



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area
July 2013- VOLUME 25, NUMBER 7
www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer, even if thus far it appears to be a series of heat waves punctuated by thunderstorms.

At the June General Meeting we heard a presentation on six meters by one of the gurus of the "magic band", Steve Gilbert, K1SG. In his talk he mentioned Short Path Summer Solstice Propagation, long-distance openings on six that occur around the time of the summer solstice. It was kind of Steve to give us a few precious hours of his time on solstice night!

Also at the June meeting, the current set of officers were reelected for another year. Thanks to Hank Buccigross, K1QK, for heading the Nominating Committee and to my fellow club officers for signing up for another year of service.

Field Day was held once again at the Bare Cove Fire Museum in Hingham. I think a lot of experience, some investments in equipment, and a stellar Field Day committee have led to an event that's well-run and a pleasure to participate in. Thanks to Mark Duff, KB1EKN, Geri Duff, KB1ISG, and Joe Harris, N1QD, for all their hard work. Additional thanks to N1QD for his technical savvy and contesting expertise. I know I've learned a lot watching Joe operate, and was even inspired to make a few CW contacts myself this year. For one of them I accidentally bumped the speed control on my keyer down to about 9 WPM; it probably sounded like someone sending CW with a crayon.

Another treat this year was a visit on Saturday from Tom Bertolino, KB1P, up from North Carolina. Tom is a former club president and a fount of information on the history of Field Day.

We had some luck, but not a lot, with our free VHF station on six meters. Unfortunately, we weren't able to set up the satellite contact we'd hoped to do, but we have to have something new for next year anyway. N1QD, Nathaniel Vishner, KB1QHX, and I managed to send the hundred point Section Manager radiogram off to Phil Temples, K9HI, in a wonderfully chaotic last-minute scramble.

Last week Bob Salow, WA1IDA, and I attended the ARRL New England Division Cabinet Meeting, a semi-annual event for regional League poobahs and club officers. We had a good discussion about educational outreach; some clubs have had great luck with classes for hams who are licensed but aren't entirely clear on (e.g.) what a dipole is. We might consider having "I've got my license, now what?" as a topic for one of our General meetings, perhaps coupled with a handheld programming clinic. I'd welcome comments and ideas from our newer members.

Stay cool, stay dry, and good radio!

We're Taking the Summer off!

There are no General Meetings scheduled for July or August. We will meet again on Thursday, September 19 at the Brookline Police headquarters. Note that the meeting begins at 7:30 pm.

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 was 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

September 19	Thu	7:30 pm
October 17	Thu	7:30 pm
November 21	Thu	7:30 pm

VE Sessions

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

ICOM Amateur Radio Tool Kit Online

ICOM has assembled several graphic informational items that should be noted by all hams. Included are:

- ✓ U.S.A. Amateur Band Plan
- ✓ U.S.A. Amateur Grid Square Map
- ✓ Ham Radio Terms
- ✓ CQ DX Zones of the World
- ✓ New Rules for the 60 Meter (5 MHz) Band (may need updating)

You can download yours by going to <<http://icomamerica.com/en/amateur/amateurtools/default.aspx>>.

Flying With Spare Lithium Batteries May Require Preparation -- *The ARRL Letter*, 4 July 2013

FAA regulations let you travel with dry cells in either your carry-on or checked baggage, but prohibit loose lithium batteries in checked baggage. But what about rechargeables in carry-on luggage? Stu Martin, K2QDE, reports that he ran into a small hitch when attempting to carry his spare hand-held transceiver battery in his carry-on bag. A notice within his boarding pass declared: "Lithium Batteries: Carriage of spare lithium batteries is not permitted in checked baggage. If you put a portable electronic device in checked baggage, you may still do so with the batteries installed in the device. Spare lithium batteries in carry-on luggage must have the terminals insulated and must be placed inside a protective case or plastic bag." Martin taped the battery's terminals and stowed it in a bag.

The FAA rules apply to "consumer-sized lithium ion batteries," including "larger, extended-life laptop batteries." The FAA adds this caveat, however: "Even if an item is generally permitted, it may be subject to additional screening or not allowed through the checkpoint if it triggers an alarm during the screening process, appears to have been tampered with, or poses other security concerns. The final decision rests with TSA on whether to allow any items on the plane." More information is available on the FAA Web site.

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BARC's Field Day! -- Joe Harris, N1QD

As we have for the past several years, BARC participated in Field Day from the Bare Cove fire Museum in Hingham. Mark and Geri Duff were gracious hosts as always.

We ran 3A this year, and also set up a VHF station to look for contacts on 6 meters. Our antennas were the club's Cushcraft R7, the B & W broadband folded dipole, and $\lambda/2$ dipoles for 40, 10, and 6. The new triplexer was connected to the R7, and there was zero interaction between 20 and 15 meters.

After dinner on Saturday, there was a scramble to pick up some bonus points. Send an NTS message to the Section Manager? We scribbled on the back of a scrap of paper and delivered it to the Eastern Mass Two Meter Traffic Net on 145.23. Copy the ARRL Field Day message? We got it on 40 meter RTTY (unfortunately it still had to be transcribed by hand from the screen).

There were a few band openings on six, and we were able to make QSOs with stations as far away as Wisconsin and North Carolina!

Overall, the bands were very active, and all that participated had a great time!

Here are our QSO totals by band and mode for this year:

	CW	RTTY	Phone
3.5	4		31
7	227	13	56
14	38	4	38
21	4		18
28			2
50			9
144			1
432			1
	273	17	156
Total:	446		

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 – and 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 hams for numerous public service events. Most of these are also suitable for hams who are new to helping at such events as well as experienced operators. For 2013, we have already been tasked with several events. Remaining on our schedule is:

➤ *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. We can use your help. Contact Brett Smith, AB1RL, at 859.466.5915 or <ab1rl@arrl.net>.

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The banner features a teal background. On the left is the American Heart Association logo with the text 'Learn and Live'. 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 two red hands with a '2' in a red circle above it. To the right of the icons, the text reads 'Call 911' and 'Push hard and fast in the center of the chest. Learn more at handsonlycpr.org'. On the far left, the text 'Hands-Only™ CPR' is displayed above the 'Ad Council' logo.

I See the Future

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

21 Jul	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
18 Aug	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
25 Aug	NoBARC Flea (N. Adams)
5 Sep	BARC Business Meeting
9 Sep	BARC VE Session
15 Sep	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
19 Sep	BARC General Meeting
11-12 Oct	NEARFest (Deerfield NH)
13 Oct	<i>BAA Half Marathon (Boston) (Rp)</i>
20 Oct	MIT Flea (Cambridge)

(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 August issue must be received by August 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

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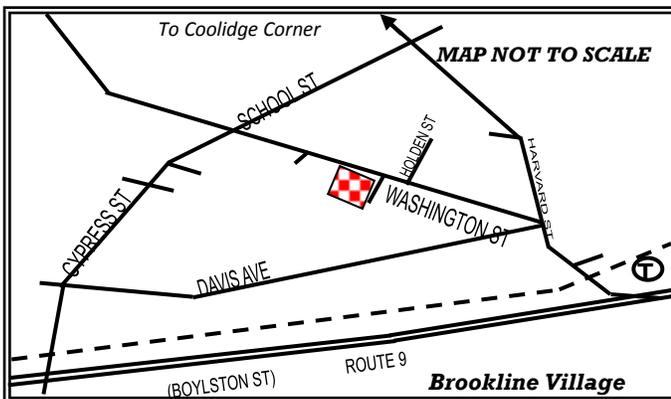
Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1DA

As the Bylaws require, BARC has 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@arrl.net> or Linda Blair,
NA1I, <na1i@arrl.net>.

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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Repeater: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

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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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)