



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area
April 2014 - VOLUME 26, NUMBER 4
www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

One of my favorite old movies is The Great Race, a 1965 comedy centered around an automobile race from New York to Paris via the long path. Jack Lemmon plays Professor Fate, a wonderfully over-the-top melodramatic villain, assisted by his sidekick Max Meen. To activate one of his sinister devices of sabotage, Professor Fate announces, "Push the button, Max!" Max pushes the button, and the device is deployed only to fail spectacularly and hilariously minutes later.

Over the years I've had my share of buttons act as though they were wired by Professor Fate. At other times, the buttons all worked just fine but my brain seems to have been designed as a prop in a slapstick comedy.

One of the most reliable buttons in the ham world is the PTT switch on a handheld tuned to a repeater frequency. Of course, you can be out of juice or have the PL tone programmed incorrectly, but in general any mistake you make will simply prevent you from keying the repeater, and nobody will be the wiser.

It's with that in mind that I want to make another of my regular appeals to members with new Technician licenses and radios to push the button. It's probably a good idea to know your own call in the ITU phonetic alphabet and to listen a while before you transmit, but eventually you should push the button.

An excellent time to get your feet wet is at the weekly club net at 9:00 pm on Mondays on the 145.230 Boston repeater. Modern radios will set you up for using the repeater if you tune to 145.230 MHz. The only thing you have to do is set the CTCSS tone (also called the "PL tone") to 88.5 Hz. Your radio's manual will tell you how to do this. If nothing seems to be working, contact me and I'll either help or find someone who can.

On the subject of the club net, I'd also like to encourage people who aren't Technicians, newcomers, or both to check in every once in a while. The net has been faithfully and ably run for years by Joe Flaherty, W1JF, with occasional assistance from cats and his grandchildren. As Joe says every week, all you have to do is key up the radio and say hello.

73, and as W1JF also says, I wish you good health and successful button pushing, in that order.

Joe Chapman, NV1W

April General Meeting **Thursday, April 17**

This month's General Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Clay Center Observatory in Brookline, through the courtesy of Bob Phinney K5TEC and the Clay Center. For directions see <http://www.clayobservatory.org/>. Our speaker will be Blake Haskell, K1BTH, who will speak on ARES and the state of Emergency Communications in Massachusetts. Cloud cover permitting, our hosts may open up the telescope during the social portion of the meeting.

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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 27: Run of the Charles**
- **Saturday, May 17: MS Journey of Hope (Natick)**
- **Sunday, May 18: Boston Brain Tumor Ride (Waltham)**
- **Sunday, June 22: BAA 10K, Boston (Hooray! It's *not* the same weekend as Field Day!)**
- **Thursday, July 3: Finish at the Fifty, Patriot Place, Foxborough**
- **Sunday, October 12: BAA Half Marathon, Boston**

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

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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.

ARRL Releases First Repeater Directory App for Android Devices -- The ARRL Letter, 10 April, 2014



ARRL has introduced its first Android app for locating Amateur Radio repeater frequencies in the US and Canada -- The ARRL Repeater Directory®...Powered by Travel Plus™. Android phone and mobile device users can download the app at no cost from Google Play™ (an Apple iOS version is coming soon). The free app provides limited access to The ARRL Repeater Directory database. Users may purchase a subscription to the complete database of 23,000 repeaters, but the full version of the app is included in the price of The ARRL Repeater Directory print editions.

"You're probably more likely to have your smartphone at your fingertips when searching for a repeater while traveling," ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, pointed out. "The app can quickly locate you and deliver a list of nearby repeaters to tune in." Inderbitzen says users can browse the entire database by city and state too, even while offline.

The app's database contains the current list of frequencies included with the 2014-2015 hard copy editions of The ARRL Repeater Directory and in the TravelPlus for Repeaters software. "ARRL assembles this data each year from frequency coordinators recognized by the National Frequency Coordinator's Council and carefully vetted submissions from individual repeater owners," said ARRL Publication Manager Steve Ford, WB8IMY, who edits the directory. The database includes repeaters from 28 MHz to 1240 MHz, and includes ATV, D-Star, APCO-25, Digital Mobile Radio (DMR), EchoLink, and IRLP machines.

The ARRL Repeater Directory app can search for frequencies by city and state, or by current location, if you've enabled location services on your device. Selecting a listing reveals detailed information on the repeater and its features. Users can filter searches to see only repeaters that match certain attributes, and mapping is integrated.

Users may purchase an activation code from ARRL for 12 months of access to the full version for \$9.95. The hard copy 2014-2015 Repeater Directory, also available from ARRL or from an ARRL publications dealer, includes an activation code for access to the full version of The ARRL Repeater Directory app. The pocket-sized edition is \$12.95, and the desktop edition is \$17.95 -- both including the app (plus shipping). The activation code permits single users to activate the full version of the app for 12 months on up to three devices.

ARRL produced the app with DHF Systems, the developer of ARRL's Travel Plus for Repeaters™ software.



I See the Future

- 14 Apr **BARC VE Session**
- 17 Apr **BARC General Meeting (at the Clay Center) ▲**
- 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)
- 15 May **BARC General Meeting**
- 17 May **MS Journey of Hope Walk**
- 18 May **Boston Brain Tumor Bike Rides (Rp)**
- 18 May MIT Flea (Cambridge)
- 16 May **BARC General Meeting**
- 5 Jun **BARC Business Meeting**
- 15 Jun MIT Flea (Cambridge)

▲ *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.

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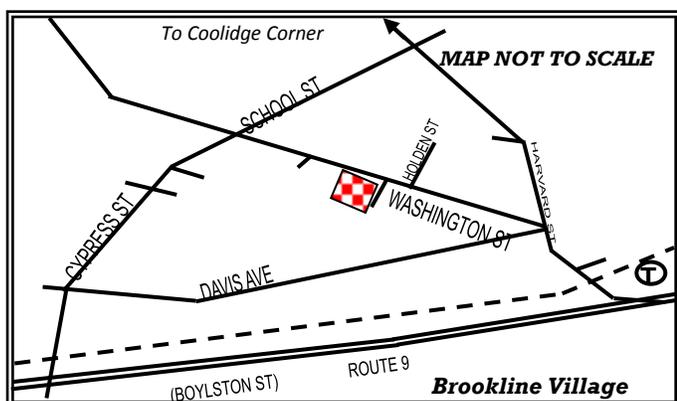
Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1DA

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 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 CSCEs 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>.

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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

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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 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)