



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area
May 2014 - VOLUME 26, NUMBER 5
www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

I am writing this message after a cold and dreary April, and it's hard to think that we're heading into the end of Spring and the beginning of Summer. In the spirit of the calendar, if not the weather, I want to draw your attention to a few club events that will be coming up over the next few months.

The New England QSO party, May 3-4, will already be over by the time you read this message. I'm hoping to have worked at least a few club members, as my schedule and robust five watts permit. With luck I shall have benefitted from the successful inauguration of a new end-fed dipole for 15 meters.

On Thursday evening, May 15, we'll be back at Brookline Police Headquarters for our next general meeting. Details on the program will be forthcoming.

Our final business meeting before the Summer will be on Thursday, June 5. Many (like your President) find conducting business much less interesting than hearing about DXpeditions or learning the effective use of an antenna analyzer, and I am always grateful to those who make the trek to attend the business meetings.

Elections will be held at the general meeting on Thursday, June 19, once again at 7:30 pm at Brookline Police Headquarters. The nominating committee, under the leadership of Hank Buccigross, K1QK, proposes the slate of Joe Chapman, NV1W, President; Mark Duff, KB1EKN, Vice President; Jim Clogher, N1ICN, Treasurer, and Joe Harris, N1QD, Secretary. Please feel free to contact either Hank or me to nominate others or yourself. I would like to encourage people, especially newer members, to consider becoming more active in the governance of the club and to run for office, if not this year, then in 2015. In particular, should I be re-elected it will be my third term as President, and I think it would be better for both the club and for me were I not to have a fourth.

You will notice that current Vice President Linda Blair, NA1I, is entering into a well-deserved retirement from her duties as an executive officer of the club. Linda does a tremendous amount of work for BARC and the ham community in general. She has been responsible for scheduling our meeting places and setting up the holiday party. During my terms as President I have profited enormously from her good counsel as well as her technical expertise.

Finally, Field Day is on the weekend of June 28 and 29, less than two months away. It had better not snow. More on Field Day next month.

Joe Chapman, NV1W

May General Meeting

Thursday, May 15

This month's General Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Brookline Police Headquarters. This month's speaker is still up in the air as of the SPARC's publication, but a notice will be sent out via email to the club members. The Brookline Police Headquarters is located at 350 Washington St, Brookline. A map is located on Page 6 of this newsletter

Repeaters: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

443.550 (+) CTCSS 110.9

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BARC's public service season is in full swing - Come join us! -- Brett Smith, AB1RL

Every year, BARC's public service season starts strong out of the gate. We provide communications support to three different events each April. Looking back, it's a good sample of all the work we do: hams help different organizations at a variety of events, offering unique services to each.

First is a fundraising walk for the Multiple Sclerosis Society in Boston. Most hams at this event provide route guidance and smooth over logistical issues. This year's event followed a new route, making that support on the course especially important. Rick Savage, KB1LYJ, put together a great team that helped proactively resolve potential issues.

After that comes the BAA 5K and Invitational Mile races, a short prelude to the Boston Marathon. At BAA events we directly support the medical team, helping them deploy to the most effective locations and providing extra lookout for any medical needs. Ten thousand runners were at this year's 5K, the largest field ever, and we also supported a Tribute Run for people affected by the bombings at last year's Marathon.

The last event in April is the Run of the Charles, a canoe and kayak race to support the Charles River Watershed Association. Hams at this event call in on-site registrations, report rules violations, and help keep track of teams to ensure they make it safely from start to finish. That's a lot of traffic to juggle, all of it with different priorities and deadlines, but this year's team worked together to make it sound effortless.

This is my second year serving as BARC's public service coordinator. The longer I do it, the better I understand how much this work is a team effort. We need help from all kinds of hams—whether they're event organizers, repeater trustees, or reporting issues on the course at an event—in order to give the best help to these organizations and our community. No contribution is small, and I can't give enough thanks to all the volunteers who have helped us at these events.

And it's not just me. Many participants at these events, whether walkers, runners, or kayakers, make a point to thank me and other hams for volunteering. Public service events are the best way I know to put your radio skills to use for your community, and you can make a difference even if you're a Technician with only a handheld—that's how I got started! If you're interested in joining a team, please get in touch with me by e-mail to <ab1rl@arrl.net>, or phone (859) 466 5915. I hope I'll hear you on an event net soon!

Repeater Committee Report-- Joe Harris, N1QD, Repeater Trustee

In the past few months, the repeater committee has made some major updates and changes to the club's repeater systems.

First I am pleased to announce that the club's **UHF** repeater has returned to the airwaves after being off for over two years. The repeater is a **Motorola XPR8300** operating at **443.550 MHz** with a positive offset, and a PL tone of **110.9Hz** on the input and output. Due to restrictions from PAVE PAWS, the repeater is currently running at 5 watts into the feedline. Still, early reports are that it hears exceptionally well in the Boston area, even if it does not have the strongest output signal. The UHF repeater should easily be serviceable for local public service events. Please note that the UHF repeater does not transmit PL on the ID, so you may only hear the beginning of the CW ID before your radio squelch closes.

Next, I would like to announce that the club's **VHF** repeater has been replaced with a new **Vertex VXR-7000**. The frequency and tone remain unchanged at **145.23 MHz** with a negative offset and a PL tone of **88.5Hz** on the input and output.

I would like to thank the other members of the repeater committee: Linda, NA1I was instrumental in making the arrangements to access the repeater site. Mark, KB1EKN helped immensely with testing and installation.

At this point, BARC's two repeaters are back to normal operations. These are **YOUR** repeaters, so please try them out, and make some QSOs. Signal reports are always welcome (send to <n1qd@n1qd.org>).

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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 14 Mon 7:30 pm
October 13 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

Field Day? It's Next Month!

No, no, it is not too early to start planning for Field Day 2014. Start by thinking about how our 2013 Field Day went. We had compact HF stations, antennas and generators. In addition, anyone could join the club activity by providing their own station facilities – and they did.

The result was a resounding success. We set up, operated, and tore down with ease – and had **fun** doing it. We will do it again. The Bare Cove Fire Museum in Hingham is confirmed as the site. **28-29 June** is the weekend.

The fun is yours for the taking. Planning meetings will be announced. Bring your ideas, or just say you want to be there – to see, to learn, to try, or maybe to see how other people have fun.

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@arri.net>](mailto:ab1rl@arri.net).

- **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**

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BARC Net Preamble

The control operator for the BARC Net is Joe, W1JF. 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.

Hurricane Watch Net Seeks Net Control Operators – The ARRL Letter, May 8, 2014



The Hurricane Watch Net (<www.hwn.org>) needs additional net control operators. Hurricane Season in the Atlantic begins June 1 and ends November 30; in the Eastern Pacific, it runs from May 15 until November 30. The Hurricane Watch Net activates on 14.325 MHz when an Atlantic Basin hurricane is within 300 miles of landfall, or at the request of the National Hurricane Center (<www.nhc.noaa.gov>) in Miami. HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, said the net has been getting everything in place for its 50th straight season, and that includes recruiting well-qualified, experienced net control operators who can effectively communicate with the hurricane-prone areas of Eastern Canada, the US East Coast, the Gulf of Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean.

"We are especially looking for bilingual operators, as we recognize that some Latin American operators hesitate to check in and send reports to us, if they aren't fluent in English," Graves said. "The Hurricane Watch Net relies on volunteer operators -- our members -- who serve as our net control stations. These volunteers are hams who have above-average stations and are willing to commit their time to operating in support of the HWN's mission during net activations."

Graves conceded that net sessions can be "long, and, at times, very stressful." He noted that while the HWN primarily operates on 14.325 MHz, it is also looking for volunteers who can handle net control duties on the low end of the 40 meter phone band. "When 20 meters fades away in the evening," he said, "we lose the ability to effectively communicate with our reporting stations or the National Hurricane Center."

Net control operators must be HWN members, but radio amateurs do not need to be HWN members to participate in the net as reporting stations. HWN participants provide observed or measured weather reports, or relay assistance as required by the net control station.

Radio amateurs interested in becoming HWN members or volunteering as net control stations should visit the net's Membership Information page at <hwn.org/about-us/membership-info.html>.

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Hands-Only™ CPR **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

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)
19 Jun	BARC General Meeting
22 Jun	BAA 10K Race (Boston)
28-29 Jun	Field Day
14 Jul	BARC VE Session
20 Jul	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 June issue must be received by June 7.

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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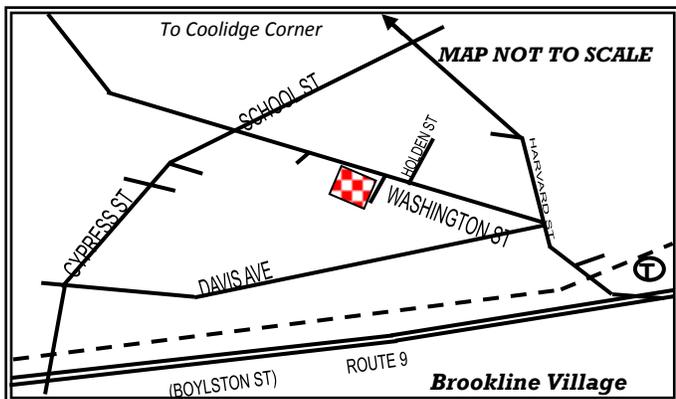
Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

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@arrl.net> or Linda Blair, NA1I, <na1i@arrl.net>.

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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 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)

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