



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

October 2010 - VOLUME 22, NUMBER 10

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President

- Tom Bertolino, KB1P, President

A CHANGE IN THE DELIVERY METHOD OF THE SPARC

October is upon us and it is a month that signifies change. Trees change color as their leaves begin to fall to the ground. The nights get cooler and the days get shorter. Weather is changing from the warm sunny days of summer to the gray cold days of winter. I guess you can say October is a transition month.

October is also a transition month for BARC. It is the start of a change in the way we publish The SPARC. In an effort to become greener, we are converting to electronic delivery of our newsletter. I urge you to read the article below.

Get Green... Get Frugal

-- Tom Bertolino, KB1P, President

Beginning in January 2011, BARC will change the publication of this newsletter by maximizing the use electronic delivery. This will reduce the cost of paper publication and postage.

I have sent letters to our members asking them to reconsider receiving The SPARC electronically. If a member decides to continue receive The SPARC by mail, they will continue to do so. However, if there is a lapse in membership, rejoining will cause the electronic method to be imposed. Also effective in January 2011, new members will be required to accept the newsletter electronically.

We will no longer mail The SPARC to Non-members who now receive it by postal mail. Any Non-member postal recipient of this newsletter who wishes to continue to receive The SPARC can do so electronically by sending an email to kb1p@arrl.net stating their name, and preferred email address.

Our objective is to reduce the use of paper and hold our costs down. If you can think of other ways that will benefit the club and its members, let me know at: kb1p@arrl.net.

OCTOBER'S GENERAL MEETING

October 14th is this month's General Meeting; yes it is the second Thursday of the month not the third Thursday. STOP! The meeting place is NOT at the Community room at Brookline Police HQ. This month's meeting is being held at the **Clay Center For Science & Technology, 20 Newton St, Brookline, MA**. You can get directions and a map to the Clay Center from their web site at www.claycenter.org.

We will meet at the main entrance of the Clay Center at **7:00 pm** and we will go over some club business. After we finish with the club's business, Bob Phinney, the Clay Center Director, will give an overview of the Clay Center and its mission while taking us on a tour of the center. After the tour we will be given a briefing on one of their many special projects. The topic will depend which speaker is available on the 14th.

After the briefing (weather permitting) we will be given the opportunity to view the heavens through their telescopes. This general meeting should be a great time for all. I hope to see you there.

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I See the Future

- 10 Oct BAA Half Marathon (**Rp**)
- 14 Oct BARC General Meeting (**Note change of date and location**)
- 15-16 Oct NEAR-Fest VIII (Deerfield NH)
- 17 Oct MIT Flea (Cambridge)
- 5 Nov HCRA Auction (Feeding Hills)
- 6 Nov IRS Flea (Londonderry NH)
- 8 Nov BARC VE Session (by reservation)
- 13 Nov FARA Flea (Bourne)
- 18 Nov BARC General Meeting
- 20 Nov CAARA Flea (Rockport)
- 2 Dec BARC Business Meeting
- 4-5 Dec SKYWARN Recognition Day – BARC Station at BHO
- ?? Dec BARC Holiday Party (**General Meeting omitted**)
- 10 Jan BARC VE Session (by reservation)
- 20 Jan BARC General Meeting

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

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 also an associate member of the Courage Handi-Hams system.

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KY1N List Goes QRT

The KY1N Memorial List, a popular New England resource documenting Volunteer Examinations is no more.

According to Jim Heedles, WW1Y, "with the increased effort and decreased usefulness, I've come to the conclusion that it's time for the KY1N List to go QRT." WW1Y explains further, "For the past couple of years the KY1N list has largely duplicated the data located at the ARRL web site. The effort to reconcile the different data sources used to build the list has become less beneficial to the amateur community as the differences between the KY1N list and the ARRL/VEC list grew less and less." The list was named in honor of Raymond R. Lussier, KY1N (SK), an active volunteer examiner and team liaison for the Mt. Moriah (Salem NH) VE team.

WW1Y says that individuals interested in finding information about Amateur Radio exam sessions can still go to these sites:

<www.arrrl.org/finding-an-exam-session>
<www.w5yi.org/exam_locations_ama.php>

PowerPole Questions and Answers

<http://www.powerwerx.com/helpcenter.asp>

Are the 15, 30 & 45 Amp PowerPoles interchangeable?

Yes. The 15, 30 & 45 Amp contacts all use the same housing. Therefore, they all plug into each other. The only difference between the 15, 30 & 45 amp contacts is the size of the receiving barrel that holds the wire.

Crimping vs. Soldering

One of the many questions we receive is it best to solder or crimp the connectors? Either is OK, but each method should be done properly. If you are going to crimp use a crimper that will not destroy the round shape of the contact. Some brands of crimpers deform the barrel of the contact into an oval. The oval will not allow easy insertion into the housing and therefore requires re-crimping to make sure the contact is still a rounded shape.

Soldering is also acceptable, but you have to make sure that not too much solder is applied and that it does not run down onto the tongue (tip of the contact). Solder flux and solder on the contact add to the resistance of the connection.

In either case if you are using a wire size that may be too small for the contact you may have to fold the wire over (doubling) and then insert it into the contact to properly fill the hole to be able to make a proper crimp/solder connection.

BARC Volunteer Exam Sessions

The Boston Amateur Radio Club holds monthly VE sessions on the second Monday of each month. **The October exam will be omitted.** Sessions are held at 7:00 pm at Brookline Police Headquarters, 350 Washington St in the Community Room across from information desk. A map is shown on page 5

We give all exams (Technician, General, and Extra). Testing is by reservation only. Please bring the following with you:

- Your current license and a photocopy for the ARRL, if you are upgrading
- Any CSEs 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)

Note: 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
Tom Bertolino, KB1P, 781.608.6186 kb1p@arrrl.net

Business Can Advertise Here

The SPARC accepts commercial advertisements. BARC encourages monthly promotion of your products and services which would be of interest to hundreds of our members and others interested in the Amateur Radio Service.

The 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

Originals of ads must be presented to the Editor in MS Word or .jpg format to print 1:1. Other composition will be at extra cost. We will be glad to quote other ad sizes and durations.

Members are urged to seek prospective advertisers who are appropriate to our readers.

For additional information, contact Tom Bertolino, KB1P, at 781.608.6186 or <kb1p@arrrl.net>; or Bob Salow at <wa1ida@arrrl.net> or 508.650.9440.

The SPARC

BAA Half Marathon Needs Hams

-- **Bob Salow, WA1IDA**

With nine years of successful events, the Boston Athletic Association Half Marathon continues as a "Boston Tradition." Ham radio has established its community value at times like these. We have been asked again to support safety and administrative communications. With a little fine-tuning, including many ideas from hams, the event is expected to be even better than last year.

The park where the start and finish had been located is undergoing a major renovation, so the 2010 race starts and finishes in beautiful Franklin Park. Obviously the course must be adjusted. It is for this reason that hams can respond with our personal and communications flexibility. For those who have done this event before, you know the road conditions still call for our best support for the athletes. We need you again, and the Race Director has asked for even more ham help (that's what happens when we are appreciated).

The new course has been laid out and qualified to international standards. Much of the original route on the "Emerald Necklace" is used.

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

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(603) 898-1041 Fax

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NEW CASTLE, DE • OAKLAND, CA • PHOENIX, AZ • PORTLAND, OR
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If you are new to ham public service (or don't have much familiarity with it), this is an easy introduction to getting in on the action and fun of community service without much pressure.

Date: Sunday, 10 October 2010

Ham start: 0600

Ham finish: 0930 to 1130 (depending on location)

Yes, I know it is the day before the Columbus Day holiday. The upside is it starts early and ends early, leaving plenty of time to enjoy the long weekend. Your help is greatly needed to continue this as a superb event and to uphold our reputation for dependable support. Our assignments consist of monitoring hazardous and critical locations along the course, and the medical/support stations. As we did in the past, we plan to use a 2-meter repeater and possibly a 70-cm repeater. A hand-held with a good battery and an antenna better than a "rubber duck" is the way to go.

If you can help, please contact the BARC Public Service Office as soon as possible. The assignments and more detail will be sent as soon as

they are available. For many of the assignments, you can go directly to your station. Please send your best email address and a phone number (cell, also). Parking should be available very close to each assignment. Feel free to contact Tom Bertolino, KB1P, to volunteer or if you have any questions at kb1p@arri.net or 781.608.6186.

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, at [<kb1p@arri.net>](mailto:kb1p@arri.net).

Be Careful of the "Anti-Texting" Law

-- **Bob Salow, WA1IDA**

The recently enforced Massachusetts law banning "texting" while driving appears to exempt Amateur Radio operators (see Section 3 in the bill). This is an area where zealous law enforcement may question a ham's similar activity and force the ham to defend the position. This defense could be costly in time and money, so it is best to avoid forcing a test of the principle.

Hams under 18 should be particularly aware since all cell phone use while driving (or in a travel lane) is prohibited. Ham radio activities are permitted but be prepared to make extensive explanations.

The suggestion here is for hams to carry a copy of your FCC license *and* a copy of the pertinent law with you at all times while driving. The law may be found at:

www.malegislature.gov/bills/billtext/8889

Repeaters: 145.230 (-)CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

444.050 (-)CTCSS 110.9 Hz

The SPARC



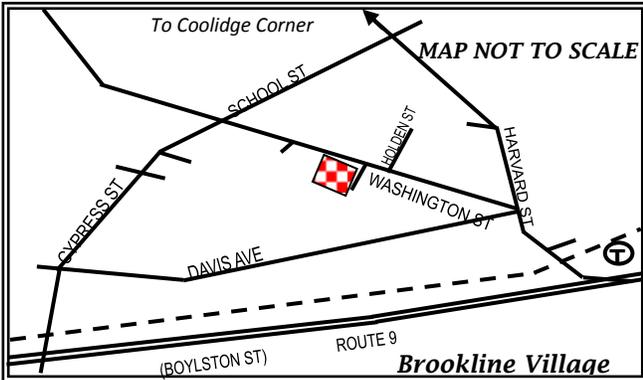
**The Clay Center Observatory
Welcomes BARC members**

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

Direction to the Brookline Police Headquarters, 350 Washington Street, Brookline MA



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 2011, we have already been tasked with several events, and more are expected. Feel free to contact Tom Bertolino, KB1P, at 781.608.6186 or <kb1p@arrl.net>.

- **SKYWARN Recognition Day – 4 December 2010**
(Blue Hill Observatory, Milton)

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

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: 145.230 (-)CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

444.050 (-)CTCSS 110.9 Hz

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BARC October Meeting

The Clay Center Is a Site to See. A Field Tour for the October Meeting

Our General meeting for October is a visit to the Clay Center in Brookline. This extensive science center is a facility of the Dexter and Southfield Schools featuring astronomy, weather, energy, ham radio and other educational and research areas.

This BARC meeting will be on **Thursday, 14 October at 7:00 pm – a week earlier than our usual schedule.** The Clay Center is at 20 Newton St, Brookline – the road across Newton St from the entrance to Larz Anderson Park. As usual, talk in on 145.230.

Our usual meetings are on the third Thursday of each month, except July, August and December (that's party time) at the Brookline Police Headquarters, 350 Washington St, Brookline. Meetings begin at 7:00 pm. Talk-in on the Boston repeater, 145.230 MHz (–), CTCSS 88.5 Hz. See the map on page 5.