



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area
May 2013- VOLUME 25, NUMBER 5
www.barcl.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

For years, Amateur Radio operators have provided communications support for the Boston Marathon. I believe that this year over 200 hams participated, including several BARC members.

Anyone who monitored the various nets on Monday would have been impressed by the professionalism on display. We often point out the advantages of using a multicast medium like radio instead of a point-to-point system like a bunch of cell phones to coordinate an event. But I would argue that having the skills to use any medium for efficient and reliable communications is even more important. Those skills became all the more critical in the hours after the bombings.

I was out for a walk and two blocks away when the bombs went off; minutes later a lot of very frightened people came running down Fairfield Street. It was like being in a bad Jerry Bruckheimer movie. Some hams were closer to the finish line and had to deal with not just the chaos but the worry that they might still be in danger. It was a relief to hear that there were no deaths or injuries among the ham radio operators.

There's a must-read account of that day by Tim Carter, W3ATB, at <<http://w3atb.com/66-boston-marathon-2013-bombs-carnage-and-amateur-radio-operators>>

Thanks to everyone who worked the Marathon, those who were on standby for ARES after the call went out on Monday afternoon, and to everyone who kept their batteries charged and jump kits ready that week. A special thank you to Bob Salow, WA1IDA, and Brett Smith, AB1RL, for their devotion to the club's public service program.

The motto "When all else fails, Amateur Radio" is often suspected to be about HTs, portable antennas, emergency power, and that sort of thing. I think it's more about the values of people who are drawn to our hobby, their willingness to prepare for emergencies and to serve when necessary. We saw the best of ham radio and our city on Patriots' Day, and I am proud to be a part of both communities.

On an unrelated topic, I'm writing this message on the weekend of the New England QSO Party, that event when those of us here in 1-land get to be the sought-after prom dates for a change. This newsletter will appear after the contest has ended, so I hope everyone had the best of luck that I'm wishing you.

May General Meeting

BARC's May general meeting will be held at 7:00 on Thursday, May 16th, at the Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline Village. We have unfortunately been unable to find a speaker who's available to talk on that evening, so we will have an extended social portion of the meeting instead. There will also be an informal clinic for newly licensed hams with new HTs; we'll show you how to set them up for local repeaters, how to use CTCSS tones, and so forth. If you're planning on taking advantage of this, drop a note to Joe Chapman at <nv1w@arrl.net> and we'll try to have programming software for your rig and frequency databases for Eastern Massachusetts available.

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> or 617.650.0062.

BARC Meeting Calendar for 2013

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

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

SKYWARN Training Schedule -- Rob Macedo, KD1CY; EMA Section Emergency Coordinator, SKYWARN Coordinator

Here is a training session presently scheduled in the Greater Boston area:

Monday, June 17th, 2013: 7-10 PM:

Morton Hospital and Medical Center - Margaret Stone Conference Room

88 Washington Street

Taunton MA

Taught by: Amateur Radio Coordinator

Registration: Pre-registration required. RSVP to KD1CY by email to <rmacedo@rcn.com>.

Use the following links to see updates for the SKYWARN Training Schedule:

<www.wx1box.org/node/36>

<www.erh.noaa.gov/box/officeprograms/skywarn/skywarntraining.shtml>

Transceiver For Sale

The Framingham ARA has an Icom IC-718 for sale. The IC-718 is an all band HF radio, covering 160 through 10 meters. It includes a built-in electronic keyer, VOX, and 101 memory channels. This transceiver has been in recent active service on several bands, and worked stations on SSB, AM, and CW. The measured output was over 100 watts.

The IC-718 is still in current production, selling for \$750. Included is an optional built-in AT-180 automatic antenna tuner, which sells for \$400. Also included is a 13.8 VDC 23A switching power supply, worth \$50. The buyer of this radio will be getting a \$1200 station, in great condition, for the low price of only \$500.

Contact Sumner Weisman, W1VIV, at <w1viv@arrl.net> or 508.877.1565 for more information.

The SPARC

Field Day? It's Next Month!

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.

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>.

- *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 Multiple Sclerosis Walk –Rick Savage, KB1LYJ, Public Service Event Coordinator

Continuing years of success, the Multiple Sclerosis Society is repeating the “MS Journey of Hope,” on **Saturday, 18 May**.

We have been asked to support communications for the event, which 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.

Net Control will use the local UHF repeater. 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.

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.

Bernie Dodge	KK6DDM
Marcia Forde	KW1U
Stephen Jeffries	W1SBJ
Dave Jones	KB1ZOE
Amy Yu	W1DNA

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. 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>.

The SPARC



The banner features a teal background with white and red text and graphics. On the left, the 'Ad Council' logo is in a black box. Next to it, 'Hands-Only™ CPR' is written in white. A red circle with the number '1' contains a red mobile phone icon. To the right, 'Call 911' is written in white. Another red circle with the number '2' contains a red hand icon. Further right, the text 'Push hard and fast in the center of the chest.' and 'Learn more at handsonlycpr.org' is in white. On the far right, the American Heart Association logo is shown with the tagline 'Learn and Live'.

I See the Future

11 May	SEMARA Flea (Dartmouth)
13 May	BARC VE Session – Monday 7:00 pm
16 May	BARC General Meeting
18 May	MS Journey of Hope Walk
19 May	Boston Brain Tumor Bike Rides
19 May	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
6 Jun	BARC Business Meeting
16 Jun	MIT Flea
20 Jun	BARC General Meeting
22-23 Jun	Field Day
23 Jun	BAA 10K Race (Boston)
8 Jul	BARC VE Session
21 Jul	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
18 Aug	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
25 Aug	NoBARC Flea (N. Adams)

(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>.

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>; or Bob Salow at <wa1ida@arrl.net> or 508.650.9440.

Repeater: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

The SPARC

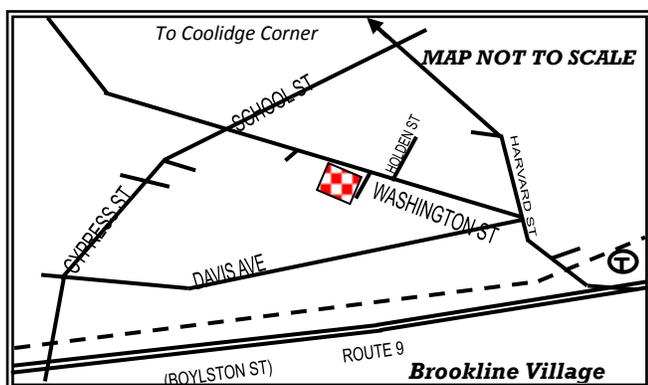
Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1DA

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

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

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

BARC Officers and Staff

- President: Joe Chapman, NV1W
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- Vice President: Linda Blair, NA1I;
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- Secretary: Joe Harris, N1QD
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- 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

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