



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area
March 2014 - VOLUME 26, NUMBER 3
www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

At the December Business Meeting Blake Haskell, K1BTH, suggested that we send renewal notices with a stamped reply envelope via snail mail to the membership, and in addition offer a discount on dues to anyone who renewed before the end of January. Perhaps without pausing to consider what he was signing up for, Blake also volunteered to prepare the mailing and send it out himself.

I am happy to report that the effort was a success. As of last month's General Meeting we had more members than we had at the same time in 2013, and I'm sure everyone who renewed appreciated the convenience. Many thanks to Blake for coming up with the idea, and for volunteering to do the work the idea entailed. Though he has a way to go to match the 20,000 envelopes one of my calligrapher friends addressed last year!

A surprising number of you declined to take advantage of the discount, or included an extra amount to support the repeater. Over the past year we've been reminded how much the Boston area Amateur Radio community and the public who attend events we support rely on the repeater, and the club has borne more expenses related to the machine and antenna than usual. Your additional contributions have gone a long way towards maintaining the club's financial health.

Also on the topic of new ideas that were good ideas, holding the holiday party in January was a success as well. The sense at this month's Business Meeting was that we want to do the same thing next year, and that we will once again have SKYWARN Recognition Day take the place of December's General Meeting.

Though we seem to be still thoroughly stuck in winter, spring is not far off. Once again I want to encourage people to consider signing up for public service events, and also to consider participating in the New England QSO Party in May. I for one would like to try working as many club members as possible, and I welcome suggestions for how we might encourage more members to participate.

As an extra bonus, contacts with League members count for points in the year-long ARRL Centennial QSO party, provided you use Logbook of the World.

To return to the topic of membership, one final thank-you to everyone who renewed his or her membership for this year. The renewal drive would not have been a success without you.

Joe Chapman, NV1W

March General Meeting Wednesday, March 19

BARC's March General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m. at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline Village. Our featured speaker will be... you! This will be our ever-popular Winter Show and Tell meeting, in which we each bring in something interesting to show and talk about.

The SPARC

Membership Renewal Time –Joe Harris, N1QD

As we wind through this winter and look forward to warmer weather, please remember that this is membership renewal time. The BARC membership follows the calendar year, so 2013 memberships expired on 31 December. There is a three-month grace period, but if you haven't renewed for 2014 this will be the last SPARC you receive.

Membership dues are the club's largest source of funds, and without funds the club cannot continue to provide its services to the Boston-area Amateur Radio community. We will soon be replacing our VHF repeater, which is no small investment. Also, without funds, the club will have no way to run events such as Field Day or Skywarn Recognition Day.

If you have already renewed for 2104, thank you!! If you have not yet renewed, please take the time to send in the form with your dues. You can also renew online through the Club's website, where you can use PayPal.

Minutes of the March 6 BARC Business Meeting-- Joe Flaherty, W1JFF

Attendees:

Joe Chapman, NV1W – President

Linda Blair, NA1I – Vice President

Jim Clogher, N1ICN - Treasurer

Joe Flaherty, W1JFF

President's Report: The envelope renewal mailing brought good results, with most renewals opting to pay full membership fees.

Treasurer's Report: The club's current balance is \$3931

Repeater Committee: A discussion was held regarding the creation of a repeater fund to help defray the cost of a replacement VHF repeater.

2014 Elections: Hank, K1QK has volunteered to again chair the nominating committee in 2014. Any member interested in running for office should contact him at <k1qk@arrl.net>.

New Business:

- It was determined that moving the Holiday Party to January was a success. The Club will keep this schedule in the future, with Skywarn Recognition Day serving as the December General Meeting.
- A discussion was held about combining groups with the Clay Center ARC for the New England QSO Party in May.

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)**

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.

The SPARC

You can be part of the "Ham Radio Olympics" –Doug Grant, K1DG

The World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) will be held in Massachusetts July 12-13, 2014. Like the Olympics or the Boston Marathon, this event draws the "best of the best" from around the world. Fifty-nine two-operator teams will be set up with Field-Day-style stations on 16 properties around the Route 495 corridor, from Pepperell in the north to Plymouth and Taunton in the south.

The international teams will compete to see which team can make the most contacts with the most countries and take home the gold medal. This Olympic-style world championship will be widely covered in the local, regional, and national media and provide excellent publicity for amateur radio.

The WRTC2014 organizers need volunteers to help with this once-in-a-lifetime event. The biggest need at the moment is for people to help set up and keep an eye on the stations and provide local transportation for the teams between the headquarters hotel in Westborough and the sites.

Several clubs in the area have "adopted" one or more sites. Perhaps your club would be interested in doing this as a club project. We'd be happy to send someone to your next club meeting to provide more details.

Please visit <www.wrtc2014.org/volunteer> to sign up and tell us how you would like to help make this exciting event a success.

Learn more about WRTC2014 at <www.wrtc2014.org>.

NPR's "All Things Considered" Segment Includes Spark Gap Morse from ARRL –The ARRL Letter, March 13, 2014

As part of its series of vignettes exploring a "counterfactual" history, "What if World War I had never happened?" NPR afternoon news magazine "All Things Considered" aired a segment on March 11 to explore how history would have unfurled, if the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand had not been not successful.

"They needed a sound of a telegraph relaying the message of the failed assassination attempt," said ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. "They wanted it to be as authentic as possible, so we explained that in 1914, it would have been relayed via spark."

The ARRL Lab has a working spark transmitter, so Kutzko got the desired text from NPR, which he sent by hand and recorded. "They said it was 'perfect,'" he reported. "It was a real thrill being able to help NPR; I used to work at NPR affiliates in Illinois and Indiana in the 1990s, so being able to help the network was exciting."

The final result? Well, if you wanted to hear the spark Morse code on the air, you had to listen closely and quickly; it was soon voiced over by a faux voice dispatch relating the faux news. NPR's "All Things Considered" segments are available on the NPR website at <<http://www.npr.org/series/286403203/what-if-wwi-had-never-happened>>.

The SPARC

The banner features a teal background with two circular icons. The first icon, labeled '1', shows a red smartphone. The second icon, labeled '2', shows a pair of red hands. Text on the left includes 'Hands-Only™ CPR' and the 'Ad Council' logo. Text in the center says 'Call 911'. Text on the right says 'Push hard and fast in the center of the chest. Learn more at handsonlycpr.org' and the 'American Heart Association' logo with the tagline 'Learn and Live'.

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.

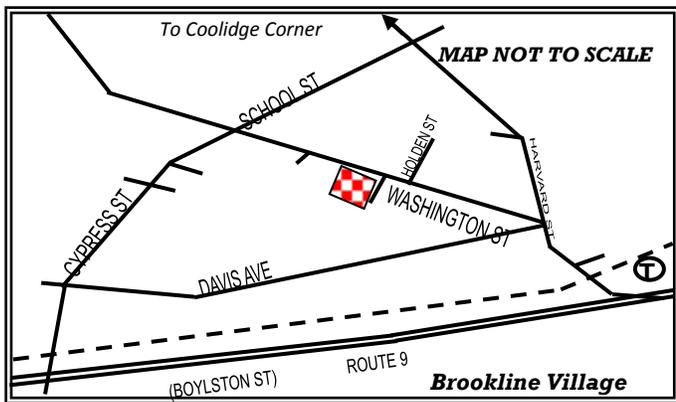
Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

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 June 2014** 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@arrrl.net> or Linda Blair, NA1I, <na1i@arrrl.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**

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
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)