



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

November 2012 - VOLUME 24, NUMBER 11

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrrl.net



Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

On December 12, 1901, 111 years to the day before this year's BARC Holiday Party, Guglielmo Marconi received the first transatlantic radio signal at Signal Hill, St. John's, Newfoundland. Being a genius, apparently, does not mean that one does not do things like schedule vacations in Newfoundland in December.

The transmitter was located in Cornwall, approximately 2,200 miles away. The wavelength was about 350m, and the entire path was in daylight, so while Marconi may have been the father of DX, he might have had to work for DXCC. The signal--a Morse Code letter S--was arranged in advance, and the clicks were reported to have been heard "faintly and sporadically." There were some skeptics at the time, and one might even be skeptical even now.

An apocryphal tale that I made up relates that during the experiment, a group representing the Signal Hill Neighbourhood Association showed up, and asked, "With whom are you in communication?"

"Marziani" ("Martians"), he replied.

Marconi improved his experiments, and sent the famous message from Theodore Roosevelt to King Edward VII from South Wellfleet on January 18, 1903. I guess he loved those winter trips to the seaside. By the end of the decade the first college Amateur Radio station--at MIT--would be founded, and the ARRL would follow in 1914.

In 1913, following the introduction of Amateur Radio licensing the year before, the Commerce Department issued its first annual national list of radio stations. One was in my own neighborhood: Herman A. Affel, 1HL, of 45 St. Botolph St., the inventor of the coaxial cable. Another early amateur was Eunice Randall, 1CDP, Boston's first female radio announcer and engineer. A quick sketch of this remarkable woman can be found at www.oldradio.com/archives/people/randall.htm. Bear in mind that the 19th Amendment, establishing women's suffrage, wasn't ratified until 1920.

Earlier this fall I made a short visit to Marconi Beach in Wellfleet (in grid square FN51!) with my bicycle mobile setup, a trip that wants to be repeated when I have a more generous schedule and a better antenna. My next historical jaunt--and perhaps yours--will be with BARC to the Blue Hill Observatory, home of the oldest continuous weather records in North America, for SKYWARN Recognition Day on Saturday, December 1. Like Marconi, we'll fiddle with radios atop a hill on December and maybe field questions about the Martians.

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

The November BARC general meeting will be held on Thursday, November 15 at 7:00 pm at Brookline Police Headquarters. The topic will be Storm Spotting and SKYWARN, and our speaker will be Rob Macedo, KD1CY. Rob is SKYWARN coordinator for southern New England and the Eastern Massachusetts ARES Section Emergency Coordinator.

Thanks to an anonymous donor, we will be raffling off a copy of the ARRL's *Storm Spotting and Amateur Radio*, by Michael Corey and Victor Morris.

The SPARC

It's Time for the BARC Holiday Party

One of our most successful BARC events has been our Holiday Party in December. For well over 20 consecutive years our members, family and friends have had a wonderful time at our purely social get together. We have selected the well-known **Not Your Average Joe's** restaurant in Arlington this year, and we expect to have a great time with its good food. The restaurant has a fine reputation and has been carefully scouted by our devoted mastication team. The location is accessible by public transportation.

Mark the date: **Wednesday, 12 December**. The December General meeting is omitted.

The restaurant is located in Arlington at 645 Massachusetts Ave, on the north side between Mystic St and Water St. If you can't find parking on the street, there is a Town Lot around the corner on Water St. The **T** bus routes are shown on the flyer.

This notice may not give you much time to decide, but you can see the informative flyer which accompanies this issue or on our website. In advance, the cost is **\$30.00** per person, but at the door it will be \$35.00. Any excess restaurant costs, the tax and the gratuity are paid by the club. Please bring your family and friends – with a \$5.00 discount for each. Contact Mike, N1IST, at <n1ist@arri.net> to be counted. Menu selections need not be made in advance – just place your order at the table. A cash bar will provide fortification, but you will be responsible for your own bar bills.

The coupons on the flyer should be printed and sent to Mike, N1IST, with your attendance count and the **2012 BARC Ham of the Year ballot**.

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
- 2009 Hank Buccigross, K1QK
- 2010 Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ
- 2011 Mark Duff, KB1EKN, and Geri Duff, KB1ISG

Have you ever entered a room full of strangers and tried to sort them all out? Families and friends will be joining us at the party, and as a courtesy to them, members are urged to wear name badges to facilitate making introductions, conversations and all around holiday good cheer to our guests.

It is important that you return both 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.

The SPARC

No Dues Increase for 2013

The BARC Executive Committee decided to have no increase in the dues structure for 2013. The basic full year membership fee for regular members continues at \$25.00. Junior, senior and family memberships are set accordingly. There is also an adjustment for the latter half of the year.

25, 50, and 75 years Ago in QST -- Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

QST publishes a column every month toward the back of the magazine that highlights from issues 25, 50, and 75 years ago. Now that the QST archive is online, it's really worth taking a look at these articles. Here are a few that caught my eye in October:

October 1937

- "Modernizing the Simple Regenerative Receiver" <http://p1k.arrl.org/pubs_archive/19076> by Vernon Chambers, W1JEQ. This a nicely-designed and built regen using two tubes, a 6K5 pentode and 6C5 triode. I'm going to keep this design in mind if I ever get around to playing with all the tubes I have. As an aside, I searched on W1JEQ's call sign and found out that he wrote 87 articles for QST from 1936 through February 1958. This was his third article.
- "Concentrated Directional Antennas for Transmission and Reception" <http://p1k.arrl.org/pubs_archive/19078> by John L. Reinartz, W1QP, and Burton T. Simpson, W8CPC. This article describes two different antennas. The first is a half-wave loop antenna that the author says works on 2½, 5, 10, and 20 meters. The second is a square loop antenna called a "signal squirter" for 14 MHz.

October 1962

- In "New Apparatus" <http://p1k.arrl.org/pubs_archive/46246> on page 27, a key made by J. A. Hills, W8FYO, of Dayton, OH, is shown under the heading, "New Key Mechanism for Electronic Keyers." The photo clearly shows a key whose design was adopted by Bencher for the BY-1 paddle.
- "The Towering Problem" <http://p1k.arrl.org/pubs_archive/46122> by Jay Kay Klein, WA2LII, clearly shows that putting up towers have always been a problem for Amateur Radio operators. This is a humorous take on the problem. What's notable is that this type of humorous article almost never appears in QST anymore. Amateur Radio seems to have lost its sense of humor, or at least its cadre of humorous writers.

October 1987

- "Stalking Those Fugitive Components" <http://p1k.arrl.org/pubs_archive/81357> by Doug DeMaw, W1FB. Today, we often complain about the demise of local parts suppliers, but this article shows that this was a problem 25 years ago as well. W1FB gives some advice that I gave not long ago on my blog. That is, stock up on parts, especially when you find a good deal on them, and you won't have to scrounge around for them when you want them.

Digitizing all of the back issues of QST and putting them online is one of the things that the ARRL has done right. This is a wonderful resource for members. If you have a favorite QST article I'd love to hear about it. Please send me the title and the month it was published. My e-mail address is <cwgeek@kb6nu.com>.

When not perusing old issues of QST, Dan is the station manager for WA2HOM, the Amateur Radio station at Ann Arbor's Hands-On Museum. He also writes amateur radio license study guides. In fact, by the time you read this, the *No-Nonsense Extra Class Study Guide* should be available on Amazon. Just search for "KB6NU."

The SPARC

Rig for Sale...NOT! – Eric Falkof, K1NUN

In last month's *The SPARC*, you saw I advertised my TS-2000 for sale. However, I've decided not to sell it. Here's why...

You see, I usually keep my radios for ten or more years and get a full use of all the electrons within. But in the last decade or so, my outlook has changed. I was going to sell the '2000 that I've owned for almost 9 years to defray some of the costs of the new Elecraft KX3 I bought at the Boxboro Hamfest. But then I looked at the differences: 144/440 MHz in one, lots of DSP in the other, large vs. small, internal batteries vs. external power supply, lots vs. fewer buttons, 8 vs. 5 knobs, computer-controlled vs. computer-integration, etc., etc. My plans are that each will stay here in the shack. I have other plans for portable operation. Each radio has distinct advantages and capabilities I want.

But then I also compared the KX3 to my FT-817. They're both nice QRP rigs. Again, an analysis: both have internal batteries, large vs. small display, paperback book size and form factor vs. box shape, both can be hand-carried etc., etc. I can take each radio to the field or easily use for small-scale portable operation. I have a nice portable antenna I can quickly set up anywhere to use with either rig. Each radio has distinct advantages and capabilities I want.

So then I compared the TS-2000 to my Alinco DX-70. Both are 100 watt rigs, but one is old and the other new. The DX-70 is small, just a bit bigger and heavier than the FT-817, and both can be carried around for portable operation, mobile too. The older radio has no menu structure and it is so simple to operate, I do not need a manual to figure it out. I keep the DX-70 in a briefcase with antenna tuner and power supply in case I need to take a portable or demonstration station. I can use the same portable antenna I use with the same portable antenna for both, if I go portable. I use it so seldom, I can remember the functions of each switch or knob, unlike menu-intensive radios. Each radio has distinct advantages and capabilities I want.

So, I am sitting here, typing, trying to rationalize my decision to keep all four radios. Each is a complete station: two 100 watters and two QRP rigs. Each radio fits a different set of criteria why I bought it. For the 100 watters, the choice is fairly simple: one is always in a briefcase, ready to go. But I use it only once a year. One of the 100 watt stations is duplicated with a lot of the functionality in the new QRP rig. (When the 100 watt amplifier becomes available for the KX3, the questions will begin again! But the 144/440 MHz and high power capability argument will arise; I can just tell!) So, why keep both: the TS-2000 and the upgradeable KX3? And if I keep the QRP, modern KX3, what is the advantage in keeping the FT-817? And the portability of the FT-817 exceeds the DX70, but the KX3 is newer and technologically superior to the DX70, but lower power. And the TS-2000 has everything (the so-called Swiss Army knife of radios), but is higher power, larger, and older.

What's a Ham to do?

I sit here, typing on my computer, listening to HF on one radio and a local repeater on another. Another sits, unused, in a briefcase, and another sits, unused, on top of yet another radio. I like my radios, but I can only talk on one at a time, and any time I think of selling one, the other three try to talk me out of it. So, I sit here, with four rigs, each with a different purpose in my arsenal, and the stack of radios keeps growing. And to add injury to my own insult, I've been looking at the new Flex radio too. It too has similarities and differences to all my other rigs.

Please, don't ask me about my two dualband radios and three dualband HTs!

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.

Ed Gardner	KB1VWE
Dave Pascoe	KM3T

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 upgrade and 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>.

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BARC to Operate SKYWARN Recognition Day – Mark Duff, KB1EKN

On Saturday, 1 December 2012, SKYWARN Recognition Day, BARC plans to operate for the tenth 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 at an elevation of over 600 feet. We invite you and any other hams to help and participate (or at least visit). Access to the top of the hill is restricted, so contact Mark, KB1EKN, at emgmt@comcast.net for more information. The Half Marathon is now an internationally recognized event in the running field. With recent success, the 7100 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.

I See the Future

Note that VE sessions are suspended in October, November, and December.

- 15 Nov BARC General Meeting**
- 1 Dec SKYWARN Recognition Day (Blue Hill Observatory, Milton)**
- 6 Dec BARC Business Meeting**
- 12 Dec BARC Holiday Party**
- 17 Jan BARC General Meeting**
- 16 Feb AARC Flea (Marlborough)
- 21 Feb BARC General 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 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.

Looking Ahead At Public Service -- Bob Salow, WA1DA

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 suitable for hams who are new to helping at such events as well as experienced hams. For 2013, we have already been tasked with several events which will be announced later. Feel free to contact Brett Smith, AB1RL, at 859.466.5915 or [<ab1rl@arrl.net>](mailto:ab1rl@arrl.net).

- *SKYWARN Recognition Day - 1 December* - (Blue Hill, Milton)
- *BAA 5K and 1 Mile Races – 14 April 2013* – (Boston)
- *Run of the Charles – 28 April 2013* – (Charles River, Needham to Brighton)
- *Multiple Sclerosis Journey of Hope – 18 May 2013* – (Natick)
- *Boston Brain Tumor Bike Rides – 19 May 2013* – (Waltham to Carlisle)
- *BAA 10K Race – 23 June 2013* – (Boston)
- *BAA Half Marathon – 13 October 2013* – (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.

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The banner features two numbered steps: 1. A red mobile phone icon with the text 'Hands-Only™ CPR' and 'Ad Council' logo. 2. A red hand icon with the text 'Call 911'. To the right, it says 'Push hard and fast in the center of the chest.' and 'Learn more at handsonlycpr.org'. The American Heart Association logo and 'Learn and Live' slogan are on the far right.

Businesses 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 Joe Harris, N1QD, at 781.844.8684 or <n1qd@n1qd.org>; or Bob Salow at <wa1ida@arrl.net> or 508.650.9440.

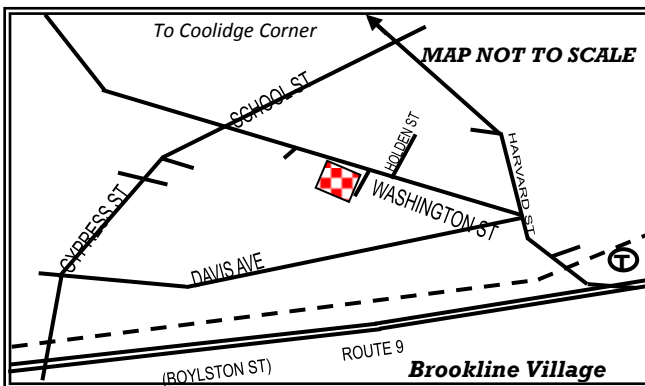
Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

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 **6 December 2012** at the Brookline Police Headquarters. 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 Joe Chapman, NV1W.

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



The Clay Center Observatory logo features a telescope and the text 'CLAY CENTER OBSERVATORY'.

**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

Repeater: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

BARC Volunteer Exam Sessions

The Boston Amateur Radio Club VE session schedule is being revised to suit the needs and interests of the applicants and examiners. **The next exam session is planned for January 2013 at a date and place to be announced.** Generally, 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 above.

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

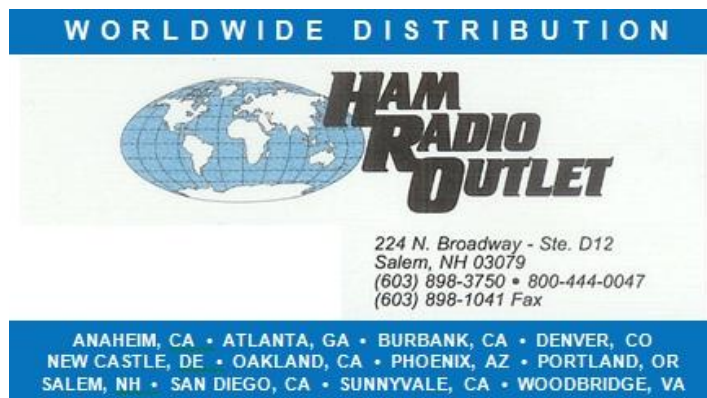
- Your current license and a photocopy for the ARRL, if you are upgrading
- Any CSEs you are claiming, and a photocopy of them
- Valid ID (picture ID preferred)
- A pen and a calculator (if you want to)
- **\$15.00** (good for all the tests you take at that session, except for retests)

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:

Jim Clogher, N1ICN, <n1icn@arrl.net>

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



WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

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Got a Story? Why Not Share It? -- Joe Harris, N1QD

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, Joe, N1QD, at <n1qd@n1qd.org>. Articles for the November issue must be received by November 3.

ARRL Will Be 100 in 2014; National Convention To Be In Hartford

ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio®, announced the organization will hold its national Centennial Convention in Hartford, CT, on **17-20 July 2014**. The Convention will mark 100 years of the ARRL's founding in Hartford. The theme for ARRL's Centennial year is "Advancing the Art and Science of Radio - Since 1914."

More information on this exciting event will be published as it is released. Save the date and plan to be there.

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 the Editor, Joe Harris, at <n1qd@n1qd.org>.

Daylight Savings Time Gone

By the time you read this, Standard Time has resumed. In addition to your clocks, don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and other battery-operated devices.

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781.844.8684; n1qd@n1qd.org

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