



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area
February 2014 - VOLUME 26, NUMBER 2
www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

I rarely read business or self-improvement books, and I've always felt that one of the seven habits of highly effective people is that they don't waste time reading books like The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.

The exception is David Allen's Getting Things Done, which James Fallows wrote about in The Atlantic a few years ago. I tend to like everything Fallows writes, but the clincher came when he wrote that Allen looks like the comedian Dana Carvey. I suspect these days three-quarters of the organization in my life is due to David Allen, and it's all because he looks like a goofy guy from Saturday Night Live.

Ham Radio's organization man is Rod Dinkins, AC6V. His website, <<http://www.ac6v.com/>>, is the one with about a million links on everything from "Abbreviations, CW" to "Zulu Time". Looking for Priscilla Presley's callsign? Try "Famous Hams". Want to know what to do about those mysterious PSK31 messages that say "Greetings, Earthlings"? Go to "SETI".

I recently bought a copy of his DX101x: HF + Six Meters DXing Reference Guide. As you might imagine, it's very well organized and packed with reference material. There are a lot of useful tips on DXing and operating in general from someone who's been doing it a lot longer than I have.

One idea I've filed away for future use is to make a reference sheet for contests with a summary of rules, frequencies, the exchange, how I've programmed the keyer, and so forth. The Straight Key Century Club sprints are still dangerously thrilling (especially when I clack away on the cootie key) so I'm going to try writing out the entire Q in both calling-CQ and search-and-pounce forms. I'll see whether things don't go a little more smoothly thanks to AC6V. Too bad he doesn't look like Dana Carvey.

One other note: I want to draw your attention to this month's general meeting. Provided we don't get a foot of snow dumped on us that afternoon, Dave Robertson KD1NA will talk to us about homebrewing and teach us how to solder surface-mount parts. Dave is a retired technical trainer and an avid homebrewer, and his enthusiasm is so infectious you'll find yourself wanting to go home and build stuff.

Joe Chapman, NV1W

February General Meeting Wednesday, February 19

BARC's February General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 19, at 7:30 p.m. at Brookline Police Headquarters. Repeat: Wednesday, not Thursday. Our speaker will be Dave Robertson, KD1NA, who will talk about construction techniques and teach us to solder surface-mount devices. Dave is President of the Pentucket Radio Association in Haverhill.

In the event of inclement weather, we will try to make decisions about cancellation 24 hours in advance and will send email to the regular BARC list. If you're not sure, either, call Joe, NV1W, at 617-267-6349 or on the 145.230 repeater.

The SPARC

BARC Public Service Events for 2014—Brett Smith, AB1RL

The Boston Amateur Radio Club organizes hams to provide communications support to several charitable and athletic events in the area. Volunteering at these events is a great way to be active in the hobby: we demonstrate how amateur radio serves the community, and learn a lot about effective communication. Every event has positions that can be filled by new volunteers, and the equipment requirements are very modest. You just need a solid handheld and aftermarket antenna.

To learn more about volunteering, or to sign up for e-mail about upcoming events, please write Brett Smith, AB1RL at <ab1rl@arrl.net>.

- **Sunday, April 6: Boston MS Walk.** We expect this to be at a new location in Boston proper (it's been in Cambridge the past few years).
- **Saturday, April 19: BAA 5K and Invitational Mile races.** Unlike most years, this is the Saturday before the Marathon, in observance of Easter.
- **Sunday, April 27: Run of the Charles**
- **Saturday, May 17: MS Journey of Hope (Natick)**
- **Sunday, May 18: Boston Brain Tumor Ride (Waltham)**

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>.

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.

Harry Skeffington KC1AZM

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>.

ARRL Centennial Convention Registration is Open! –The ARRL Letter, February 6, 2014

Registration now is open for the ARRL National Centennial Convention, Thursday, July 17, through Saturday July 19, at the Connecticut Convention Center, to celebrate 100 years of the ARRL. Thousands of League members and friends will gather in Hartford -- the ARRL's birthplace -- to celebrate the first century of ARRL members' "Advancing the Art and Science of Radio."

The three days are packed with activities. The first day, Thursday, includes training workshops. Among these are Contest University, DX University, RFI 101, and a Public Service Communications Academy. The Exhibit Hall, open Friday and Saturday, will feature ARRL program representatives, Amateur Radio manufacturers, equipment sellers, and an indoor flea market. The Friday evening ARRL Centennial Banquet will be followed by a Wouff Hong ceremony. A Presidents Breakfast will be held on Saturday. On all three days there will be opportunities to tour ARRL Headquarters and W1AW.

A 3 day adult ticket is \$75; youth (21 or younger) is \$50, which includes a training workshop on Thursday and access to the exhibit hall and indoor flea market on Friday and Saturday, plus all forums and a coach bus trip to ARRL Headquarters and W1AW. A 2 day (Friday/Saturday) adult ticket is \$25; youth are free. Other ticket options are available, including spouse/companion tickets that include alternative non-ham activities. Advance registration is recommended. Join us in celebrating 100 years! Visit <<http://arrl2014.org>> for details.

Repeater: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

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 at the Clay Center in Brookline
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 at the Cambridgeside Galleria Food Court
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.



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)
- 6 Apr **Boston MS Walk (Rp)**
- 14 Apr **BARC VE Session**
- 17 Apr **BARC General Meeting ▲**
- 19 Apr **BAA 5K and Invitational Mile races (Rp)**
- 20 Apr MIT Flea (Cambridge)
- 27 Apr **Run of the Charles (Rp)**
- 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>.

Articles for the March issue must be received by March 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>; or Bob Salow at <wa1ida@arrl.net> or 508.650.9440.

The SPARC

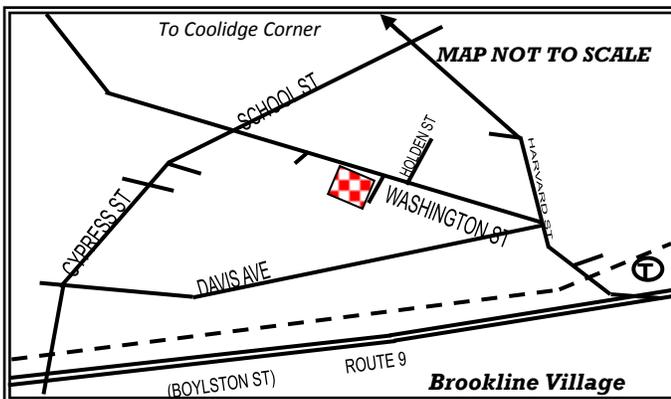
Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

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

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



224 N. Broadway - Ste. D12
Salem, NH 03079
(603) 898-3750 • 800-444-0047
(603) 898-1041 Fax

ANAHEIM, CA • ATLANTA, GA • BURBANK, CA • DENVER, CO
NEW CASTLE, DE • OAKLAND, CA • PHOENIX, AZ • PORTLAND, OR
SALEM, NH • SAN DIEGO, CA • SUNNYVALE, CA • WOODBRIDGE, VA

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
617.267.6349; nv1w@arrl.net
- Vice President: Linda Blair, NA1I;
617.500.4406; na1i@arrl.net
- Secretary: Joe Harris, N1QD
781.844.8684; n1qd@n1qd.org
- Treasurer: Jim Clogher, N1ICN,
617.908.5019; n1icn@arrl.net
- Volunteer Exams:
Jim Clogher, N1ICN, n1icn@arrl.net
Hank Buccigross K1QK, k1qk@arrl.net
- Public Service Coordinator: Brett Smith, AB1RL
859.466.5915; ab1rl@arrl.net
- Public Information Officer:
Geri Duff, KB1ISG
781.749.7664; geriduff52@juno.com
- Membership Services: Linda Blair, NA1I
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.

The SPARC is published monthly by the Boston Amateur Radio Club. The design and content are Copyright 2013, all rights reserved. Permission is hereby granted to reprint or distribute by electronic or other means any material herein, provided this publication and the issue date are credited. Such permission is limited to use for non-commercial purposes for the benefit of the Amateur Radio community. Permission for other purposes must be obtained in writing.

Greater Boston Net Directory

Daily 5:30 pm	Eastern Mass/Rhode Island Phone Net (NTS)	3.915
Daily 7 pm	MARI (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)