



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

June 2013- VOLUME 25, NUMBER 6
www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

June is always a busy month for the club. Elections will be held at the General Meeting on the 20th. My thanks to Hank Buccigross, K1QK, who headed up the Nominating Committee again this year. There is still time to submit a nomination if you wish; at this point it would be best to contact me if you want to do so, or you can come to the meeting and speak up when I call for nominations from the floor.

At the General Meeting we'll also enjoy a presentation on six meters, the "magic band", which covers 50 to 54 MHz. The talk will be given by Steve Gilbert, K1SG, a highly-regarded operator on the band. Bob Salow, WA1IDA, arranged to have Steve speak to us, and you can read his article on the talk elsewhere in this issue of The SPARC.

It's an appropriate topic as the VHF season is just starting to heat up; I'm writing this a few days before the June VHF QSO party and a few hours after a nice opening on six thanks to Sporadic-E between New England and the Midwest. I would like to extend a special invitation to our Technician members to come and learn about this interesting band on which you are accorded full privileges.

Field Day this year will be the weekend of June 22-23, and once again the club will be at the Bare Cove Fire Museum in bucolic Hingham. Field Day is the premier Amateur Radio event of the year and is both a great deal of fun and an opportunity to learn from the more skilled operators in the club. The club will provide food and it is possible to spend the night for the full Field Day experience.

One of the treats this year will be an attempted satellite contact. The setup will be rather modest--a handheld antenna and a smallish radio. I'm not sure whether we'll be using a computer to adjust for the Doppler shift or the programmable multiple-memory trick. My own experiments with the latter have always been reminiscent of the old Rocky and Bullwinkle routine (R: "That trick never works!" B: "This time for sure!").

Unfortunately, the MBTA has suspended commuter rail service to West Hingham on weekends. The best bet for public transportation users looks to be the #220 bus plus a half-hour walk.

Two final random comments. At the Business Meeting on June 6, we voted to move the time for all Business and General meetings to 7:30, to better accommodate people who drive in to Brookline. This change will be effective beginning with our September meetings; the June 20 General Meeting is still at 7:00.

Finally, I encourage people to sign up for public service events if you are able. As I mentioned in last month's The SPARC, hams performed admirably at this year's Marathon; one of the ways to refuse to be terrorized by lunatics is to continue to participate in or to support public events. If you're not receiving notices of public service opportunities or have further questions contact Brett Smith, AB1RL.

73 and see you in the field!

Six Meters is HOT – and all classes of ham licenses can take advantage of the heat!

Our speaker at the June General Meeting will be one of the international experts on the subject, Steve Gilbert, K1SG. His down to earth approach will get you ready for action, and help you make it happen at your station.

Steve has 162 countries confirmed on six meters, he has worked all states, and has collected many other awards. He has operated on the band since he was 13 years old – his beard proves that was a long time ago. He has written articles for QST and has been on the cover of CQ. You don't want to miss this presentation.

This meeting, being the last before Field Day, we will be discussing plans for the event. Your attention and participation are valuable. The annual BARC election of officers will also be managed.

Future Meeting Time Changes

At the Business Meeting on June 6, we voted to move the time for all General and Business meetings to 7:30 pm, to better accommodate people who drive into Brookline. These changes will be effective beginning with our September meetings; the June 20 General Meeting is still at 7:00, and, of course, there are no meetings in July and August. VE sessions are scheduled separately.

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

June 20	Thu	7:00 pm
September 19	Thu	7:30 pm
October 17	Thu	7:30 pm
November 21	Thu	7:30 pm

VE Sessions

July 8	Mon	7:00 pm
September 9	Mon	7:00 pm
November 16	Sat	10:00 am

Business Meetings

September 5	Thu	7:30 pm
December 5	Thu	7:30 pm

Elections Make the Club – Be There to Make It Happen

As directed in our bylaws, the election of officers will take place at our June General meeting. On track to that, the President appointed a Nominating Committee at the April General meeting. The committee will propose a slate for initial nomination of the four officers. This recommendation does not limit any further nominations from the floor. In fact, a competition for the offices is best so that each nominee would present qualifications and proposals to the members.

Nominations remain open until balloting for each office by members at the June meeting.

Invite a Kid to Field Day – *Dan Romanchik, KB6NU*

If you've been around ham radio for any length of time, you'll notice that ham radio operators like to complain. One of the most frequently heard complaints is, "Kids aren't interested in Amateur Radio anymore." While I'm not so sure that's true, I do know that now is the time for you to do something about it.

How? Invite a kid to Field Day.

Invite them to help you set up antennas. Show them how you power the rigs with a generator, or even cooler, by charging a battery with a solar panel. Let them sit in front of the rig, show them how to make contacts, and log for them. To make it easier for them, make up a cheat sheet with the call sign spelled out phonetically and the exchange, also spelled out phonetically. Let them operate for as long as they're interested. When they are done, thank them on contributing to your club's total score.

Answer every single one of their questions.

This may not win them over immediately, but I can assure you that it will make an impression on them. To increase your chances of success, find a kid that's already technically inclined. Invite a bunch of them from the high school's robotics team, for example.

If you don't have any plans for Field Day, then make some. Then, go find that kid. If you don't, then you don't have any right to complain that there are no kids in ham radio.

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K1NUN's Account of the Boston Marathon – Eric Falkof, K1NUN

I'm really glad I paid attention during the briefings after the 9/11 events! Let me tell you about my day...

Sunday night, I received an email that said to arrive for the pre-race briefing at 6:30, not 6:45. Arrived on time and sat for over an hour before the briefing began. Not that I expected any different, but that's a different story.

My assignment this year was to assist at an enhanced medical tent that was at milepost 19.2, in front of Newton City Hall. (Note: this is about 3 miles before Heartbreak Hill and 7 miles before the finish line. Where regular aid tents can help runners with blisters, Vaseline, cramps, and some medical "issues," the enhanced tent also provides IV service, ice baths, some narcotics, defibrillators, and more. We had three ambulances in constant attendance so nobody had to wait long, if needed. At our site, we had two physicians, various therapists, EMTs, PAs, students, and three Ham Radio operators to provide communications about ambulance dispatches and other essential communications for the site operation.

All was good until about 3:00. Temps began in the mid-50s and got up to the upper 50s. The main body of runners took off from Hopkinton about 10:00, and a westerly sea breeze began to blow against the runners about 11:00, lowering running speed and chilling the air with 10-20 mph winds. We had people coming in with various issues - the regular cramps, fatigue, dizziness, bodily discharges, chills, fevers, altered mental states, and more. A little girl across the street fell off her bike and her mother carried her in so her booboo could be treated.

About 3, we got a message from our HQ dispatch that we were to stop all runners on the course and tell them the race was over. (Huh?) We only heard there was "an incident" at the finish line. Our task was to stop runners in the street and herd them to our station to wait an unknown time for an unknown service that would bring them to unknown gathering spots. Cell service had been cut off to prevent detonations, we learned later, so we were incommunicado except for Ham Radio. Earlier aid stations were being shut down routinely, and others that still had "customers" were routed or brought to our tent. People further up the course were being turned back, away from Boston, and were converging on our tent and one that was just beyond Heartbreak Hill.

A nice lady who lived across the street offered to allow us to use her landline, have coffee or soup, sleep a while. She later brought us bags of cookies, too.

I felt really bad for one young lady who started to cry when I told her that her race was over. You see, last year the temps were in the upper 80s and the BAA, sensing medical problems ahead, offered anyone who volunteered NOT to run an automatic bib number for this year's event. She was one of those who chose to defer her run, and her run was cut short after waiting another year to run the Boston.

Meanwhile at the tent, from our 10 or so aid workers, we now had about 24, and still with our three communicators. However, we seemed to be the confluence of power issues as the Red Cross, Mass. Emergency Management, local police, two ambulance companies, the nearby public library (which was designated a staging area for all the runners, now numbering closer to 300, but nobody told library management), and a couple more chiefs. All us Indians mulled around.

We kept stopping runners, who now were more likely walkers. Brought them to the tent and given best comfort to wait comfortably. By the way, we had a propane heater to keep our tent toasty, so the chilly air was not an issue to us. From the stop order to the end (to be described shortly), we had about 25 or so people needing transport.

From our tent, we told the runners to go to Newton City Hall, about 500 feet away, and join that group that would have bus service to somewhere. Eventually, they brought people downtown to a different location to meet their families, so those stories ended well. For the rest, we gave them directions to the mass transit system, wished them luck, and then told them the trains likely weren't running anyhow.

Finally, around 6:00, we had no more 'visitors' and the waiting stations were the main focus of attention, nobody needing medical care, and our station was dismissed.

In all but for the exceptions downtown about which all of you have read, it was a typical day - a few dozen medical issues a dozen or so ambulance dispatches, a couple of acute care issues, and a lot of providing services to people out for a good time. Now you know what the day was like out on the course up til that dreadful hour.

If you would like to share your own experiences with the club, please submit them to your Editor at <n1qd@n1qd.org>.

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Field Day? Fun is not Far Away!

With only a couple of weeks to go, Field Day is almost here. As in the past several years, we will set up and operate at the Bare Cove Fire Museum in Hingham. It sounds far away, but it is really easy to get to.

The basic planning will remain the same as recent years. We provide compact HF stations, antennas and generators. Beyond that, anyone can participate in the club activity by providing their own station facilities – and they do. The result has been a resounding success. We set up, operated, and tore down with ease – and had **fun** doing it. This year we will set up and operate on **Saturday, 22 June**, with an option on continuing through the night and/or on **Sunday, 23 June**. We do require, however, that if you want to have the fun of operating, learning, and socializing (food, too), that you assist in the setting up and tearing down of our stations.

Field Day is an ARRL-sponsored event held in the US and Canada to demonstrate our readiness for emergency communications support. The focus is to set up fully operational stations in the field, under any weather conditions, and contact as many other stations as possible. All this is in the interest of having fun and showing ham radio to the public.

It does take some effort to make our Field Day happen. Actually, there is a lot of learning in handling the hardware as well as in the operating. The fun is yours for the taking. We will be discussing it at our June General meeting and at any special planning meetings to be announced. Bring your ideas, or just say you want to be there – to see, to learn, or to try. The point here is that even if you hold any class of license (or none at all), you can operate on all the HF bands and get the feel for your upgrade. We want everyone (ham or not) to get on the air.

The Fire Museum is about 1/3 mile in on a road directly across the street from the West Hingham Commuter Rail station. Unfortunately, Bare Cove is no longer accessible on weekends by the MBTA Greenbush Commuter Rail Line because of low ridership. For further planning information, come to the BARC June General meeting.

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>.

- *BAA 10K Race – 23 June 2013* – (Boston)
- *Harvard Pilgrim 5K & 10K Races – 3 July 2013* – (Foxboro)
- *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.

A New Public Service Event Needs Hams--Bob Salow, WA1IDA

Harvard Pilgrim is sponsoring concurrent 5K and 10K races on **Wednesday evening, 3 July**. The Starts are outside Gillette Stadium and the Finishes are on the 50-yard line on the field. With very short notice last year we met their communications needs with our usual flexibility and skill.

Yes, it is in the middle of the week, but in the late afternoon. The 5K course is entirely in and around the Gillette Stadium; the 10K course also goes through downtown Foxboro. After the completion of the races there will be a fireworks display at Patriot Place.

From a ham standpoint, this is an easy but productive service. The timing necessity is a minor bump which increases our need for your help. If you can lend a hand and have some fun, contact Brett Smith, AB1RL, at 859.466.5915 or <ab1rl@arrl.net> for further information.

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Minutes of the June 6 BARC Business Meeting – Joe Harris, N1QD

Attendees:

Joe Chapman, NV1W, President	Mark Duff, KB1EKN
Linda Blair, NA1I, Vice President	Joe Flaherty, W1JF
Jim Clogher, N1ICN, Treasurer	Blake Haskell, K1BTH
joe Harris, N1QD, Secretary	Bob Salow, WA1IDA
Hank Buccigross, K1QK	Brett Smith, AB1RL
Geri Duff, KB1ISG	

The Meeting was called to order at 1910.

Committee Reports

- Nominating Committee: K1QK reported that the current slate of officers has agreed to run for re-election.
- Treasurer: N1ICN reported that as of June 5, the club's treasury held \$3455.93
- Public Service: AB1RL reported that ham participation for the BAA 10K is up from last year.
- Repeater Committee
 - KB1EKN reported that 145.23's antenna must be replaced. The antenna that had been in service was damaged over the winter and a temporary replacement was installed.
 - A motion was made and passed to authorize the repeater committee to spend up to \$500 on a replacement antenna.
- Vice President
 - A discussion was held concerning the club's insurance policy and whether it would cover non-members that participate in Club events.
- Field Day
 - N1QD reported that the club is now in possession of HF bandpass filters for 10-15-20-40-80, as well as an HF triplexer for 10, 15, and 20 meters.

Old Business

- Bylaw Amendment: A motion was made to amend the bylaws deleting the sentence on lines 269-270 of the Club Bylaws. "However, lack of filing the approved form shall not be sufficient cause for denial of membership." The motion was not seconded.
- A motion was made and passed that all club membership records shall be kept by the Club's officers. All such records shall be delivered to the Secretary within two weeks of the Business Meeting.

New Business

- A motion was made and passed to start Business Meetings and General Meetings at 1930 instead of 1900. This will go into effect starting at the September Business Meeting.
- A discussion was held concerning a disconnect between PayPal's communications and the Club's membership information.

The Meeting was adjourned at 2105.

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The BAA 10K Race Needs Ham Help—Bob Salow, WA1IDA

The next BAA racing event is the Boston 10K race on **Sunday, 23 June 2013**. The course of this international race starts at 0800 on Charles St near the Boston Common and follows Commonwealth Ave and Bay State Rd to a turnaround at Babcock St. The return course is almost the same. The race is expected to attract more than 6,000 runners of all abilities, including world class runners. The event should be complete by 1030.

Ham support for this event involves communications for runner safety and support for the medical and water stations. Ham assignments are scheduled to begin at around 0700. As the first BAA race since the Marathon bombing, a number of security measures are being considered for this race for the protection of runners, spectators and staff.

Yes, this is the Sunday of Field Day, but if you do not participate in Field Day, please consider supporting this race. If you can help, please contact Brett Smith, AB1RL, at 859.466.5915 or <ab1rl@arri.net> for further information. We need your help for this important Boston community service.

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@arri.net> or 617.650.0062.

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.

David Colson	KB1WOD
Stefano D'Agostino	W1SVD
Bernie Dodge	KK6DDM
Marcia Forde	KW1U
Philip Jeffries	KC1AAC
Dave Jones	KB1ZOE
John Minitier	W1JEM
Dave Setser	N1DLS
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@arri.net>.

The SPARC



Hands-Only™ CPR **1**  **Call 911** **2**  **Push hard and fast in the center of the chest.** **Learn more at handsonlycpr.org** **American Heart Association**  **Learn and Live**

I See the Future

Note: There are no BARC General meetings in July or August.

16 Jun	MIT Flea
20 Jun	BARC General Meeting
22-23 Jun	Field Day
23 Jun	BAA 10K Race (Boston)
3 Jul	Harvard Pilgrim 5K & 10K (Foxboro)
8 Jul	BARC VE Session
21 Jul	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
18 Aug	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
25 Aug	NoBARC Flea (N. Adams)
5 Sep	BARC Business Meeting
15 Sep	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
19 Sep	BARC General Meeting

(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.

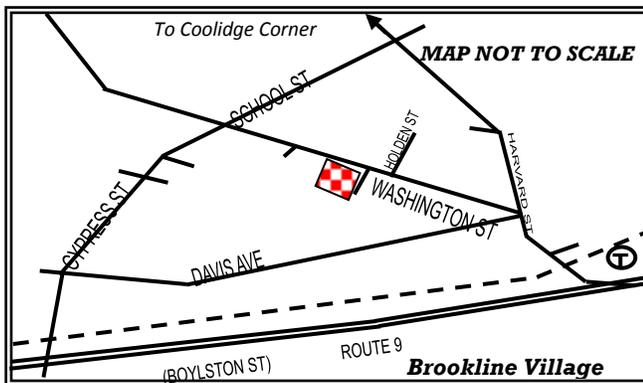
Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

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 **5 September 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@arrrl.net> or Linda Blair, NA1I, <na1i@arrrl.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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617.908.5019; n1icn@arrl.net

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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
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 (PL 136.5)
Sun 9 pm	CAARAnet	145.130 (PL 107.2)