



# The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

April 2013- VOLUME 25, NUMBER 4

[www.barcl.org](http://www.barcl.org) - [w1bos@arrrl.net](mailto:w1bos@arrrl.net)



## Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

The closest thing to a coffee-table book that our hobby has is probably *Hello World: A life in ham radio* by Danny Gregory, KC2KGT, and Paul Sahre, KC2KHN, (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2003; ISBN 1-56898-281-X). I ran across my copy during a week of feverish spring cleaning last month, with its bold title "UFROG OFFEH" in Morse on the front cover (the book was upside down).

The main character is Jerry Powell, W2OJW, a Kansan who was first licensed in 1928. Jerry settled in New Jersey after the war, and was an active DXer until his key went silent at the age of 92 in 2001. The authors point out that he wasn't a super ham, but just "a typical radio amateur who got enormous satisfaction from his pastime." On the other hand, he did look like a ham straight out of central casting.

The main part of the book is devoted to Jerry's QSL collection, and what a collection it was! The first is from 5GF of Shawnee, Oklahoma, dated June 27, 1928; the last one is from the year 1995. There are some treats: cards from DXpeditions to Conway Reef, Clipperton and Howland islands, another from the first amateur licensee in Albania back in the old days. The graphics range from an ordinary picture postcard or simple presentations of call signs, through an odd dope-aded hippie-looking design from a businessman in Cuba in 1948, to photographs of the more exotic locales.

About a third of the cards are annotated, and Gregory and Sahre did a fabulous research job. They found the daughter of Art Bard, CEIAR, the power superintendent of an isolated mining camp in northern Chile, and recount the obscure history of Clipperton island. The cards are also presented in chronological order, with a timeline running along the bottom of the page reminding you of what the rest of the world was doing at the time.

Here and there you find short essays for the general reader on various aspects of ham radio: DXpeditions, contesting, public service, and Morse code.

Gregory reports that he was inspired to write the book after finding the QSL collection at a flea market. He bought it, took it home and puzzled over it. In the course of time both he and his coauthor got their licenses, and although they never met him, consider Jerry their Elmer.

I felt a lot of nostalgia looking at the cards, thinking back to my own beginnings in radio and QSL collection from shortwave radio stations in the early 70's. As fine a thing as LoTW and eQSL are, one can hardly imagine a bunch of bits inspiring a book.

I recommend the book to you, and as we say in the land of upside-down Morse, 37!

## April General Meeting

BARC's April General Meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 18**, at 7:00 pm at the **Clay Center** in Brookline. Our speaker will be Brett Smith, AB1RL, the club's Public Service Coordinator, who will speak on... public service! Come and be inspired. Note the temporary change of meeting location.

## ***The SPARC***

### **Minutes of the BARC Business Meeting, 4 April, 2013 – Recorded by Geri Duff, KB1ISG**

Attendees:

Joe Chapman, NV1W, President	Joe Flaherty, W1JJF
Jim Clogher, N1ICN, Treasurer	Robert Freed, W1RJF
Hank Buccigross, K1QK	Morgan Johnstone, KB1ZFP
Geri Duff, KB1ISG	Doc Kinne, KE1ML
Mark Duff, KB1EKN	Brett Smith, AB1RL

At 7:15 PM Joe Chapman announced that Brett Smith would be speaking at the April General Meeting and Bob Salow at the May Meeting.

Jim Clogher reported \$3,589.27 in the checkbook and that several people from the last VE session are applying to the BARC membership.

Brett Smith, AB1RL, reported that he has 11 people for the MS Walk and 14 for the BAA's 5K. He had some difficulty with emails but has it under control.

Joe Chapman, NV1W reported that he has spoken With Blake regarding a possible meeting site that might be adapted to setting up an antenna in the Western Ave section of Brighton. More info will be coming.

Mark Duff, KB1EKN brought up the matter of dues, suggesting if they are dropped by \$5 there may be an increase in membership. The dues were raised in the past to cover the cost of mailing a paper newsletter which is now emailed. Doc Kinne, KE1ML suggested that that \$5 could be put towards acquiring additional antennas. Robert Freed, W1RJF, suggested that a repeater fund might be set up instead to encourage others to make a tax deductible donation. Mark Duff, KB1EKN suggested that all think on the dues issue and return to it at a fall meeting.

Hank Buccigross, K1QK started discussion regarding Saturday General Meetings in hopes of getting more people to attend. Traffic getting in and out of the city is a concern, some members do not go out at night, some are not available on weekends and it may impact available speakers or public service events. It was suggested to put it before the membership for discussion.

Joe Chapman, NV1W led a discussion concerning the repeater on the Federal building. After the January storm direction was lost to the north and west. It appears the antenna may have been wind damaged. Mark Duff, KB1EKN is ready to schedule time to go up and look it over and perhaps repair it. This would entail one or two weekday trips, one to test and one to repair.

Voted: to authorize the Repeater committee to spend up to \$1,000.00 if necessary to repair the antenna.

Voted: to spend \$400.00 to cover the costs of Field Day 2013.

Meeting adjourned at 2007.

## ***The SPARC***

### **You Never Knew You Needed This – Until You Needed It– *Bob Salow, WA1IDA***

Got a street address and want the latitude and longitude for it? Got a lat/lon for a location and want the street address? Here is a handy tool for converting between the two. It is useful for determining locations for propagation prediction and other programs based on FCC database address records or for your own location.

Go to <<http://stevemorse.org/jcal/latlon.php>> and fill out the boxes. Beware: the conversion data utilizes several sources which will be displayed with minor differences among them. Hey, it's good enough for government work or radio waves.

### **BARC Meeting Calendar for 2013 – *Linda Blair, NA1I, 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**

April 18	Thu	7:00 pm	<i>at the Clay Center in Brookline</i>
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**

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**

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

### **Field Day? It's Only Two Months Away**

No, no, it is not too early to start planning for Field Day 2013. Start by thinking about how our 2012 Field Day went. We had compact HF stations, antennas and generators. In addition, anyone could join the club activity by providing their own station facilities – and they did.

The result was a resounding success. We set up, operated, and tore down with ease – and had **fun** doing it. We will do it again. Pending further discussion, the Bare Cove Fire Museum in Hingham is likely to be repeated as the site. **22-23 June** is the weekend.

The fun is yours for the taking. Planning meetings will be announced. Bring your ideas, or just say you want to be there – to see, to learn, to try, or maybe to see how other people have fun.

### **Orange Caps for Public Service Events**

BARC has a supply of the bright orange caps for use at emergency or public service events. They are adjustable to fit all but the very largest heads, and proclaim, "Emergency Communications."

The price is \$5.00, and they are available at most club meetings, or contact Bob, WA1IDA, at <[wa1ida@arrl.net](mailto:wa1ida@arrl.net)> or 617.650.0062.

## ***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 that will be announced closer to their dates. Contact Brett Smith, AB1RL, at 859.466.5915 or <ab1rl@arrl.net>.

- *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.

### **Hams Needed For the Run of the Charles -- Brett Smith, AB1RL, BARC Public Service Coordinator**

Ham radio has been part of the Run of the Charles canoe and kayak races for more than 30 years. BARC has coordinated the hams for most of that time. This is a well-run event which provides wetness for the participants and excitement for the hams (who stay dry). We are looking for hams to help on **Sunday, 28 April**.

Our duties include reporting from hazardous portages around the many dams on the Charles River from Needham to Brighton. Various assignments start between 0700 and 1200, with assignment completions from 1230 to 1630. This is an excellent way for those new to public service to get your feet wet (figuratively only) and learn how hams can support the community.

It's an outdoor event, yet safe for hams. Because of the terrain along the river bank, a hand held radio with an antenna better than a "rubber duck" and a full 5 watts is necessary.

If you can help, or you have any questions, contact me at <ab1rl@arrl.net> or 859.466.5915.

### **Hams Needed Multiple Sclerosis Walks --Rick Savage, KB1LYJ, Public Service Event Coordinator**

Continuing years of success, the Multiple Sclerosis Society is repeating one of their local events. The "MS Journey of Hope," will be held on **Saturday, 18 May**.

We have been asked to support communications. The MS Journey of Hope starts and finishes at Natick High School with a 7.5 mile course. There will be checkpoints, vehicles and medical coverage for us to support.

Each will be managed by a Net Control station, using VHF and UHF repeaters. Your help is vital for this worthy cause. Our past help has won heavy praise, and we have to maintain our superb reputation. If you can lend a hand, contact Brett, AB1RL, at <ab1rl@arrl.net> or 859.466.5915.

## The SPARC



The banner features a teal background with white text and graphics. On the left, it says 'Hands-Only™ CPR' with the Ad Council logo below. In the center, there are two circular icons: the first shows a red mobile phone with a '1' in a red circle above it, and the second shows red hands being pushed together with a '2' in a red circle above it. To the right of the icons, it says 'Call 911' and 'Push hard and fast in the center of the chest. Learn more at [handsonlycpr.org](http://handsonlycpr.org)'. On the far right is the American Heart Association logo with the tagline 'Learn and Live'.

### I See the Future

18 Apr	<b>BARC General Meeting – at Clay Center ▲</b>
21 Apr	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
28 Apr	<b>Run of the Charles (Rp)</b>
3-4 May	NEAR Fest (Deerfield, NH)
11 May	SEMARA Flea (Dartmouth)
13 May	<b>BARC VE Session – Monday 7:00 pm</b>
16 May	<b>BARC General Meeting</b>
18 May	<b>MS Journey of Hope Walk</b>
19 May	<b>Boston Brain Tumor Bike Rides (Rp)</b>
19 May	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
16 May	<b>BARC General Meeting</b>
6 Jun	<b>BARC Business Meeting</b>
23 Jun	<b>BAA 10K Race (Boston)</b>
21 Jul	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
18 Aug	MIT Flea (Cambridge)

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

**(Rp)** = BARC Repeater likely to 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](mailto:n1qd@n1qd.org).

Articles for the May issue must be received by May 4.

### 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](mailto:n1qd@n1qd.org); or Bob Salow at [wa1ida@arrl.net](mailto:wa1ida@arrl.net) or 508.650.9440.

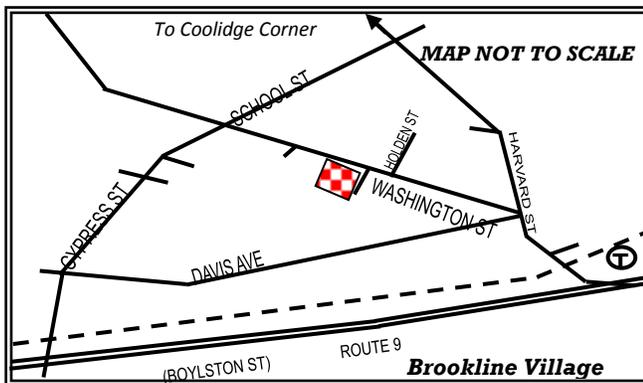
## Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

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 June 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](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

## 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 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](mailto:n1icn@arrl.net)> or Linda Blair, NA1I, <[na1i@arrl.net](mailto:na1i@arrl.net)>.

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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

President: Joe Chapman, NV1W  
617.267.6349; nv1w@arrl.net

Vice President: Linda Blair, NA1I;  
617.500.4406; na1i@arrl.net

Secretary: Joe Harris, N1QD  
781.844.8684; n1qd@n1qd.org

Treasurer: Jim Clogher, N1ICN,  
617.908.5019; n1icn@arrl.net

Volunteer Exams:  
Jim Clogher, N1ICN, n1icn@arrl.net  
Hank Buccigross K1QK, k1qk@arrl.net

Public Service Coordinator: Brett Smith, AB1RL  
859.466.5915; ab1rl@arrl.net

Public Information Officer:  
Geri Duff, KB1ISG  
781.749.7664; geriduff52@verizon.net

Membership Services: Linda Blair, NA1I  
617.500.4406; na1i@arrl.net

Newsletter Editor: Joe Harris, N1QD  
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