



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area
August 2014 - VOLUME 26, NUMBER 8
www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

The Radisson Hotel in Hartford is a Faraday cage; I took my KX1 down with me to the ARRL convention with the idea of making at least a few QSOs from the hotel. Sometime between registration and cocktail hour 20 meters seemed as dead as Elvis until, carefully tuning, I found a faint signal deep down in the noise. Nice fist, I thought, then I heard a comma and realized it was ARRL code practice from Newington, a whole dozen miles away. There's DX for you! Alert the spotting networks!

I suppose it could have been worse--I could have heard Bouvet Island or something on a radio incapable of working split. But that and having to miss the training tracks on Thursday thanks to my job were the only disappointments for me at the convention. After registering I got to see Patrick Stoddard, WD9EWK, working the AO-7 satellite with a handheld in front of the convention center, and making it look easy. More inspiration for BARC's successful satellite contact on Field Day 2015.

I went to Scott Andersen, NE1RD's, talk on lightweight DXpeditioning, which we heard in an early version at a BARC meeting last fall. I was also delighted to meet a few of the operators from the DXpedition videos that Scott introduced us to, including the Hell on Earth expedition to sun-roasted, crab-infested Clipperton Island.

BARC was represented by the Duffs, Mark, KB1EKN, and Geri, KB1ISG; Joe Harris, N1QD; Blake Haskell, K1BTH; and Bob Salow WA1IDA and Elaine Chase N1GTB. As one might expect, the whole convention was thick with New Englanders.

One other treat for me was a high-energy talk on QRP by Dennis Marandos, K1LGQ, President of the New England QRP Club. Dennis just showed a bunch of photos of folks operating QRP, mostly al fresco, with running commentary. Picnic tables were a recurrent theme, and there was plenty of scenery. It made me want to run back to the Radisson and point my long wire at... Worcester!

Happy summer and good radio!

Joe Chapman, NV1W

No General Meeting in July or August!

BARC takes the months of July and August off. Enjoy your summer, and we will see you in September!

Repeaters: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

443.550 (+) CTCSS 110.9

The SPARC

Byron Piette, K1YCQ (SK) -- Joe Chapman, NV1W

One of Byron Piette, K1YCQ's, verbal tics was "That's for sure." In any phone QSO with Byron you were guaranteed to hear that at least once.

Byron was in and out of the hospital for much of the summer, and his key went silent on August 3. He's survived by his wife, Joan, and daughter Aimee.

He was a regular presence, and often Net Control, on the Eastern MA Two Meter Traffic net on the 145.230 repeater. That net is one that newly minted Boston area hams with a shiny new HT often choose for their first push of the PTT button. Byron was always gracious and helpful to the newbies, as well as being an exemplary traffic handler and net control operator. He was also a SKYWARN spotter and Communications Officer for the town of Somerset.

I'm glad to have known Byron and will miss him very much. He was a good man and a fine ham. That's for sure.

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, October 12: BAA Half Marathon, Boston**

BARC Badges! -- Joe Chapman, NV1W

Rick, NV5A, the Sign Man of Baton Rouge, is now offering BARC badges. They're full-color plastic badges with our logo and your call sign and first name, at a basic price of \$11.50 for a badge with a safety pin fastener. Rick was a great help in designing a badge for us, and he does good work and ships promptly.

We have not yet been added to the club page (go to <www.thesignman.com>, click on "Club & Group Items", then click on "Other Clubs & Organizations") but we should be soon. In the meantime you can contact him directly and mention the Boston Amateur Radio Club.

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.

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

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



Hands-Only™ CPR
Ad Council

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

Note: There are no BARC meetings in July or August.

17 Aug	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
24 Aug	NoBARC Flea (N. Adams)
4 Sep	BARC Business Meeting
18 Sep	BARC General Meeting
21 Sep	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
10-11 Oct	NEARFest (Deerfield NH)
12 Oct	BAA Half Marathon (Boston) (Rp)
13 Oct	BARC VE Session
20 Oct	MIT Flea (Cambridge)

(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 September issue must be received by September 6.

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 w1ida@arri.net or 508.650.9440.

Repeaters: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

443.550 (+) CTCSS 110.9

The SPARC

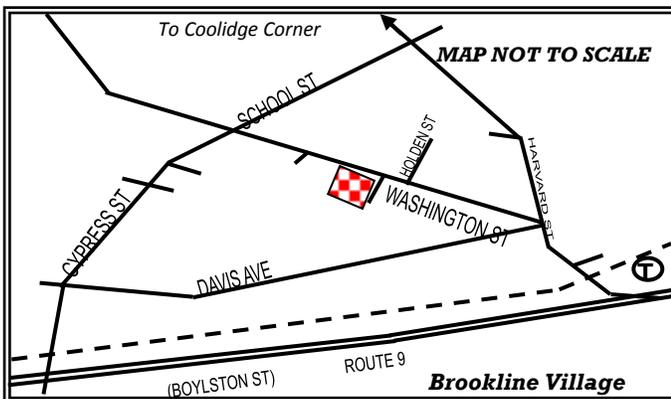
Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1DA

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 **4 September 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>.

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

Repeaters: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

443.550 (+) CTCSS 110.9

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: Mark Duff, KB1EKN
781.749.7664; emgmt@comcast.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
Linda Blair, NA1I, na1i@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)

Repeaters: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

443.550 (+) CTCSS 110.9