

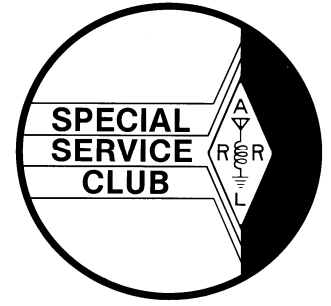


# The *SPARC*

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Volume XXI, Number 11; November 2009

<http://www.barc.org>  
[w1bos@arrl.net](mailto:w1bos@arrl.net)



## Address to the Membership

Tom Bertolino, KB1P, President

November marks the traditional start of the holiday season. It is the time when families and friends travel great distances to be together and renew ties. It is also the time we celebrate the season with festive parties. BARC is no different. We invite all members, their families, and friends to celebrate the holidays with us. We are holding our holiday party this year at the Stockyard Restaurant, on December 10. Details about the party can be found in the attached flyer.

November is also time we vote for a member to receive BARC's "Ham of the Year Award". There is a space on the bottom of the holiday flyer where you can cast your vote. Please turn-in the flyer with your vote even if you do not plan to attend the Holiday Party.

December 3<sup>rd</sup> is the date for BARC's Business Meeting at The Salvation Army HQ, Boston. The major topic to be discussed is where to hold our future meetings. Come in and give us your opinion.

December's Public Service event is SKYWARN Recognition Day. The event is held on Great Blue Hill in, Milton, MA. SKYWARN date is 5 December. The POC for this event is Mark, KB1EKN. If you want to help set-up or just come by, contact Mark at [emgmt@comcast.net](mailto:emgmt@comcast.net) for more information. I hope to see you that the event.

The holiday season is also the time when many members of our armed services get a chance to visit family and friends, so if you a meet a service member or just walk by one in uniform (no matter what your politics) please make it a point to thank them for their service and sacrifices. Believe me, it will mean a lot to them

Happy and safe Holiday season to everyone.

## Have Breakfast with BARC

We hold 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 1130 (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. By T, the #70 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

- 14 Nov CAARA Flea (Rockport)
- 15 Nov BARC Breakfast
- 19 Nov BARC General Meeting
- 3 Dec BARC Business Meeting
- 4-5 Dec SKYWARN Recognition Day (Blue Hill Observatory)
- 9 Dec December folding party
- 10 Dec BARC Holiday Party (General Meeting omitted)
- 14 Dec BARC VE Session (*Salvation Army building*)
- 20 Dec BARC Breakfast
- 11 Jan BARC VE Session (Location TBD)
- 17 Jan BARC Breakfast
- 21 Jan BARC General Meeting (**Location TBD**)
- 13 Feb AARC Flea (Marlboro)
- 18 Feb General Meeting
- 4 Mar Business Meeting

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. Of course, if you know of an event that would be of interest to the readers, please let the Editor know.

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## BARC Officers and Staff

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Public Service:

Bob Salow, WA1IDA; 508.650.9440; wa1ida@arrl.net

Newsletter Editor: Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ

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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## Your Personal Ad Could Have Been Here

Are you a depressed BARC member because you have a treasure you must turn to cash? Cheer up, Bunky! *The SPARC* will run your (non-business) ad for free. Of course, a 10% donation if you sell it will be cheerfully accepted. Just send your ad to Tom Bertolino, KB1P.

## Membership Services

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](mailto:coasterrider@rcn.com) or [ronamoss@rcn.com](mailto: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.

## Join ARRL and BARC Gets Benefits -- ARRL Club Newsletter, September 27, 2008

The ARRL club commission program allows ARRL Affiliated Clubs to retain a portion of the ARRL dues from each new member or renewal that the club submits.

Under the ARRL Club Commission Membership Recruitment Program, clubs retain \$15 for each NEW membership and \$2 for each renewal submitted (regular and senior memberships only). A *new member* is defined as any individual who has never been a member of ARRL or any individual who has not retained a membership for two or more calendar years prior to the application submission.

The details and forms can be found on the web at the ARRL Club Companion page:

[www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/benefits.html#commission](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/benefits.html#commission)

## 2010 Dues Increase

At the September BARC Business meeting it was decided to make a small increase in the dues structure because of current and anticipated economic realities. The basic full year membership fee for regular members will be \$25.00. Junior, senior and family memberships will be set accordingly. There will also be an adjustment for the latter half of the year. Details will be published in the December issue of *The SPARC* and will be found on the 2010 Membership Information form.

## Pay For Your Membership On-Line

BARC accepts PayPal. If you want to fill out your membership on-line, just go to [www.barc.org/membership.html](http://www.barc.org/membership.html) or click on the membership link on our home page. You can use this to pay for membership or make donations with a credit card (even if you do not have a PayPal account), from your PayPal funds, or from your linked bank account. Our PayPal address is [w1bos@arrl.net](mailto:w1bos@arrl.net)

## It's Time for the Holiday Party and the "BARC Ham of the Year"

One of our most successful club events has been our Holiday Party in December. From the earliest days of BARC, our members, family and friends have had a wonderful time at our purely social get together. We have selected the famous Stockyard Restaurant in Brighton again this year, and we expect to have a great time with its great food. The Stockyard has an excellent reputation and has been carefully scouted by our devoted mastication team. The enclosed Holiday Party flyer gives all the details. The location is accessible by public transportation. In the past parking has been a problem. There is free parking at the restaurant and on-street parking on Guest St perpendicular to and across Market St.

Mark the date: **Thursday, 10 December**. The December General meeting is omitted.

As indicated on the flyer, your cost is a \$30.00, with any excess, the tax and the gratuity paid by the club. Please bring your family and friends – with a \$5.00 discount for each. Send your check with the coupon, but menu selections need not be made in advance – just place your order at the table. If you cannot decide until the last minute, there will be a \$5.00 surcharge at the door. A cash bar will provide fortification, but you will be responsible for your own bar bills.

As has become our custom, the Holiday Party is where we award the "BARC Ham of the Year." The winner is chosen by your nomination from among the members. This means, of course, that it is up to you to recommend whom you feel most deserves the award this year. We want to recognize a BARC member for outstanding contribution to the club and to the Amateur Radio hobby. The rules stipulate that the award cannot be given to someone who has won in the past five years.

Previous winners were:

- 1992 Mike Ardai, N1IST
- 1993 Lajos Gergely, AA1BW/HA0DR
- 1996 Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ and Bob Cassell, N1ENS
- 1997 Terry Koen, N1IWF and Arthur Ashley, N1NHZ
- 1998 Mike Kass, N1YER and Bob Wondolowski, N1KDA
- 1999 Paul Carter, N1TMF and Mike Koenemund, KB1CKF
- 2000 Mark Duff, KB1EKN
- 2001 Frank Murphy, N1DHW and Bob Salow, WA1IDA
- 2002 Jim Clogher, N1ICN
- 2003 Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ
- 2004 Blake Haskell, K1BTH
- 2005 Arthur Ashley, N1NHZ
- 2006 Jim Clogher, N1ICN
- 2007 Eric Falkof, K1NUN
- 2008 Tom Bertolino, KB1P

It is important that you return the two coupons on the Holiday Party flyer – or at least the "BARC Ham of the Year" nomination if you are not able to attend the party. The return date is set to allow enough time to notify the restaurant of the expected attendance, and for the award to be engraved for the Ham of the Year.

## Quarterly Business Meetings

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

We have Business meetings quarterly. Unless circumstances warrant, BARC Business meetings will be held on the first Thursdays of December, March, June, and September. The next such meeting will be on 3 December 2009 at the Salvation Army HQ in Boston. All members are urged to attend and participate in club affairs. This is where club functions are discussed and decided, and your help is needed to guide us.

A short opening period of each General meeting will continue to be used to bring any immediate business matters to everyone's attention.

To provide continuity of club business between meetings we have a virtual business meeting via an email list. Any member interested in the affairs of the club can ask to be on this virtual meeting list – just give your name, call and your email address to President Tom Bertolino, KB1P.

## Now You Can Get Your Newsletter Hot Off the Wire!

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

In an effort to conserve club resources, we are offering early access to *The SPARC* electronically, which also saves the costs of paper, printing and postage. Even if you have already renewed your 2009 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 [wa1ida@arri.net](mailto:wa1ida@arri.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 private member web site as quickly as it is published.

There is considerable cost associated with the mailed hard copy. This can be saved thanks to your acceptance and the generous efforts of Mike, N1IST, who has organized the electronic publication.

## BARC Growth

It's a rare month when we fail to add or upgrade a few 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.

Linda Blair	KB1RBP Upgrade to Extra
Robert Freed	KB1SVO
Noel Groves	KB1RUM Upgrade to General

Please welcome 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, WA1DA at: 508.650.9440 or email: [walida@arrrl.net](mailto:walida@arrrl.net).

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

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## Monthly VE Sessions Relocated

Our November and December VE sessions will be held at the same location as our regular meetings – in the Salvation Army HQ building in Boston. The sessions have been moved from the Pierce School in Brookline because economic conditions led Brookline to require a fee beyond our means.

The location from January onward has not yet been determined. Stay tuned.

Sessions begin at 7:00 pm. Parking is free in the adjacent lot accessed from Columbus Ave.

## 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 Salvation Army Boston HQ building in Boston. This is the

same location as our General meetings. The address is 147 Berkeley St, Boston, 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. The entrance to the parking lot is from Columbus Ave. (across the street from the firehouse). A map is shown on page 7.

### Note this change of location from prior venues.

If inclement weather or other problems occur, the exam session for that month may be canceled. Monitor the repeater for advice. **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 \$15 fee.

The needed FCC forms will be provided.

For further information, contact:

Jim Clogher, N1ICN, 617.364.4658 [n1icn@arrrl.net](mailto:n1icn@arrrl.net)  
Tom Bertolino, KB1P, 781.608.6186 [kb1p@arrrl.net](mailto:kb1p@arrrl.net)

## Future VE Exam Dates

(Second Mondays at 7:00 pm)

*Location has changed to the Salvation Army building*

9 November 2009

14 December 2009

## 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, KB1JKJ, at [james.bradle4@comcast.net](mailto:james.bradle4@comcast.net).

## Newsletters Need Folding... Help!

When this newsletter has an insert it takes a little more effort to publish. What do we do? We have a party! The December, January and February issues will contain the Membership Information form for 2009, so we will party and get the job done easily and quickly. Actually, the process is to eat, fold, staple, label and stamp.

Here's the deal – (usually) on the Wednesday after the first Thursday of the month, we meet at the CambridgeSide Galleria in the Food Court lower level. If you want to eat, get there at 1800; if you don't, you can arrive at 1830. If you can help, send an email to Tom at [kb1p@arri.net](mailto:kb1p@arri.net) and you will then be notified as the date approaches.



**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*

## Business Can Advertise Here

The SPARC accepts commercial advertisements. We encourage promotion of products and services which would be of interest to our members. Members are urged to seek prospective advertisers who are appropriate to our readers.

Rates for display advertising are:

1 col x 2 in. (business card)	\$15 per issue
1 col x 2 in. (business card)	\$75 per 6 consecutive months
1 col x 2 in. (business card)	\$125 per 12 consecutive months
1 col x 4 in. (1/2 column)	\$30 per issue
1 col x 9.5 in. (full column)	\$60 per issue

For layout requirements contact Bob Salow at [walida@arri.net](mailto:walida@arri.net) or 508.650.9440.

## BARC to Operate SKYWARN Recognition Day

-- Mark Duff, KB1EKN

On Saturday, **5 December 2009**, SKYWARN Recognition Day, BARC will participate for the seventh consecutive year from the Blue Hill Observatory in Milton. Our operating hours will be from 0900 to 1500. Mark your calendars now for a fun event.

Fun – you want some fun? How about an antenna held 200 feet aloft by a kite in 2004? Then there was the gale-force snowstorm in 2003. There are antennas to be installed and HF/VHF/UHF stations to be operated. We have the opportunity to meet with visitors to demonstrate and explain the relationship between weather observation and ham radio. All this will be at the weather station with the oldest continuous weather records in North America.

On a good day the visibility is over 100 miles from the Blue Hill Observatory. We invite you and any other hams to help and participate. Access to the top of the hill is restricted, so contact Mark, KB1EKN, at [emgmt@comcast.net](mailto:emgmt@comcast.net) for more information.

## 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 - [walida@arri.net](mailto:walida@arri.net) or 508.650.9440.

SKYWARN Recognition Day – **5 December 2009**  
Blue Hill Observatory – Milton

Multiple Sclerosis Boston Walk – **11 April 2010**  
(Boston and Cambridge)

Multiple Sclerosis Journey of Hope – **22 May 2010**

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.

## BAA Half Marathon - Run and Done

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

The weather was just right. OK, so we had to get out of bed in the dark, but it was smooth from there. The event was the ninth running of the BAA Half Marathon on a certified course - 98% in Boston and 2% in Brookline. On Sunday, 11 October, we deployed 12 hams along the beautiful Emerald Necklace, from Clemente Field in the Fenway to the Franklin Park Zoo and back. As requested, we supported medical and water stations, certain hazardous locations and administrative needs.

The Half Marathon is now a recognized event in the running field. With recent success, the 5500 openings for this year were grabbed shortly after the announcement. When the BAA Half Marathon was over, we received the gratitude of not only the BAA staff and the medical team, but also the Boston and State Police, and the Boston Emergency Medical Service for our professional integration with them.

The Boston Athletic Association Half Marathon has now taken its place as a "Boston Tradition." Ham radio has established its community value at times like these. Here's who we were:

Tom	KB1P		Paul	N1LRT
Jim	KB1JKJ		Chuck	W1SKT
Hank	K1QK		Dave	W1BWX
Allan	K1VQ		Bob	WA1IDA
Ralph	N1LAH		Rick	KB1LYJ
Eric	K1NUN		John	N1ZJ

## Give Your Generator Some Space

-- Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the same folks that bring you WWV, publish a monthly newsletter called *NIST Tech Beat*. Here's an item from the 10/6/09 issue of *NIST Tech Beat* that will be of interest to radio amateurs:

To subdue the steaming humidity of hurricanes or to thaw out during a blizzard, gasoline-powered, portable generators are a lifeline during weather emergencies when homes are cut off without electricity. But these generators emit poisonous carbon monoxide – a single generator can produce a hundred times more of the colorless, odorless gas than a modern car's exhaust. New research from NIST shows that to prevent potentially dangerous levels of carbon monoxide (CO), users may need to keep generators farther from the house than previously believed – perhaps as much as 25 feet.

Up to half of the incidents of non-fatal CO poisoning reported in the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons involved generators run within 7 feet of the home, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Carbon monoxide can enter a

house through a number of airflow paths, such as a door or window left open to accommodate the extension cord that brings power from the generator into the house. While some guidance recommends 10 feet from open windows as a safe operating distance, NIST researcher Steven Emmerich says the "safe" operating distance depends on the house, the weather conditions and the unit.

A generator's carbon monoxide output is usually higher than an automobile's, Emmerich says, because most generators do not have the sophisticated emission controls that cars do. "People need to be aware that generators are potentially deadly and they need to educate themselves on proper use."

With funding from CDC, NIST researchers are gathering reliable data to support future CDC guidance. NIST building researchers simulated multiple scenarios of a portable generator operating outside of a one-story house, using both a test structure and two different computer models. NIST developed CONTAM, an indoor air quality model and a computational fluid dynamics model. The simulations included factors that could be controlled by humans, such as generator location, exhaust direction and window-opening size, and environmental factors such as wind, temperature and house dimensions. In the simulations the generator was placed at various distances from the house and tested under different weather conditions.

"We found that for the house modeled in this study," researcher Leon Wang says, "a generator position 15 feet away from open windows was not far enough to prevent CO entry into the house." Winds perpendicular to the open window resulted in more carbon monoxide entry than winds at an angle, and lower wind speeds generally allowed more CO into the house. "Slow, stagnant wind seems to be the worst case because it leads to the carbon monoxide lingering by the windows," Wang explains.

Researchers determined that placing the generator outside of the airflow recirculation regions near the open windows reduced CO entry. In the next phase of the study NIST will model a two-story house that researchers believe will interact differently with the wind. NIST researchers also have worked with the Consumer Product Safety Commission on related work.

The generator study can be downloaded at

<http://fire.nist.gov/bfrlpubs/build09/PDF/b09009.pdf>

L. Wang and S.J. Emmerich. *Modeling the Effects of Outdoor Gasoline Powered Generator Use on Indoor Carbon Monoxide Exposures*.

(NIST Technical Note 1637,) 2009.



# The SPARC

## When Disaster Strikes...

The time you have to prepare may be less than what you need. Your best option is to prepare in advance. Hurricanes, floods, fires, and others may offer sufficient advance warning and provide time for precautionary or preventive action. However, earthquakes or tornadoes usually strike with little or no advance warning.

Individuals who have *planned ahead are more prepared* and have a lot more options than someone who has not planned and is not ready.

**Ask yourself: will you be able to: have enough supplies to last for you and your family?** Start collecting items for your "go kit" and make sure everything can be located quickly when needed. Don't wait and try to find everything after disaster hits. You won't remember it all; what you forget is what you will probably need!

Don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and other battery-operated devices.

BARC General and Business meetings and the VE Sessions are held at:  
The Salvation Army HQ building, corner of Berkeley St and Columbus Ave in Boston.  
Free parking in the adjacent lot – enter from Columbus Ave.

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

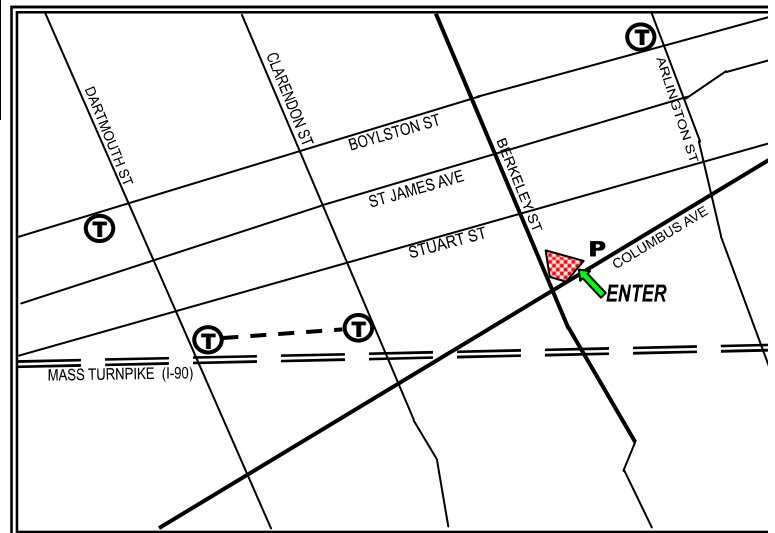
## A License Plate Collector Needs Help

-- Paul Mitchell, VK5PKM/N1AUS

I am an Australian ham now living in the USA. I am currently collecting Amateur Radio license plates from all US States and Canadian Provinces for my ham shack, as we don't have them back home in Australia.

I have been trying to advertise to collect them, but response has been weak. I am asking if any BARC members have one or more old plates to add to my collection.

I am happy to pay any shipping costs on the plates sent, and any help with building my collection. Please pass my details on to anyone else that you may know who might have some old plates. Contact me at: [hamtags@hotmail.com](mailto:hamtags@hotmail.com). Thanks and 73.



## 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 Newline)	145.470

Repeaters: 145.23 (-) PL 88.5 444.050 MHz (+) 110.9 Hz

Simplex: 147.42

# The SPARC

## BARC General Meeting - 19 November

### The Trophies of Ham Radio

When you contact another ham on the radio you can get a verbal or CW acknowledgement of that contact. But when you can hold that acknowledgement in your hand, especially when that contact was special – DX, long-lost friend, special event, etc. – the tangible acknowledgement is worthy of posting on your wall (or at least put away for safekeeping).

The acknowledgement (QSL) of that contact (QSO) requires careful handling. The BARC General meeting on 19 November will explain the how and why to get the QSL cards. Steve Gilbert, K1SG, will explain why the QSL cards have become such valuable objects for hams around the world.

But they don't just happen. That QSL card must make its way from one station to the other. With thousands of cards representing all those contacts between two stations all over the world, some complex paths have been developed to get the cards where they should go. And that's where BARC comes in – with your help.

Also at our November meeting, we will lend a hand to the QSL card sorting with assistance from Steve Gilbert, K1SG. We will make a first-level sort of cards. At the same time you will get to see cards from all over the world headed to hams in the US. What an exciting time this will be!

The meeting will be held on **Thursday, 19 November**. Our meetings are on the third Thursday of each month, starting at 7:00 pm at the Salvation Army HQ third floor auditorium. The address is 147 Berkeley St, Boston, 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. The entrance to the parking lot is from Columbus Ave. (across the street from the firehouse). A map appears on page 7 of this newsletter.

We usually take the first few minutes for any pending business, followed by the main topic of the month. Both portions of the meeting are important.

If you have any ideas about topics that *you* would like to see presented at future meetings, please feel free to contact one of your officers. Remember – this is *your club* and we are here to help you have fun and get the most out of ham radio.

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