



The SPARC

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

October 2013- VOLUME 25, NUMBER 10

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

As a child, I do not believe I ever dug any holes with the idea of reaching China. The distinct lack of any other successful portals to the Far East, particularly in construction sites that enjoyed considerably better digging technologies than I, was one factor in my decision. And then there were the twin obstacles of rocks and boredom.

A later perusal of a third-grade classroom globe revealed that, rocks or no, digging straight down from Chicago was no way to get to China, though I did note that patient excavators in Buenos Aires had a good shot at Beijing. I also learned the delightful word 'antipode'. Thank you, Mrs. Bash!

Working one's antipode might be considered one variety of ultimate DX (though moonbounce or working Wellesley via the long path involves more distance). Boston's antipode is in the Indian Ocean 700 miles or so from the southwest corner of Australia. I have not had the guts to punch the coordinates into MacLoggerDX to get a bearing; I picture a dialog box popping up saying, "Oh, heck, just point your antenna anywhere." Or if it had a rotor to control, having it continually sweep around like a ship's radar.

The nearest land to that point is Cape Leeuwin in Australia, and a Google search turns up some interesting operations, especially during International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend in August. The nearest large city is Perth in VK6 land.

The DX theme brings me to our October meeting. Our speaker will be B. Scott Andersen, NE1RD, creator of the 100-pound DXpedition and the author of "Buddipole in the Field." Scott is a fine speaker and I hope you'll consider joining us.

In my own travels this fall I did a 100-kilogram DXpedition, a bicycle ride from Provincetown to Boston with a KX3, a Buddipole with an 8' shock-corded mast, and an A123 battery pack charged with a solar panel. (The 100 kilograms includes the bicycle.) Happily, there was plenty of solar that weekend! I was only able to operate for an hour or so from the Marconi site in south Wellfleet, and the Worked All Europe contest was hogging 20m, but I managed to make some contacts.

Didn't get any calls from Perth, though. Time to continue pointing my antenna anywhere.

Happy DXing and happy radio,

Joe Chapman, NV1W

Innovative DXpeditions Can Be Accomplished **BARC General October Meeting – Thursday, 17 October**

Our speaker will be Scott Andersen, NE1RD, creator of the "100-pound DXpedition" and the author of "Buddipole in the Field." He will tell us how he put together a compact DX station and took it into the field.

Scott makes an excellent presentation, both technically competent and humorous. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

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

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

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:

➤ *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>.

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>. You may also be interested in joining a discussion group set up for this purpose at <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nesmc>>.

Why Are HF Bands Harmonically Assigned? -- ARRL Contest Update, 25 September 2013

Why are the traditional amateur HF bands harmonically related? K.B. Warner, W1EH, answers the question in the December 1924 issue of *QST*. On page 17 he explains, “The Washington Radio Conferences (of the early 1920s), encouraged by the interest of Herbert Hoover, gradually aligned the amateur frequencies to a series of harmonically related bands, so that harmonic interference from the amateur service would fall on other members of the same service (“each service should be charged with the duty of consuming its own harmonic excrescences...” Kennelley, pg. 18), or more colloquially, “Everybody must eat his own mush.”

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Should the FCC Allow Encryption? -- Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

One of the most fundamental rules in Amateur Radio has been the prohibition against the use of codes or ciphers meant to obscure the meaning of a message [Part 97.113 (4)]. Recently, that long-standing prohibition was challenged <<http://www.arrrl.org/news/rules-change-sought-to-permit-encryption-of-sensitive-emergency-communications>> to allow encryption when passing emergency health and welfare traffic. The idea was that encrypting these messages would protect the privacy of individuals. In his Petition for Rulemaking <<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=7022424684>>, Don Rolph, AB1PH, pointed out that Australian Amateur Radio rules permit encryption for emergency services operation or related training exercises.

Oddly enough, the pushback against this petition has been loud and swift. The ARRL quickly came out against the petition <<http://www.arrrl.org/news/arrrl-urges-denial-of-petition-to-permit-encryption-of-some-emergency-communications>>, and when I blogged about this issue <<http://www.kb6nu.com/im-jumping-on-the-anti-encryption-bandwagon/>>, several hams replied that they didn't think allowing encryption was a good idea.

The main arguments against encryption seem to be that:

- It will make people suspicious of Amateur Radio operators and bring unwanted scrutiny upon Amateur Radio.
- Make self-policing more difficult.

Among the arguments for allowing encryption are that cryptography is a fundamental element of modern RF communications, and that not allowing it, negates one of the purpose of Amateur Radio. Namely, that one of the purposes of Amateur Radio is to "advance the state of the radio art."

In late September, the FCC dismissed this particular Petition for Rulemaking <<http://www.arrrl.org/news/fcc-dismisses-encryption-petition>>. It stated specifically that "the record does not support Mr Rolph's assertion that the prohibition on encrypted amateur communications is impairing the ability of the Amateur Radio community to provide effective support to public safety agencies during emergencies."

Of course, this discussion isn't over yet. Encryption is now employed routinely for even the most common types of digital communication, and as a newer generation of Amateur Radio operators take over, they'll want to experiment with these digital communications techniques. One commenter suggested that a portion of the 900 MHz band or maybe the 5 GHz band be set aside for experimentation with encryption. I think that is an idea worth exploring.

What do you think? Does encryption have a place in Amateur Radio?

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When he's not pondering FCC rules, Dan, KB6NU, enjoys working CW on the HF bands and teaching ham radio classes. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of Amateur Radio license study guides, go to <www.kb6nu.com> or email <cwgeek@kb6nu.com>.

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@arrrl.net> or 508.650.9440.

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Hands-Only™ CPR
Ad Council

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

- 11-12 Oct NEARFest (Deerfield, NH)
- 13 Oct BAA Half Marathon (Boston) **(Rp)**
- 17 Oct **BARC General Meeting**
- 20 Oct MIT Flea (Cambridge)
- 2 Nov IRS Flea (Londonderry, NH)
- 9 Nov FARA Flea (Bourne)
- 7 Dec **SKYWARN Recognition Day (Blue Hill Observatory, Mitlon)**

(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 November issue must be received by November 3.



53 Old Bay Road, Bolton
\$365,000

Former QTH of Roger Perkins (W10J). Private 6-acre property with ranch home, heated garage & barn, ideally suited for an amateur radio station. Tower base for a 120' guyed Rohn 25 tower & 2nd tower base with guy anchors for a 60' Rohn 45 tower. Towers have been removed but can be relocated on the current infrastructure. Ample single phase power.

Offered by Maureen Harmonay, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. Call 978-502-5800 or visit 53OldBayRoad.com.

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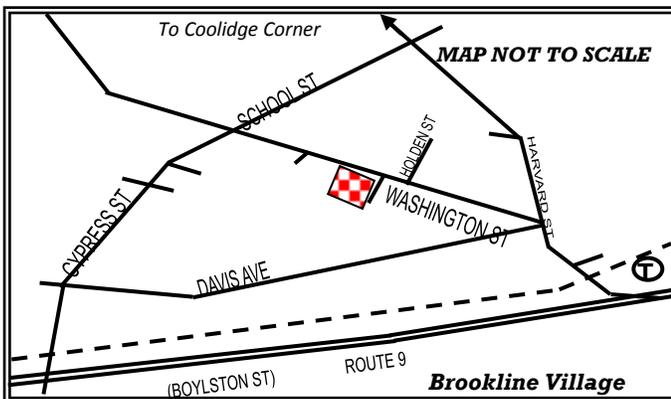
Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1DA

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 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

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

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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

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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)

Repeater: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420