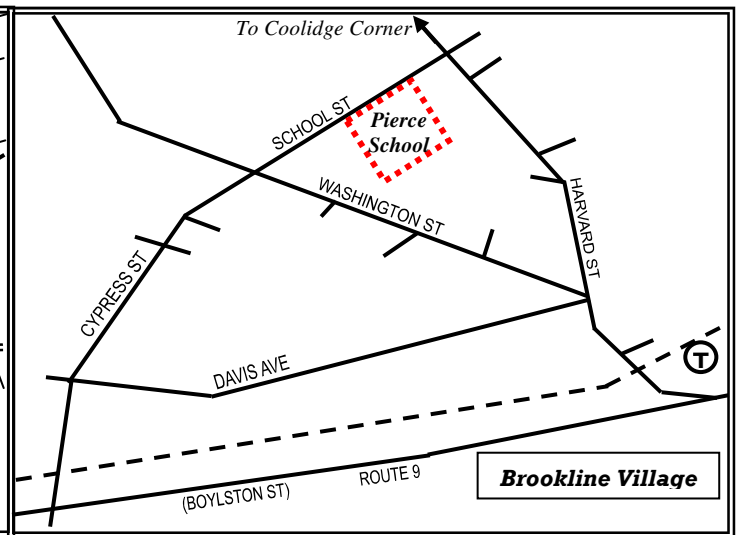
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Simplex: 147.42



General Meeting – Boston Salvation Army
Corner of Berkeley St. and Columbus Ave.



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

BARC Officers and Staff

President	(Vacant)		
Acting President	Bob Salow, WA1IDA	508.650.9440	walida@arrl.net
Vice President	Tom Bertolino, KB1OKP	781.395.5538	kb1okp@arrl.net
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	Tom Bertolino, KB1OKP	781.395.5538	kb1okp@arrl.net
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Programs & Activities	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