



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area
January 2013- VOLUME 25, NUMBER 1
www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

December was an enjoyable month for BARC. We started out with SKYWARN Recognition Day at the Great Blue Hill observatory on the first. It was a good day for weather: in the mid-twenties with light snow. Perhaps the vistas weren't as nice as they might have been, but all the trees had photogenic coatings of snow.

The usual suspects, led by Mark KB1EKN, set up a Field Day Lite station on a table in the gift shop at the observatory, with dipoles for 40 and 20 meters. Joe, N1QD, reports that we made 157 QSOs and worked 37 US states, 3 Canadian provinces, and 5 countries. Thanks to all who participated.

I had the great pleasure of walking up to the observatory with a group from the Appalachian Mountain Club's Boston chapter, led by BARC members Robert, W1RJF, and Gary, N1ZCE.

We also had a successful holiday party at Not Your Average Joe's in Arlington. Most of the work for this event was done by Linda NA1I, whom we also had the pleasure of honoring as the 2012 Ham of the Year. I doubt I have the space to list all the things Linda does for the club, not the least helping to keep her successor as club president from making a colossal mess of things. Thank you, Linda, and congratulations.

The topic of January's General meeting will be Show and Tell. This is a great chance to see what others are currently buying, building, fiddling with, or digging out of attics. I'd also like to encourage anyone who might be interested in giving a talk at a meeting to contact me. This would be especially helpful during the winter months when we have to worry about the weather interfering with outside speakers' ability to travel.

On the topic of winter weather, I will try to decide whether to cancel a meeting 24 hours in advance, and will lean towards cancelling in the case of an uncertain forecast. In the event of a cancellation, an email message will be sent out to the same list that received the meeting reminder. If you're uncertain, either give a shout on 145.230 or call me at 617.267.6349.

Best of luck to everyone in 2013!
73, Joe Chapman, NV1W

The Spotlight Can Be on You!

Our January General meeting is the time and place for you to show and tell us what you have created or accomplished in the past year. Actually, even if your bold attempts have run aground, we would like to know, and maybe offer you some help.

Did you solve a ham radio problem recently? Got a project you are working on? Did you build something that improves operating? How about new proven way to help new hams? It may be a surprise to you, but the rest of us want to know what you have done.

Our January General meeting on **Thursday, 17 January** is the time and place for you to show and tell us your achievements. If you need any projection equipment, we have it, just let President Joe, NV1W, know.

The SPARC

BARC Meeting Calendar for 2013 – Linda Blair, NA11, Vice President

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place at the Brookline Police Headquarters; the map is later in this newsletter. These dates will be published again in the newsletter as needed.

General Meetings

January 17	Thu	7:00 pm	
February 20	Wed	7:00 pm	
March 20	Wed	7:00 pm	
April 18	Thu	7:00 pm	at the Clay Center in Brookline
May 16	Thu	7:00 pm	
June 20	Thu	7:00 pm	
September 19	Thu	7:00 pm	
October 17	Thu	7:00 pm	
November 21	Thu	7:00 pm	

VE Sessions

January 19	Sat	10:00 am
March 16	Sat	10:00 am
May 13	Mon	7:00 pm
July 8	Mon	7:00 pm
September 9	Mon	7:00 pm
November 16	Sat	10:00 am

Business Meetings

March 6	Wed	7:00 pm
June 6	Thu	7:00 pm
September 5	Thu	7:00 pm
December 5	Thu	7:00 pm

It's Time for Membership Renewal

Our annual membership renewals are on a calendar year. The BARC Executive Committee has decided to make no changes 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.

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2013, a Membership Information form is included with this issue of the newsletter. Be sure to complete the form when submitting your dues as the data is necessary for statistical purposes and to notify you with important information. To assist the Treasurer with his burden, please return it promptly with your dues.

Please note that completion of the Membership Information form each year assembles not only your identity, but certain statistical data that is important for the orderly operation of our club. The form is the tangible link for the Treasurer and the database to confirm your dues payment.

BARC accepts PayPal. If you want to renew your membership online, just go to <www.barc.org/membership.html>, or click on the membership link on our home page. You can use this to pay your dues 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@arri.net>.

The SPARC

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 can practice for 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 also 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 as they are confirmed. Feel free to contact Brett Smith, AB1RL, at 859.466.5915 or <ab1rl@arrrl.net>.

- *Multiple Sclerosis Boston Walk – 7 April 2013* – (Boston/Cambridge)
- *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.

Start Up a Massachusetts - Rhode Island CW Net – Marcia Forde, KW1U, EMA STM

It is great to see more interest in CW these days. It really is a fun mode, especially when you aren't required to learn it for a license.

We had a Section CW net (EMRI) for many years, which met every evening at 7:00 PM. Unfortunately, several years ago we disbanded due to lack of participation. Now however, with the increased interest in CW, I would like to see this net operational again. Since there is no West Mass CW net, I would like this net to represent all of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Because some hams are working on building their CW skills, or may be a bit rusty, I would like to see the net run at a "relaxed" pace. You can find opportunities to increase your code speed as you pass traffic, liaise to the region net (1RN), etc. I will be asking the Net Control stations to keep the speed down, and any participants can always ask to please QRS (slow down). It is helpful when checking in to send at a speed you are comfortable copying and the NCS can return at your speed. Don't know how a CW net is run? Listen, read the MPG on the ARRL website, or ask questions of me, or any NCS.

I don't have a frequency at this time. I will have more information later so please monitor this website, <www.ema.arrrl.org>. Let me know if you have any questions at: <kw1u@arrrl.net>. I have heard from some of you already. The plan is for the net to meet at 7PM. I also suggest beginning with five evenings a week. If enough activity and net control stations are available, we can add weekends. Of course we will need traffic, so please plan on bringing some with you - greetings to family, friends, fellow hams you meet on the bands, thanks for contact, let's make a sked, etc. Be creative.

Stay tuned, and hope to see you on CW.

The SPARC

A Voice from the Past – Tom Bertolino, KB1P

Hi everyone! It has been a little over a year since I pulled up my antenna stakes and moved south with my wife and snow shovel. I thought I owed you an explanation why the impulsive move south.

I made the decision to move south in February 2012 after the forth Nor'easter in less than a month. I was standing knee deep in snow on top of a seven foot high snow bank which lined my driveway. I was trying to flatten the peaks on this white mountain range so I could make room to shovel the foot and half of snow off my driveway that fell the night before. Old man winter was not making it easy. The cold wind was blowing the drifting snow in my face. My cheeks were red and my nose was running. The snow in my boots was melting making my feet cold and wet. My toes felt as if they were soaking in a cooler and my fingers were getting numb. I thought I was slowly freezing to death. That's when it started. A voice deep inside my partially freezing body said, "What the @!#\$ are you doing here?" I ignored the voice. As I started to shovel the driveway the voice started again. "What the @!#\$ are you doing here?" I could not stop that sarcastic voice from repeating its message. It was getting stronger and stronger. The longer I shoveled the louder the voice got. Was I going mad? I felt like the guy in Poe's The Tell-Tale Heart. The voice would not stop. It was demanding an answer. The only way I could stop this nagging voice, and remain sane was to answer the question. But I did not have an answer. I did not know why I allowed myself to freeze every winter in New England. Was I doomed to hear this voice for the rest of the winter? I finally gave in. I made a deal with the voice. It would stop if I promised to leave New England and never spend another winter Massachusetts. I gave my word. The voice stopped.

As winter turned into spring and spring to summer I forgot my promise I made to the voice. I was enjoying the New England summer. Then summer gave in to autumn. As the leaves were turning colors and starting to fall the voice came back. It would not rest. I had to act. I had to make good on my promise. I made the decision to move south as soon as I could. The rest is history. (Of course the New England weather was only one of many factors I considered which lead to my decision to retire in the south.)

My wife and I are enjoying life NC, with the added benefit of no more months of freezing weather. The annual snow fall here is less than a foot. (By the way my snow shovel is also enjoying its retirement.) The cost of living is less and the pace of life is not as hectic as it was in Massachusetts. The people are friendlier, and believe or not the drivers here are courteous.

I hope to hear you on the bands. I tune through the HF bands most weekends, and I have EchoLink on my computer and on my smarter than me phone. Once in a while I will send my call sign out over the Waltham (146.640), the Clay Center (446.3250), and Norwell (443.600) repeaters. Maybe someday BARC will EchoLink and I can get on the net.

73,

Tom, KB1P

It Started 100 Years Ago

On 12 December 1912, licensing of Amateur Radio operators began. In the four months following the passage of the legislation on 13 August 1912, only 1,185 amateur stations were licensed – just a small fraction of the number believed to be active at that time.

More recent numbers located were 709,000. The best sites to get accurate numbers are:

<www.ah0a.org>, with local info at <<http://hams.mapmash.com/hammap.php>>.

Frequency Spectrum Chart of US Allocations

The most recent frequency spectrum chart covering all allocations is available from the Government Printing Office. Too bad, "most recent" means about two years old, but on this big chart only the tiniest details may have changed. This .pdf chart is so huge that if printed on regular paper, it cannot be read. Enlarge it on your screen and you can see the wealth of information there. Click here:

<www.ntia.doc.gov/files/ntia/publications/spectrum_wall_chart_aug2011.pdf>

A hard copy is also for sale from the Government Printing Office.

Repeater: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

The SPARC



I See the Future

17 Jan	BARC General Meeting
19 Jan	BARC VE Session – Saturday 10:00 am ▲
16 Feb	AARC Flea (Marlboro)
20 Feb	BARC General Meeting – Wednesday 7:00 pm ▲
2 Mar	MtTomARA Flea (Feeding Hills)
6 Mar	BARC Business Meeting ▲
16 Mar	BARC VE Session – Saturday 10:00 am ▲
20 Mar	BARC General Meeting ▲
7 Apr	FARA Flea (Framingham)
21 Apr	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
3-4 May	NEAR Fest (Deerfield NH)

▲ **Note change from usual date and/or location**

(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.

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 October issue must be received by October 6.

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.

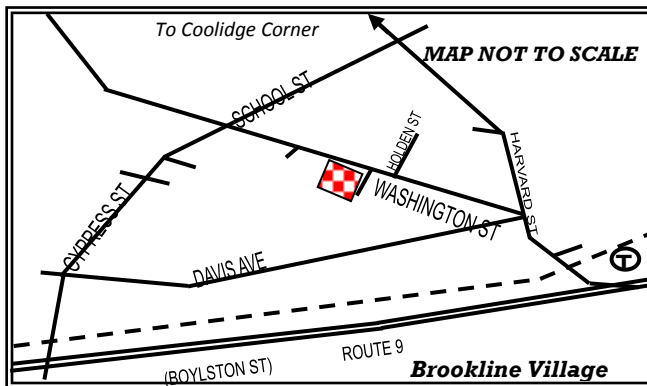
Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1IDA


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 March 2013** 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
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 schedule has been revised to suit the needs and interests of the applicants and examiners. **The 2013 exam session schedule is shown elsewhere in this newsletter issue.** Generally, sessions are held at Brookline Police Headquarters, 350 Washington St in the Community Room (across from the 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 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)

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

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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The SPARC

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>.

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