



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

October 2014 - VOLUME 26, NUMBER 10

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

It's been great to see so many new members at our meetings this fall, and I've been delighted to receive email and phone calls from folks who are either getting started in the hobby or who have recently upgraded to General and are getting into HF.

As many of you know I do a lot of QRP work (low power, five watts or less), mainly due to the fact that I love my KX1 and KX3, and like to operate outdoors where the only power source is a battery that you have to carry. I also like the idea of being able to work DX using barely enough power to run a night light and a simple wire antenna. It is easy to drown in a pileup, though I have high hopes for bagging K1N on Navassa in January.

I was delighted to be able to convince Dennis Marandos, K1LGQ, the President of the New England QRP Club, to come and speak at our general meeting this month. Dennis is a wonderful speaker, and his talk promises to be informative and a lot of fun. Come and join us even if you have no intention of turning down your RF power or leaving the comfort of your home shack when it's ten degrees outside this winter.

I also want to draw your attention to what is turning into BARC weekend, the first weekend in December, the 6th and 7th. Last things first: this year's holiday party will be held at the Stockyard in Allston on Sunday the 7th. There will be the usual good things to eat and drink. I myself am not always able to make Sunday events due to prior commitments, but I will attempt to swan in for a cameo appearance.

On Saturday the 6th we will operate from the Great Blue Hill Observatory in Milton in observance of SKYWARN Recognition Day. As one of the National Weather Service stations, we'll actually be one of the stations everyone wants to contact, so you might even be able to try running a modest pileup. Last year we had Qs with Edmonton (-24 degrees) and Greenland (roughly the same temperature as Milton).

I suspect we'll be putting out a full 100W, though I may bring my KX3 (last year the FT-897 started hissing like a deranged Canada goose when we tried to use it on 40m). You will, however, be able to put your alfresco operating knowledge to use by helping to set up. Contact Mark Duff, KB1EKN, or me if you want to help.

As we say in the low-power world, 72,

Joe Chapman, NV1W

November General Meeting

BARC's next general meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20, at 7:30 pm at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline Village. Our speaker will be Dennis Marandos, K1LGQ, the President of the New England QRP Club, who will be talking about QRP (low power) operating.

Repeaters: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

443.550 (+) CTCSS 110.9

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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.

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, 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.

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It's Time for the BARC Holiday Party!

One of our most successful BARC events has been our Holiday Party in December. For more than 20 consecutive years our members, family and friends have had a wonderful time at our purely social get-together. We return to the famous Stockyard Restaurant in Brighton again this year, and we expect to have a wonderful time with its great food. The Stockyard has an excellent reputation and has been carefully scouted by our devoted mastication team. The location is accessible by public transportation. There is free parking at the restaurant and on-street parking on Guest St perpendicular to and across Market St.

Mark the date: **Sunday, 7 December**. The December General meeting is omitted.

See the informative flyer which accompanies this issue. The cost is \$25.00 per person, Please bring your family and friends. Menu selections are made on the sign-up sheet attached to this issue. A cash bar will provide fortification, but you will be responsible for your own bar bills. The coupons on the flyer should be printed and sent to Joe, N1QD, with your attendance count and the Ham of the Year ballot.

As has become our custom, the Holiday Party is where we award the "BARC Ham of the Year." The winner is chosen by your nomination from among the members. This means, of course, that it is up to you to recommend whom you think most deserves the award this year. We want to recognize a BARC member for outstanding contribution to the club and to the Amateur Radio hobby. The rules stipulate that the award cannot be given to someone who has won in the past five years.

Previous winners were:

1992 Mike Ardai, N1IST	2004 Blake Haskell, K1BTH
1993 Lajos Gergely, AA1BW/HA0DR	2005 Arthur Ashley, N1NHZ
1996 Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ and Bob Cassell, N1ENS	2006 Jim Clogher, N1ICN
1997 Terry Koen, N1IWF and Arthur Ashley, N1NHZ	2007 Eric Falkof, K1NUN
1998 Mike Kass, N1YER and Bob Wondolowski, N1KDA	2008 Tom Bertolino, KB1P
1999 Paul Carter, N1TMF and Mike Koenemund, KB1CKF	2009 Hank Buccigross, K1QK
2000 Mark Duff, KB1EKN	2010 Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ
2001 Frank Murphy, N1DHW and Bob Salow, WA1IDA	2011 Mark Duff, KB1EKN and Geri Duff, KB1ISG
2002 Jim Clogher, N1ICN	2012 Linda Blair, NA1I
2003 Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ	2013 Brett Smith, AB1RL

Have you ever entered a room full of strangers and tried to sort them all out? Families and friends will be joining us at the party, and as a courtesy to them, members are urged to wear name badges to facilitate making introductions, conversations and all around holiday good cheer to our guests.

The return date of 25 November is set to allow enough time to notify the restaurant of the expected attendance, and for the award to be engraved for the Ham of the Year.

Remember, BARC is YOUR club! If you cannot attend but still wish to vote for "Ham of the Year", please email Joe, N1QD at <n1qd@n1qd.org> by 25 November.

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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.

See our listing on the Sign Man's web site: < <http://www.thesignman.com/clubs/boston.html>> for details and fastener options.

BARC to Participate in Skywarn Recognition Day 2014 – Mark Duff, KB1EKN

On December 6th, 2014 and for the 12th consecutive year, BARC will once again participate in Skywarn Recognition Day. SRD is a joint event support by the ARRL and the National Weather Service where weather stations and weather buffs from across the country contact each other for fun and to promote the Skywarn Program. Our station will be located at the summit of Great Blue Hill in Milton MA.

For several decades, hams have assisted the National Weather Service by providing real-time reports of severe weather and storm conditions. Although the NWS operates a network of 120 Doppler radars to track severe storms, at greater ranges weather radar has a difficult time sampling conditions close to the ground. The information radio operators located near a storm provide plays a key role in aiding forecasters. Stations will exchange signal reports, location and a brief description of the current weather at their respective locations ("sunny," partly cloudy," "windy," etc.). BARC will be on the air from approximately 0900 to 1500 local time.

The event itself is a great way in a low-key environment to make HF contacts and get your feet wet in the HF Spectrum.

In past years we have endured all kinds of weather including warm and cold days, clear and cloudy days, and yes even a blizzard.

Access to the summit is gained by a 20 minute hike from the base of Great Blue Hill located on RT 138 next to the DCR Trailside Museum or if you arrive early in the day by car.

Further information is available by contacting Mark Duff, KB1EKN at <emgmt@comcast.net>.



L to R: KB1EKN, K1QK, KB1IXK (now N1QD), and WA1IDA braved a blizzard to participate in the 2003 BARC SRD. Photo: KB1ISG

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The banner features a teal background with white and red text and graphics. On the left, it says 'Hands-Only™ CPR' with the Ad Council logo below. A red circle with the number '1' is next to a red smartphone icon. In the center, it says 'Call 911'. To the right, a red circle with the number '2' is next to a red hand icon. Further right, it says 'Push hard and fast in the center of the chest. Learn more at handsonlycpr.org'. On the far right is the American Heart Association logo with the tagline 'Learn and Live'.

I See the Future

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

- 20 Nov **BARC General Meeting**
- 4 Dec **BARC Business Meeting**
- 6 Dec **SKYWARN Recognition Day (Blue Hill Observatory, Milton)**
- 7 Dec **BARC Holiday Party**

(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>](mailto:n1qd@n1qd.org).

Articles for the December issue must be received by December 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>](mailto:n1qd@n1qd.org); or Bob Salow at [<wa1ida@arrl.net>](mailto:wa1ida@arrl.net) or 508.650.9440.

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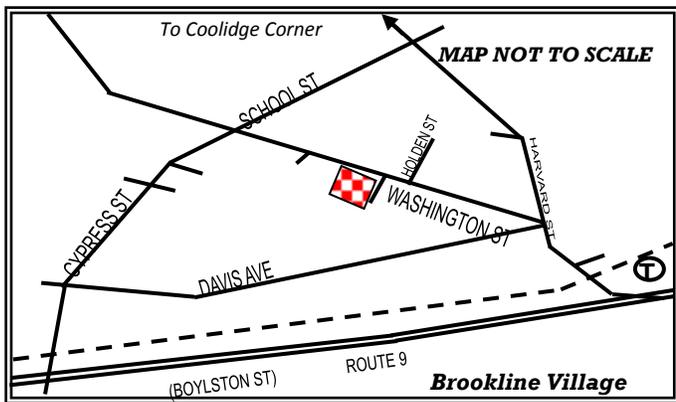
Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

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 **4 December 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 2014 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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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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