



# The SPARC

*Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century*  
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club  
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area  
August 2013- VOLUME 25, NUMBER 8  
[www.barc.org](http://www.barc.org) - [w1bos@arrl.net](mailto:w1bos@arrl.net)



## Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

*This month's message will be brief, thanks to a bout of wrist tendonitis which has made me QRS on the computer keyboard.*

*I have had a run of bad luck arranging a speaker for September's meeting. If we remain speakerless, I'll invite people to talk about any interesting ham activities they've had over the summer. I will almost certainly be boasting about my stellar one point finish in the June VHF contest (I didn't even manage to work my own grid square), so it won't be hard to keep up with the Joneses.*

*I draw your attention to the cookout on Georges Island in Boston Harbor on Saturday, September 21. It may a cookout in name only--if the mechanics of getting charcoal and grilling supplies out to the island prove to be too much of a hassle, we'll have sandwiches and side dishes. Please RSVP if you're interested in attending.*

*Finally, please note that business and general meetings now begin at 7:30 pm. (Evening VE sessions continue to start at 7:00.)*

## BARC's Annual End-of-Summer Cookout

September 21, 2013  
Georges Island, Boston Harbor

BARC's Annual End-of-Summer Cookout will be held on September 21, 2013, beginning at about noon on Georges Island in Boston Harbor. Boston ferries depart from Long Wharf-North Pier at 10:45 and 12:00; return ferries are at 3:15, 4:15, and 5:30. Quincy ferries depart from Fore River Shipyard at 11:00 and 11:30; return ferries are at 3:25, 4:40, and 5:15. See [www.bostonharborislands.org](http://www.bostonharborislands.org) for full details.

Talk-in will be on the 145.230 Boston repeater. Rain date is September 28, 2013. Please RSVP to Joe Chapman, [nv1w@arrl.net](mailto:nv1w@arrl.net) or 617-267-6349.

## ARRL Introduces Centennial Membership Certificate-- The ARRL Letter, 8 August 2013

ARRL membership certificates commemorating the League's 100th anniversary in 2014 now are available. Members logged onto the League's website [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org), can generate their own certificates or cards online at [www.arrl.org/membership-certificate](http://www.arrl.org/membership-certificate) for printing. "We want each ARRL member to know that he or she is a part of next year's big ARRL Centennial," says Membership Manager Diane Petrilli, KB1RNF. The certificate maker also produces a replacement membership card. The ARRL thanks past McGan Award winner Angel Luis Santana, WP3GW, for suggesting the 2014 ARRL Centennial Membership Certificate, which was designed by ARRL Graphic Artist Diane Szlachetka.



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### **Minutes of the September 5 BARC Business Meeting-- Joe Harris, N1QD, Secretary**

Attendees:

Joe Chapman, NV1W – President                      Geri Duff, KB1ISG  
Jim Clogher, N1ICN - Treasurer                      Mark Duff, KB1EKN  
Joe Harris, N1QD – Secretary                      Joe Flaherty, W1JJF  
Hank Buccigross, K1QK

President's Report: The search for a September speaker continues.

Treasurer: The club's current balance is \$3568.64.

Secretary: Membership is holding in the seventies.

Repeater Committee: A replacement VHF antenna has been obtained for 145.23. When scheduling allows, it will be installed at the repeater site.

Old Business: The club cookout is scheduled for Saturday, September 21.

New Business:

1. A motion to revise the club bylaws was submitted by WA1IDA regarding the membership form conforming to prior bylaw changes. As he was not present to explain the proposal, the motion was tabled to the December Business Meeting.
2. The Blue Hills Observatory is requesting assistance with a telephone install.
3. There was a discussion regarding the acquisition of a vanity WX-prefix call sign to be used during Skywarn recognition Day

### **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**

November 16    Sat    10:00 am

#### **Business Meetings**

December 5     Thu    7:30 pm

### **NESMC Seeks Comment on Revision of 2-Meter Band Plan -- Bob DeMattia, K1IW, NESMC 2M Coordinator**

At its annual meeting on August 24, the New England Spectrum Management, the Amateur Radio repeater coordinator for Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Maine, announced a proposal to modify the 2M band plan to include new repeater channels with outputs from 146.410 to 146.490, and inputs 147.410 to 147.490. Also included is a test pair at 147.505 with a 146.505 input. In the near future, there will be a vote by the NESMC membership of repeater owners on this proposed band plan.

There is no doubt that some existing simplex users may also be affected by this change. In order to evaluate the impact of such changes, NESMC is attempting to find as many concerned simplex users as it can. We are also seeking additional input from the general amateur community. If this interests you, you may find additional information about the change at <[www.nesmc.org/2013-2m.pdf](http://www.nesmc.org/2013-2m.pdf)>. You may also be interested in joining a discussion group set up for this purpose at <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nesmc>>.

**Repeater: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5**

**Simplex: 147.420**

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### **BAA Half Marathon Is Running -- Bob Salow, WA1IDA**

When the name Boston Athletic Association (BAA) is attached to an event, the world of runners jumps to attention. Runner registration for the Half Marathon was opened in mid-July. In a few hours over 7000 entrants had registered.

BARC is proud to be asked to coordinate ham communications for this event, as we have for its past twelve years. Now in the thirteenth year, this international classic is expected to be better than ever. Ham radio has established its community value at times like these. We are asked to support safety and administrative communications. With a little fine-tuning, including many ideas from hams, the event is expected to be even better than last year.

The race starts and finishes in Boston's beautiful Franklin Park. The course, on the "Emerald Necklace," is 98% in Boston and 2% in Brookline, and is qualified to international standards. We need you again, as the Race Director has asked for even more ham assignments (that's what happens when we are appreciated).

If you are new to ham public service (or don't have much familiarity with it), this is the way to become familiar without much pressure. For hams, this is an easy introduction and an appreciated community service.

Date: Sunday, 13 October 2013

Ham start: 0600 or 0700 (because of road closures)

Ham finish: about 1100

Yes, I know it is the day before Columbus Day. The upside is it starts early and ends early, leaving plenty of time to enjoy the long weekend. Your help is greatly needed to continue this as a superb event and to uphold our reputation for dependable support. Our assignments consist of monitoring hazardous and critical locations along the course, and the medical/support stations. As we did in the past, we plan to use a 2-meter repeater and possibly a 70-cm repeater. A hand-held with a good battery and an antenna better than a "rubber duck" is the way to go.

If you can help, please contact the BARC Public Service Coordinator, Brett Smith, AB1RL, as soon as possible. Contact Brett at <[ab1rl@arrl.net](mailto:ab1rl@arrl.net)> or at 859.466.5915 for further information. The assignments, parking instructions and more detail will be provided as soon as they are available. Net Control will be at White Stadium.

The BAA requests you park in the secure facility near White Stadium, be transported to the stadium, then be brought to and from your assignment.

### **Digital QST Access Using Adobe AIR 3.8 Now Restored-- The ARRL Letter, 5 September 2013**

Adobe has restored access to downloaded issues of digital QST using the latest Adobe® AIR™, ver 3.8 on Windows operating systems. To download the latest Adobe AIR™ version, visit the Adobe AIR web page at <<http://get.adobe.com/air/>>.

### **QRP Antenna Tuner for Sale --Eric Falkof, K1NUN**

Elecraft T1: <[www.elecraft.com/T1/T1.htm](http://www.elecraft.com/T1/T1.htm)>. Can tune antenna, as well as indicate output power, SWR, and more. Shirt-pocket size. "The T1 can be used with any 0.5-W to 20-W transceiver covering bands in the 160-6 m range. This includes kits, home-built rigs, and commercial transceivers such as the FT-817, IC703, Ten-Tec Argonaut, SG2020, etc." Special FT817 band-following cable available from Elecraft. Always used only indoors, with as little as 200 mW.

**Price:** \$100

Contact Eric, <[K1NUN@netscape.net](mailto:K1NUN@netscape.net)>, or leave message at 508-659-6146.

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### **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 2014, we have already been tasked with several events. Remaining on our 2013 schedule is:

- *BAA Half Marathon* – **13 October 2013** – (Boston)
- *SKYWARN Recognition Day* – **7 December 2013** – (Blue Hill Observatory)

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@arri.net](mailto:ab1rl@arri.net)>.

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### I See the Future

<b>19 Sep</b>	<b>BARC General Meeting</b>
21 Sep	RIAFMRS Flea (Foretdale, RI)
11-12 Oct	NEARFest (Deerfield, NH)
13 Oct	<i>BAA Half Marathon (Boston) (Rp)</i>
<b>17 Oct</b>	<b>BARC General Meeting</b>
20 Oct	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
2 Nov	IRS Flea (Londonderry, NH)
9 Nov	FARA Flea (Bourne)

**(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.

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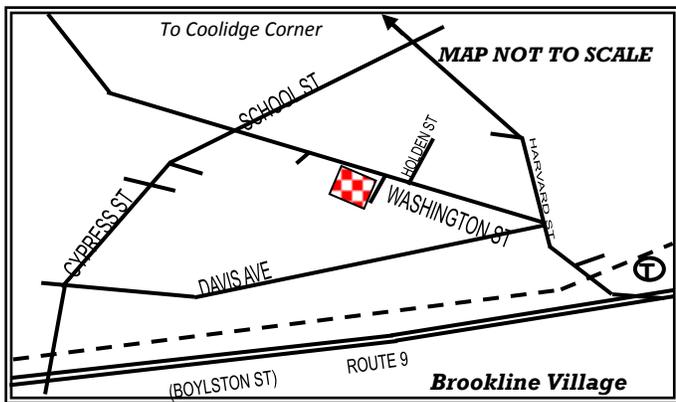
### Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

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 December 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@arrrl.net](mailto:n1icn@arrrl.net)> or Linda Blair,  
NA1I, <[na1i@arrrl.net](mailto:na1i@arrrl.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  
617.267.6349; nv1w@arrl.net

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

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Treasurer: Jim Clogher, N1ICN,  
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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
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)