



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area
April 2012 - VOLUME 24, NUMBER 4
www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President - Linda M. Blair, NA1I

For The Benefit Of All and All Of The Benefits

Well, we've made it through January and February, and now we've marched on into April. Time does not stand still and neither should we. I want to take a short peek at our future, but first some recent events need to be reviewed.

First, on behalf of the Club I want to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Casey Hatchett, KB1REN, of the Brookline Police Department and her team for putting together the C.E.R.T. presentation for our March General Meeting. Although the attendance was small and the presentation brief, it was of the highest quality.

*Next I want to thank those who responded regarding some of the issues I raised in my March President's Letter. To those who paid their dues, thanks and welcome to another great year of membership in the **Boston Amateur Radio Club**. The same welcome is extended to those of you who have just joined us. May your experiences with the Club be fruitful and joyful. If it is not, tell us so we can try to do something to make things better for you.*

In the matter of the Yahoo Group, we've recently had a flurry of activity. Many thanks to Mike Simonds, NZ5H, and Joe Flaherty, W1JF, for getting the action started. Now the goal is to keep that action going because it looks like the Group is here to stay.

In the March issue of SPARC you saw the minutes of the 1 March Executive Committee meeting. Some questions have been raised about two of the actions of this Board and I would like to take a moment to explain why these actions were taken. The first I'll address is the issue of the Post Office Box. We had a request that a former member of many years ago, who is a resident and citizen of another country, be allowed to use the Club's P.O. Box address so as to have an address in this country for the F.C.C. regarding his license renewal. Indeed, I even retrieved one piece of mail for him from the P.O. Box. I do not know him. In fact, I never heard of him until this issue came up. I had no address to forward the mail to him or the means to forward it even if I had an address. I finally turned the piece of mail over to another member who had known the person.

*But I am not the Post Office, nor is any other member. No one of us should be put in such a position, especially for a **FORMER** member who has not seen fit to keep his dues paid. Therefore, the Executive Board adopted the policy that the P.O. Box be used for Club business and Club business **ONLY**.*

The second matter is that of the membership roster. Times have changed since the Club started. The methods of record keeping from previous eras are no longer effective. Ways of doing things are available now that did not exist then. Under the old method necessary information provided by the roster simply was not getting to those who needed it when they needed it. The answer is centralization of the roster. By putting the roster in a password protected centralized online location it can be accessed any time by anyone who has the authorized password. This is the way of today and that is why the Executive Board took this particular action. Note that this action does not affect the historical database which has been kept since the Club's inception by Bob Salow. Bob will continue to keep the historical database.

Finally, I want to discuss the issue of dues, when they are due and when one's membership status is changed if dues are not paid. Our fiscal year is the calendar year (By-Laws line 289). If a member pays dues by the last day of the third month of the calendar year, that member is said to be "in good standing." This is shown in the By-Laws:

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272 Member in Good Standing

273 A Member shall be considered to be in good standing if their dues are
274 current or in arrears by not more than three calendar months after the start
275 of the fiscal year.

From line 273 the term "in good standing" means that if one has not paid dues by the close of the three (3) calendar month period one is no longer a "member in good standing," but is still a "member", although not in good standing. In this case Club benefits for "members in good standing" may be denied to "members not in good standing." However, the membership itself is not jeopardized until the condition presents itself that after the close of the fiscal year the member has still not paid. If after that time the former member pays, the membership process begins anew with a new membership form appropriately completed and filed.

Of course we all know that something can happen to prevent a member from paying before the close of the third month. Also there is the case of the new member who joined after June 30 and pays the half-year rate. To accommodate these members let's take a look at another section of the By-Laws:

258 Partial Year Membership Dues

259 Dues paid after June 30 shall be eligible for a rate of one half (½) of the
260 amount for the full year. A member paying such amount shall be eligible
261 for full membership benefits the same as if the full year rate were paid.

Please note lines 260 and 261. Since the fiscal year is the calendar year (By-Laws line 289) and if one pays after June 30, then that member is considered a member for the whole year beginning January 1, not for a whole year forward from the date the dues is paid. Therefore, membership is rightfully said to be retroactive to January 1 regardless of when the dues was paid as long as it was paid during the respective calendar year.

Keep in mind that Club elections are coming in June and if you are planning to run for office or want to become a member of the Executive Board, you must be a "member in good standing."

From the By-Laws:

101 Eligibility for Office

102 All members in good standing shall be eligible to hold any of the offices,

One suggestion I would strongly advocate is that when you pay your dues, keep your receipt, be it a Paypal receipt, a canceled check, or a paper receipt, or whatever. And be sure that what the payment is for is marked on the receipt no matter what kind of receipt it is.

Okay, now the big question; why am I putting forth all of this concerning the dues? One answer is that recently some questions have been asked by members concerning these matters. I hope I have answered them sufficiently. Another answer has to do with the definition of "member in good standing." If you are no longer a "member in good standing" you can lose member benefits such as electronic delivery of the SPARC and membership in the Boston ARC Yahoo Group. To keep that from happening – well – you know what to do.

73, Linda, na1i

PowerPole Connectors and Tool Available

Anderson® PowerPole® connectors are the standard for ARES and most other ham uses. They allow reliable, interchangeable power connections. BARC has the special tool to make the crimped connections. We have a supply of the connector bodies and contacts to enable each member to have two full sets free. Additional connector pairs are \$1/pair.

Tools and connectors can be available at any meeting for installation, instruction, and assistance. Contact Jim, KB1JKJ at kb1jkj@arrl.net so he can have them brought to the meeting.

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April Meeting - "Public Service" -- Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ

Note: Location change the April 19th BARC General meeting will be at Clay Center.

Public Service Go-Kit; With the winter almost over and our public service events starting next month, I decided to use the time to check out my equipment and put together a go bag for supporting public service events.

My kit starts with a Yaesu VX-7R, with the following accessories: an extra battery, mini speaker/ microphone, earpiece/microphone, microphone adapter, DC cable charger and Comet HT-224 antenna. I keep all these items in a canvas bag that I bought at a local hardware store; there were three bags in the set.

In one of the other canvas bags I keep a pad of paper, some post-it-notes flashlight, a whistle, index cards, pens and pencils.



I carry these bags in a fanny pack, which I purchased from Campmor.com. The bag has two water bottle pockets on either side of the main compartment.

Also, in this pack I carry a personal first aid kit with sunscreen, a multi-purpose tool, and a copy of the radio manual in a plastic bag, my BARC badge and some snacks for long days.

Just before the event I recharge the batteries, add two water bottles, route maps and event specific details which I keep in plastic document protector sheets.

Want to learn more about the ins and outs of Public Service events come to the April General meeting where we will be discussing Public Service events, operations, net control procedures and more.

To add further perspective to the ham public service concept, Bob Salow, WA1IDA, will describe the environment in which we provide support. This will cover such issues as the actual and perceived communications needs of the served agencies, interpersonal relations with the leadership, and geographic considerations. Also of significance is the recruiting and assignment of hams, selection of repeaters and the overall logistics of the ham operation.

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.

Rick St. Clair

WU1V

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.

ARRL to Add Online QST For Members -- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

Beginning in June, in addition to the print copy of *QST*, all ARRL members will have access to an online, digital edition of *QST* at no extra cost. The magazine can be accessed from anywhere - on nearly any computer, laptop, mobile device, smartphone and tablet (including iPad, iPhone, and devices using the Android operating system).

Also in June, members will gain access to archived issues of *QST* from December 1915 to the present (previously, only issues through 2007 were available to members). A new archive will also be introduced for issues beginning January 2012, featuring enhanced functionality including full-text search.

Repeaters: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

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Don't Buy Surplus Broadcast Towers – Yet -- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

The World Radio Conference (WRC-12) in Geneva has allocated a new ham band at 472-479 **KHz**. This secondary allocation does not take effect until 1 January 2013. Then the FCC would have to incorporate it into Part 97 before we could use it.

You could start looking for a World War 2 "Gibson Girl" emergency transmitter, however. This is (was) a yellow box, about a cubic foot, to be used at sea. It is shaped with concave sides and strapped between the knees. On top is a horizontal hand crank to generate power. Included is a reel of phosphor bronze wire for an antenna to be raised by balloon or kite.

It transmits on 500 KHz, formerly the international distress frequency, but now allocated to mobile maritime use. It should be able to be modified to work on the new MF ham band. In another year or so, you could then hook it up to that surplus broadcast band tower you have installed in your back yard.

ARRL Warns Members to Be Aware of Bogus Emails -- *The ARRL Letter, March 15, 2012*

Some ARRL members with **arrl.net** email accounts have recently received bogus emails, notifying them of a bill that supposedly needs to be paid. The email instructs the reader to click on a link to view the bill. Clicking on the link could release a virus that can infect your computer. Please be aware that these emails are *not* coming from the ARRL.

"If you receive an email like this and it looks like it originated from ARRL, please do not respond," explained ARRL IT Manager Michael Keane, K1MK. "The best thing you can do when receiving bogus emails is to simply add them to the spam list in your computer's email program and delete it. Please don't forward it to ARRL HQ - we will have already seen it and are already responding to it."

BARC 70cm Repeater Off

Our 70cm repeater is off the air, until further notice. The 2M repeater on 145.230 remains operational. We are reviewing and revamping our total repeater support to the Greater Boston ham community.

Volunteer Examiners Needed - Hank, K1QK

BARC is in need of more Volunteer Examiners (VEs) for our exam sessions. In some cases we have only the required 3 VEs for our sessions. If any unforeseen situation arises and a VE is not able to make a session we would be forced to cancel the test.

There are some BARC members who are qualified VEs that have not been participating in the testing. We urge these VEs to attend our test sessions. If you can spare one night a month please come to a session.

We can surely use additional VEs. The test procedure for qualification is simple. Materials are available from the ARRL and the examination is an open book test. Hams with General and Amateur Extra class licenses are eligible to become VEs. If you would like to become a VE and help with the testing please contact Hank, K1QK or Jim, N1ICN.

SKYWARN Spotter Training

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. Participants will be asked to fill out a short form during the class.

Thursday, May 3rd, 2012, from 7:00 to 10:00 pm
Walpole Public Library
147 School Street
Walpole, MA
Taught by: NWS Taunton Forecaster

Saturday, May 12th, 2012, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Clay Center - Observatory Lecture Hall
Dexter and Southfield Schools
20 Newton Street
Brookline, MA
Taught by: Amateur Radio Coordinator
Directions: <www.claycenter.org>

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Call for Convention Speakers -- Ken Caruso, WO1N, Boxboro Program Chairman

All speakers and organizations wanting to participate in the 2012 ARRL New England Division Convention program, please contact us at your earliest opportunity. Note the dates for the convention this year: **August 24 – 26, 2012.**

While there has been good response to date, open program hours remain available. Contact us if you wish to present a talk; include a subject title and, if you are so prepared, include a brief abstract.

If you represent a regional club or organization (e.g. NESMC, CEMARC, MARS, NEWS, etc.) we can help facilitate open forums or closed meetings by providing you a meeting room. We do ask that organizations like this to please consider Sunday morning time slots for their closed meetings.

Groups looking to set up information booths should get your request in early. While the information booths are offered without charge, we ask for some volunteer time in return to assist us with ticket sales and other logistics during the convention operation.

Note, if you require a hotel room, make your reservations ASAP per the instructions contained on the web site to get the special convention rate.

Keep an eye on the convention web site, <www.boxboro.org>, for the latest information. We look forward to meeting you at the convention.

73, Ken, <wo1n@arrl.net>, 508.572.3347

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 Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ, at 978.663.7114 or <kb1jkj@arrl.net>; or Bob Salow at <wa1ida@arrl.net> or 508.650.9440.

Got a Story? Why not share It! -- Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ

We are always looking for articles for the newsletter. I have reserved this space for your articles, tips, how-to's, or other ham related information. Send your submissions to the Editor, Jim, KB1JKJ, at <kb1jkj@arrl.net>.

Articles for the May issue must be received by 30 April.

Radio Transmissions from the Titanic

A very well done replay of the radio traffic from and about the Titanic can be heard as a BBC Titanic "special broadcast." They took the CW conversations and broadcast them as voice, including simulating the signal loss as the ship sank. <www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/console/p00q89fy> The best portions are: 4:43 to 23:00 and 26:28 to 44:00, the end of the program. You will also find many parallels with some modern nets.



I See the Future

- 19 Apr BARC General Meeting (*at Clay Center*)
- 29 Apr **Run of the Charles (Rp)**
- 4-5 May NEAR Fest (Deerfield NH)
- 12 May **MS Journey of Hope Walk**
- 20 May **Brain Tumor Bike Rides (Rp)**
- 20 May MIT Flea (Cambridge)
- 16 Jun NE Antique RC (Brookline NH)
- 17 Jun MIT Flea (Cambridge)
- 24 Jun **BAA 10K Race (Rp)**
- 15 Jul MIT Flea (Cambridge)
- 12 Aug NoBARC Flea (Adams)
- 24-26 Aug ARRL NE Convention (Boxboro)

(Rp) = BARC Repeater 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 much of the Northeast, 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.

Jiggle the Dates

Due to venue conflicts some BARC meetings in 2012 must be shifted as to date and/or place. Please take note of these; timely reminders will also be posted in the newsletter.

19 April	Thurs	General Meeting	Clay Center
17 May	Thurs	General Meeting	Brookline PD
7 June	Thurs	Business Meeting	Brookline PD
21 June	Thurs	General Meeting	Brookline PD



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 2012, we have already been tasked with several events, and more may be expected. Feel free to contact Bob Salow, WA1IDA, at 508.650.9440 or <wa1ida@arrl.net>.

- *Run of the Charles* - **29 April** - (Charles River, Needham to Boston)
- *MS Journey of Hope Walk* - **12 May** - Natick
- *Brain Tumor Bike Rides* - **20 May** - (Waltham to Concord)
- *BAA 10K Race* - **24 June** - (Boston)
- *BAA Half Marathon* - **7 October** - (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.



The SPARC

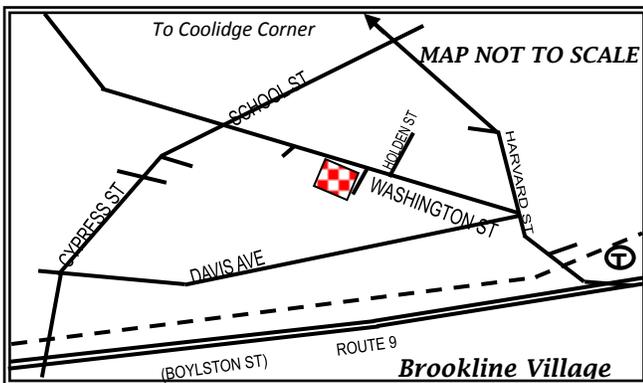
Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

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 **7 June 2012** at the Cambridge Side Galleria. 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 also 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 Linda Blair, NA1I.

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





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 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 Brookline Police Headquarters, 350 Washington St in the Community Room across from information desk. A map is shown below

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.

To reserve a seat or for further information, contact:
Linda Blair, NA1I, 617.500.4406 na1i@arrl.net

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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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 Linda Blair,NA1I, at <na1i@arrl.net>.

BARC Officers and Staff

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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 HandiHams 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