



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area
December 2014 - VOLUME 26, NUMBER 12
www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

At the December Business Meeting, Mark, KB1EKN, our Vice President and Chairman of the Repeater Committee, reported that the new VHF antenna was installed at the end of October and is performing magnificently. The mysterious interference problems we've had for much of the past year have disappeared, we're back to the great coverage the W1BOS machine used to be known for, and the repeater sounds as good as it ever did. On the UHF side the repeater continues to work well as it has since it was put back in service.

We're also in good shape as far as contingencies are concerned. We have a spare VHF repeater and UHF antenna, and once we repair the old VHF antenna that will also serve as a spare.

Even though the W1BOS repeater isn't used as heavily for casual conversations as it was in the past, it remains an important part of Boston's ham radio infrastructure. It's used for SKYWARN, the daily traffic net, and for supporting customer service events. It was there after the Marathon bombings, when the cell phone network became rapidly overloaded. It will be there during the next severe weather event as well.

At the Business Meeting Mark stressed that we will need to do periodic inspections of the repeaters and antennas. He also suggested that the club set aside money in a dedicated repeater fund. Unfortunately, repeater failures tend to require expensive fixes; shipping costs alone for the new VHF antenna came to \$150. The sense of those who were at the meeting was that the repeater fund is a good idea, and that club should set aside \$400 or \$500 a year with a goal of \$2000.

Because this year's repeater expenses have been unusually high, and also to get the repeater fund underway, I'd like to encourage everyone who can to add a donation to his or her membership renewal dues this winter. While any amount will be helpful and greatly appreciated, I especially want to encourage those who are able to write a check of \$100 or more to do so this year. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about donating or the financial management of the club.

Finally, money is only part of the story. We owe a larger debt of thanks to Mark, KB1EKN, and Joe, N1QD, for all their work on the repeater this year. Thank you both from all of us.

Joe Chapman, NV1W

See You in 2015!

BARC's next general meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15, at 7:30 pm at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline Village. Look for further details about the meeting program in the January SPARC.

Repeaters: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

443.550 (+) CTCSS 110.9

The SPARC

Joe Harris, N1QD, is BARC's 2014 Ham of the Year – Joe Chapman, NV1W

This year's Ham of the Year is Joe Harris, N1QD. For the past several years Joe has served as club Secretary and editor of the SPARC, and has fulfilled both offices with efficiency and dedication. He serves as the trustee of the club's repeaters. Together with Mark, KB1EKN, he's put a lot of work into the repeater over the past year, and it shows: both the VHF and UHF machines are as good as they've ever been.

An Extra class licensee and an electrical engineer by profession, Joe is an invaluable resource in the design and deployment of the club station used for Field Day and SKYWARN Recognition Day. He's also a very good operator indeed, and responsible for racking up most of our points at both events. One of the benefits of being in a club is the opportunity to learn from each other. I've certainly learned a lot from watching Joe operate, especially in CW.



Joe, N1QD, receives the 2014 BARC Ham of the Year Award from Joe, NV1W. Photo: K1QK

He has also managed to accomplish all this while at the same time holding down a full-time job and a graduate school course load. Thank you, Joe, for your talents and your dedication to the club. -- Joe, NV1W

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

January 15	Thu	7:30 pm
February 18	Wed	7:30 pm
March 18	Wed	7:30 pm
April 16	Thu	7:30 pm
May 21	Thu	7:30 pm
June 18	Thu	7:30 pm
September 17	Thu	7:30 pm
October 15	Thu	7:30 pm
November 19	Thu	7:30 pm

VE Sessions

January 13	Tue	7:30 pm
April 13	Mon	7:30 pm
July 13	Mon	7:30 pm
October 12	Mon	7:30 pm

Business Meetings

March 5	Thu	7:30 pm <i>at the Cambridgeside Galleria Food Court</i>
June 4	Thu	7:30 pm
September 3	Thu	7:30 pm
December 3	Thu	7:30 pm

The SPARC

Minutes of the December BARC Business Meeting- Geri Duff, KB1ISG (Acting Secretary)

Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM at the Brookline Police community Room.

On hand were: Joe Chapman NV1W, president, Mark Duff KB1EKN, vice president, Linda Blair NA1I, membership services, Brett Smith AB1RL, public service coordinator, Jim Clogher N1ICN, treasurer, Hank Buccigross K1QK, Bob Salow WA1DA, and Geri Duff KB1ISG.

President Chapman announced he is working on getting speakers for the coming year and that the board should start thinking about the 2015-2016 election of officers.

Vice President Duff gave a lengthy report on the condition of the repeater and its antenna. All is back to original coverage and there should be a yearly inspection to keep it that way. A spare VHF repeater is available if needed. The club should consider the move to go digital in the future.

Treasurer Clogher said that the checkbook balance is \$3,667.08

Membership services Blair mentioned that the VE schedule will be in the SPARC.

Public Service Coordinator Brett Smith said that the BAA wants Hams. He will be meeting next week of all the communication groups involved and will report back.

Bob Salow would like to see support for the treasurer increased by adding a person to the position. The Board will be reviewing the system to see if changes are needed.

The board discussed setting up an antenna fund dedicated to providing funds for replacement of the repeater antenna in the future. Money will be set aside in a separate account. Buccigross and Clogher will bring a plan back to the Board. After some discussion the Board decided to re-visit the idea at the March Business Meeting.

Buccigross led a discussion on social media, BARC List, Yahoo Group, and BARC website. Former President Bertolino sent information on GARA's website to Buccigross who in turn sent it on to Chapman. They will review and make suggestions to the Board on updating the BARC website.

Chapman said that not enough people signed up for the Holiday Party to qualify for a group rate and asked the Board to cover the difference in cost.

Voted: to cover the cost difference from group rate to individual rate for the annual Holiday Party being held December 7th at the Stockyard Restaurant.

Voted: To make a donation to a Ham-in-Need of \$50. Mark Duff will pass on fund to individual.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted Geri Duff, acting Secretary

BARC Growth

It's a rare month when we fail to add or upgrade a few members. Periodically we publish their names so that you can give them a special welcome. There may also be some upgrades and long lost members who rejoin, so greet them, too.

Greg Bennett	KC1CIC
Doug Brander	KC1BSE

Please welcome new BARC members and congratulate the new upgrades. Make it a point to introduce yourself when you see them at a meeting. In addition, we would like to note here all call sign changes. If you fit any of these categories, please promptly notify the Club Secretary, Joe Harris, N1QD, at <n1qd@n1qd.org>.

The SPARC

Signal Reports Wanted for 145.23 and 443.55 – Joe Harris, N1QD

Members may recall last fall when the club solicited signal reports for the 145.23 repeater. At that time we had just installed a Laird FG1443 to replace the Andrew DB224 that had been damaged the previous winter. The reports we received were not indicative of the excellent performance we want the club's flagship repeater to be known for. With this in mind, the club passed a motion to allocate funds to purchase a new DB224. The antenna was received in early October and installed on October 24. Initial reports have been **very** positive, but we have only heard from some of the frequent users. In addition, the UHF repeater has been on the air since spring, but has not been particularly active.

If possible, please try out both of the club's repeaters and let us know how they play in **your** neck of the woods! Signal reports would be greatly appreciated. Please direct your comments, including your location and operating conditions (portable, mobile, base, what antenna used, etc.) to Joe Harris, N1QD, at <n1qd@n1qd.org>.

BARC Net Preamble

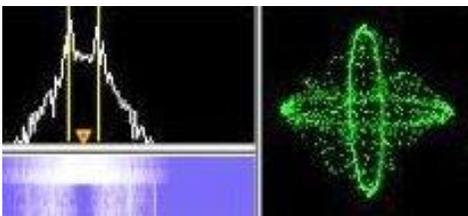
The control operator for the BARC Net is Joe, W1JF. He rarely misses a net, but when he does any ham can take up the position and run the net. To assist you in opening and closing the net The BARC Net Preamble is printed below. Do not be afraid to step up and take the challenge.

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.

ARRL RTTY Roundup is Always a Mid-Contest Season Favorite -- The ARRL Letter, December 18, 2014



Dust off those keyboards! The ARRL RTTY Roundup <<http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup>> takes place January 3-4, 2015. It's very easy to get on RTTY and other digital modes, and some late-model transceivers even have RTTY and other digital capabilities built right into the radio. Participation in this annual operating event has grown along with the enthusiasm for digital modes. In addition to conventional Baudot, RTTY Roundup ops may use ASCII, AMTOR, PSK31, and Packet (attended). Newcomers are always welcome to join the fray.

The 2014 ARRL RTTY Roundup runs from 1800 UTC Saturday, January 3 through 2359 UTC Sunday, January 4. Participants may operate 24 of the 30 available hours. US and Canadian stations send a signal report and state/province, while DX stations send a signal report and consecutive serial number, starting with 001.

Submit Cabrillo logs via e-mail or by using the web applet. Send paper logs to ARRL RTTY Roundup, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. All logs must be postmarked no later than 2359 UTC Tuesday, February 3, 2015.

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The SPARC

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: <www.thesignman.com/clubs/boston.html> for details and fastener options.



Skywarn Recognition Day 2014 – Joe Harris, N1QD

BARC's 2014 Skywarn Recognition Day effort began on Friday, December 5. That morning, a small team assembled at the summit of Great Blue Hill to make preparations. The goal was to set up the HF antennas and run feed lines back to the Blue Hill Observatory building. Many hands made for light work, and the team had dipoles for 20 and 40 meters strung up by lunchtime.

The following morning the BARC group returned to the Observatory to set up radios and logging computers, as well as a VHF vertical antenna on a small tripod. The HF bands were slow going at first, but a surprising number of local contacts were being made on 2 meter simplex. Eventually, 20 lit up and the calls started pouring in. The group was active until early afternoon, and then they broke down to avoid incoming winter weather.

Ultimately, the crew made contacts with 18 other Skywarn Recognition Day sites, as well as 30+ states and three countries!

The following hams participated in Skywarn Recognition Day 2014: Mark KB1EKN, Joe W1JJF, Joe NV1W, Joe N1QD, Hank K1QK, and Bob WA1IDA. We were also visited by Joe W1HAI, Ralph N1LAH, Jeff KB1TJI, and Ed KA1RSY. Thanks to all who helped make the event a success, and thanks for all the QSOs!



Joe NV1W listens on 40 meters while Hank K1QK makes a QSO on 2 meters. Photo: N1QD



Mark KB1EKN works 20 meters from the Blue Hill Observatory. Photo: N1QD

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I See the Future

- 13 Jan **BARC VE Session**
- 15 Jan **BARC General Meeting ▲**
- 14 Feb AARC Flea (Marlboro)
- 18 Feb **BARC General Meeting – Wednesday ▲**
- 5 Mar **BARC Business Meeting – Cambridgeside Galleria ▲**
- 18 Mar **BARC General Meeting – Wednesday ▲**
- 6 Apr FARA Flea (Framingham)
- 13 Apr **BARC VE Session**
- 16 Apr **BARC General Meeting ▲**
- 19 Apr MIT Flea (Cambridge)
- 1-2 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 January issue must be received by January 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 <wa1ida@arrl.net> or 508.650.9440.

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The SPARC

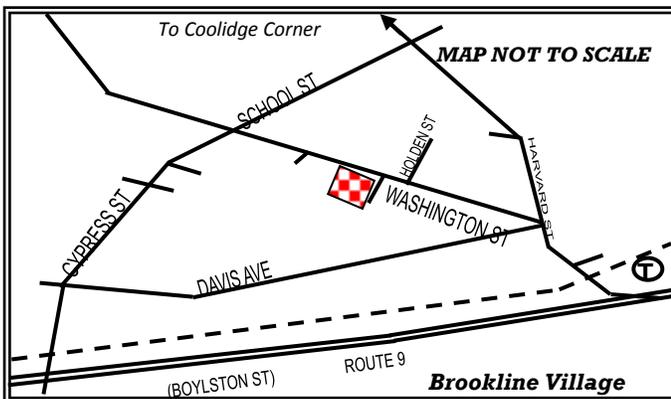
Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

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 March 2015** at the Cambridgeside Galleria, in the lower level of the food court. 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 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>.

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

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Secretary: Joe Harris, N1QD
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Treasurer: Jim Clogher, N1ICN,
617.908.5019; n1icn@arrl.net

Volunteer Exams:
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Linda Blair, NA1I, na1i@arrl.net

Public Service Coordinator: Brett Smith, AB1RL
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Public Information Officer:
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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.

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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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