



# The SPARC

*Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century*  
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club  
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area  
January 2015 - VOLUME 27, NUMBER 1  
[www.barc.org](http://www.barc.org) - [w1bos@arrl.net](mailto:w1bos@arrl.net)



## Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

*I gave up New Year's resolutions years ago, a result of my theory that the certain way to be wrong about most things in life is to think you control them. This is true of amateur radio as well; propagation does what it will, to one's consternation or delight, components fail and batteries expire in their own good time, and though I believe everything obeys the laws of physics, like a devious lawyer Nature often seems to come up with surprising legal interpretations.*

*So, instead of resolutions I have projects and some hopes for them: maybe this year I'll bag the last few states I need for QRP WAS, become confident enough in my code speed and abilities to call CQ in the New England QSO party or on Field Day, do a SOTA activation, and get a QSL out of Ukraine. It will take some effort, be it doing more listening, sticking to a code practice schedule, walking up a mountain, and calling someone in Kiev instead of Donetsk.*

*I also have some hopes for the club. We continue to pick up new members and to see new faces at meetings. I'm energized by the excitement of members who have found new things to explore in the hobby or are starting to enjoy upgraded license privileges, and I hope that trend continues. I'm looking forward to working J. P., KB1TIC, on his new Ten-Tec Rebel sometime soon, and maybe some club members at the New England QSO Party in May.*

*I don't doubt that Brett, AB1RL, will do a terrific job leading communications for the Marathon, and I hope that hams who volunteer for that event find their work enjoyable and fulfilling. May the bombers continue to stay away this year, though I kind of miss Rosie Ruiz, a surprise winner a few decades back who was later determined to have run much of the race on the T.*

*And perhaps this will be the year Nathaniel, KB1QHX, and I manage to make a satellite contact on Field Day.*

*Good health and good radio to all in 2015, and as we say in Ukrainian, "Moje sudno na povitrianih podushci napovnene vuhrami!" ("QSL will be on its way once I get it out of the samovar!")*

*Joe Chapman, NV1W*

## **January's BARC General Meeting** **Thursday, January 15, 2015, 7:30pm**

BARC's next general meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15, at 7:30 pm at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline Village. The program will be our annual Show and Tell featuring you and whatever neat thing you have to bring to show everyone.

Repeaters: 145.230 ( - ) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

443.550 ( + ) CTCSS 110.9

## **BARC Meeting Calendar for 2015**

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	

## **Plan Ahead to Help Out at the 2015 Boston Marathon- *Brett Smith, AB1RL***

For many hams in 1-land, the Boston Marathon is the highlight of their public service work each year. It's easy to understand why: with 30,000 runners supported by 10,000 volunteers, there's a lot of work to do, and the result is a world-class sporting event.

Hams have been supporting the Marathon for a long time, and we'll continue that tradition in 2015. I'm serving on the Communications Committee for this year's race. In our preliminary meetings, I've heard leaders from the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) praise our work time and again. They understand how we help the race, and they're counting on our continued support.

There may be some changes to the specific ways we go about our work. The BAA is conducting a broad review of how communications supports race logistics, especially in light of the changes that came about after the 2013 bombing. This effort is designed to ensure we provide the most effective support to the Marathon. I'm happy to contribute to that goal, and I hope you'll join us and help make this the best Marathon yet.

One change you'll notice early on: hams who want to volunteer must first register with the BAA. This will help streamline logistics on the BAA's end, and you'll get appropriate volunteer announcements from them directly. Volunteer registration will be open on at <<http://www.baa.org/>> from January 6 to February 10. Later on, we'll contact volunteers to collect additional details about amateur radio assignments.

If you ever have questions about a public service event, feel free to contact me. I look forward to seeing you all in April!

## ***The SPARC***

### **BARC Public Service Events for 2015—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>.

- **Sunday, April 12: Boston MS Walk at Boston University**
- **Saturday, April 18: BAA 5K** (Volunteer registration open Jan 6-Feb 10)
- **Mnday, April 20: Boston Marathon** (Volunteer registration open Jan 6-Feb 10)
- **Sunday, April 26: Run of the Charles**
- **Saturday, May 16: MS Journey of Hope Walk at Natick High School**

### **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 pervious 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, 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.*

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## ***The SPARC***

### **Hamvention Chair: "The Show Will Go on" at Aging Hara Arena -- *The ARRL Letter*, January 8, 2015**

Despite financial struggles dogging the owners of Hara Arena, site of the Dayton Hamvention® since the 1960s, the 2015 Hamvention General Chairman Jim Tideman, N8IDS, has told ARRL that he expects the world's largest Amateur Radio show to continue there -- this May and in the years ahead. Tideman was reacting to recent media accounts detailing the fiscal woes of the aging Hara complex in Trotwood, Ohio. He said Hamvention's sponsoring Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) and Hamvention officials have been in conversation with Hara's owners, the Wampler family, regarding the future of the 165,000 square foot, six-building complex.



Hara Arena, the home of Dayton Hamvention. [Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, photo]

"Both Hamvention and DARA have absolute confidence in [the Wampler family's] guiding their corporation through the steps in the plans in place to keep Hara operating for years to come," Tideman said. "Given the time frame they are working with right now, we simply stand by them and repeat, 'the show will go on.'" Last year, Dayton Hamvention attracted nearly 25,000 visitors.

Dayton TV station WDTN-TV reported last month that the 50-year-old Hara Arena was facing financial problems and had cut back on its full-time staff to save money. Karen Wampler, Hara's Director of Marketing, has told the media that it's become difficult for Hara Arena to compete with other Miami Valley venues, such as the Nutter Center at Wright State University and the downtown Dayton Convention Center. The Hara complex needs money for renovations and deferred maintenance, she said, and "the ownership model needs to be changed." Wampler told the Dayton Daily News in December that while the family

cares about the facility, it is limited in what it can afford.

Dayton Hamvention takes place May 15-17.

### **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](http://www.thesignman.com/clubs/boston.html)> for details and fastener options.



# 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](http://handsonlycpr.org)

American Heart Association  
Learn and Live

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

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

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## ***The SPARC***

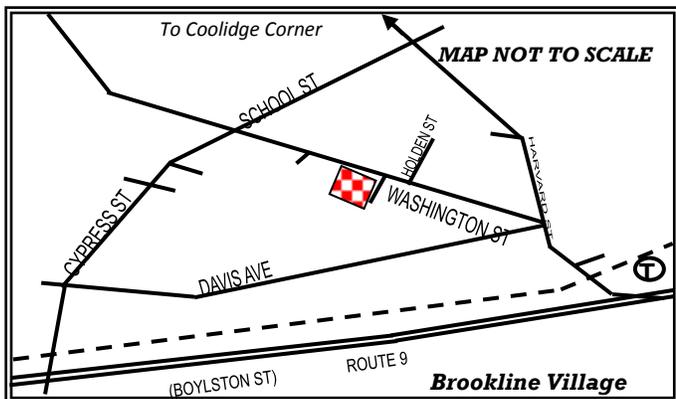
### **Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1IDA**

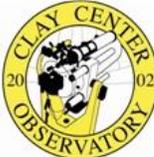
As the Bylaws require, BARC has Business meetings quarterly. Unless circumstances warrant, BARC Business meetings will be held on the first Thursdays of December, March, June, and September. The next such meeting will be on **5 March 2015** at the Cambridge-side Galleria, in the lower level of the food 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](http://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](mailto:n1icn@arrl.net)> or Linda Blair, NA1I, <[na1i@arrl.net](mailto: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

President: Joe Chapman, NV1W  
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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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