



# **The SPARC**

**Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century**  
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club  
**Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area**  
January 2014 - VOLUME 26, NUMBER 1  
[www.barc.org](http://www.barc.org) - [w1bos@arrl.net](mailto:w1bos@arrl.net)



## **Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W**

*In 2014 the ARRL observes its centennial year, the ARRL VEC marks thirty years, the WRTC (World Radiosport Team Championships) comes to New England, and there will undoubtedly be changes in store for everyone who works the Boston Marathon. Opportunities galore for spending money, operating, hoisting glasses to toast luminaries from Hiram P. to the next BARC Ham of the Year, and collecting more wallpaper for the shack.*

*I'm already ahead of the game on the spending part, having ordered the fancy centennial copy of the ARRL Handbook. It looks very spiffy in its gold-and-black cover, just waiting to have coffee spilled on it or to be burned with a wayward soldering iron. The League is also publishing a two-volume QST retrospective, which I got to thumb through recently. The first volume contains selected articles, and the second advertisements, including a breathless full-page ad offering "NEW! Transistors!"*

*New Year's Day brought W100AW on 20m and a pileup more worthy of a station in Burundi than Newington and the first time I've ever had to go split for a contact in New England. This year you'll also be able to work W1AW portable in all fifty*

*Also in 2014: the year-long Centennial QSO Party, in which you earn points for contacting any ARRL member. Volunteer Examiners, of whom the club has many, are good for five points apiece. Phil Temples K9HI, whom I hope will not go into hiding as a result of this announcement, is good for a cool 175. At the last business meeting it was suggested that we all try and work other BARC members during the New England QSO Party in May.*

*In the hoisting glasses department, this year's holiday party will be on a Sunday afternoon in January, in the hope that more people will be able to attend and fewer parking headaches will result. The results will be in by the time you read this, but I hope a good time will have been had by all.*

*And so I'm off to thumb through the ARRL Handbook while eating pizza with my fingers (not). Looking forward to a good year for the club, to contacting many BARCers during 2014, and I wish you all health, happiness, and good radio.*

*Joe Chapman, NV1W*

## **Ham of the Year Brett Smith, AB1RL**

This year's recipient of Ham of the Year is Brett Smith, AB1RL. Brett serves as Public Service Coordinator of the club; in addition to managing volunteers and a complicated schedule of meetings and events, for much of the public he's the face of BARC. This position was held for many years by Bob Salow, WA1IDA, and Bob was a hard act to follow, but Brett has proved an efficient and devoted coordinator. Thank you, Brett, for your service, and congratulations on being this year's Ham of the Year.

## ***The SPARC***

### **Membership Renewal Special for January 2014! – Joe Harris, N1QD**

At the December business meeting, it was decided that the club would run a one-month membership renewal special.

For all renewing members: if your 2014 membership renewal is postmarked or delivered to an officer by January 31, you will be able to take a 20% discount to your 2014 dues. Forms were sent out in the mail at the end of December.

### **Signal Reports Wanted for 145.23, W1BOS/R – Joe Harris, N1QD**

As many of you know, the club's VHF repeater antenna was badly damaged last winter as a result of a windy ice storm. We have been operating since the spring with a temporary antenna.

I am pleased to report that the permanent antenna has now been installed! The new antenna is a Laird FG1443.

Signal reports would be greatly appreciated. Please direct your reports, including your location and operating conditions (portable, mobile, base, what antenna used, etc.) to Joe Harris, N1QD, at <n1qd@n1qd.org>.

### **RadioSport: New ARRL Single-Operator Unlimited Contest Category Now in Effect -- The ARRL Letter, January 9, 2014**

Responding to many requests, the ARRL Programs and Services Committee in 2013 accepted the Contest Advisory Committee (CAC) recommendation to add the Single-Operator Unlimited category to the ARRL 10 Meter Contest, ARRL 160 Meter Contest, RTTY Roundup, and the IARU HF Championship. "This particular issue has been a long time coming," said CAC Chairman Al Dewey, K0AD.

The new category permits the use of spotting information within the Single-Operator class. In the past, using spotting information placed a station in the Multioperator category. Per the revised rules, "Single-Operator Unlimited: The use of spotting assistance or automated, multi-channel decoders is permitted."



### **Contest Announcement**

The Wireless Society of Southern Maine would like to invite radio amateurs from Maine and New England to participate in the 4th annual Maine 2 Meter FM Simplex Challenge contest.

The contest takes place Sunday, February 16th, 2014, and runs for 4 hours, beginning at 12:00 PM local time (1700 UTC). Contacts are limited to FM Simplex on the 2 meter band. Participants may be entered as either fixed or mobile.

This contest is designed so anyone with a 2 meter HT, mobile, or base station can participate. There are several entry categories based on power level, and whether you are fixed or mobile. It can be a lot of fun, and also serves as a good exercise for emergency preparedness.

See <<http://www.qsl.net/ws1sm/contest.html>> for complete rules and details

### **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.

Linda Cunningham	KC0THU
Matthew Beauchesne	N1MJB

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 Club Secretary, Joe Harris, N1QD, at <n1qd@n1qd.org>.

## ***The SPARC***

### **BARC Meeting Calendar for 2014**

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**

February 19	Wed	7:30 pm
March 19	Wed	7:30 pm
April 17	Thu	7:30 pm <i>at the Clay Center in Brookline</i>
May 15	Thu	7:30 pm
June 19	Thu	7:30 pm
September 18	Thu	7:30 pm
October 16	Thu	7:30 pm
November 20	Thu	7:30 pm

#### **VE Sessions**

April 14	Mon	7:30 pm
July 16	Mon	7:30 pm
October 19	Mon	7:30 pm

#### **Business Meetings**

March 6	Thu	7:30 pm <i>at the Cambridgeside Galleria Food Court</i>
June 5	Thu	7:30 pm
September 4	Thu	7:30 pm
December 4	Thu	7:30 pm

### **BARC Net Preamble**

The control operator for the BARC Net is Joe, W1JJF. He rarely misses a net, but when he does any ham can take up the position and run the net. To assist you in opening and closing the net The BARC Net Preamble is printed below. Do not be afraid to step up and take the challenge.

*Is there any further business for the repeater before we begin the Boston Amateur Radio Club Net? This is <<YOUR CALL>>. Calling the Boston Amateur Radio Club Net. This is <<YOUR CALL>>, my name is <<YOUR NAME>> and I am located in <<YOUR TOWN>>. This net meets each Monday evening at 9 pm Eastern Time on the 145.230 Boston repeater, PL 88.5. This net is an informal round table discussion concerning matters of interest to the members of the Boston Amateur Radio Club and the Boston Amateur Radio community in general. When checking into the net, please say, "this is" and drop your carrier to check on doubling. Then give your call sign, name and location. All amateurs are welcome to join the net. Any check-in's for the Boston Amateur Radio Club Net please call now.*

*[Compile the list of the check-in's and proceed with the net.]*

*Is there any further business for the net before I close? Hearing nothing, this is <<YOUR CALL>> closing tonight's session of the Boston Amateur Radio Club Net. I would like to thank everyone who participated in the net and those who stood by while I ran the net. The Boston Amateur Radio Club Net will return next Monday evening at 9 pm Eastern Time. This is <<YOUR CALL>> returning the repeater to general amateur use. 73.*

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## I See the Future

- 15 Feb AARC Flea (Marlboro)
- 19 Feb BARC General Meeting – Wednesday ▲**
- 1 Mar Mt. Tom ARA Flea (Chicopee)
- 6 Mar BARC Business Meeting ▲**
- 19 Mar BARC General Meeting ▲**
- 6 Apr FARA Flea (Framingham)
- 14 Apr BARC VE Session**
- 17 Apr BARC General Meeting ▲**
- 20 Apr MIT Flea (Cambridge)
- 2-3 May NEAR Fest (Deerfield NH)

▲ **Note change from usual date and/or location**

(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](mailto:n1qd@n1qd.org)>.

Articles for the February issue must be received by February 8.

## 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](mailto:n1qd@n1qd.org)>; or Bob Salow at <[wa1ida@arrl.net](mailto:wa1ida@arrl.net)> or 508.650.9440.

## The SPARC

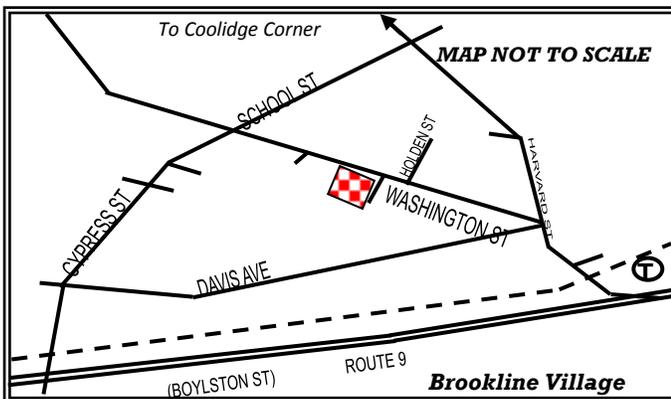
### Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

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 **6 March 2013** at the Cambridgeside Galleria, in the lower level of the food court. . 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@arrl.net](mailto:n1icn@arrl.net)> or Linda Blair,  
NA1I, <[na1i@arrl.net](mailto:na1i@arrl.net)>.

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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

President: Joe Chapman, NV1W  
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617.500.4406; na1i@arrl.net

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Newsletter Editor: Joe Harris, N1QD  
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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 (PL 136.5)
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