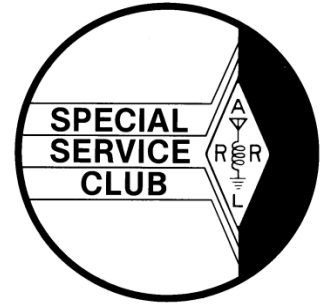




The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area
March 2015 - VOLUME 27, NUMBER 3
www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

I took my first license test at the Custom House in Boston in the mid-seventies. In those days you had to travel to one of the FCC regional offices to take a test, which included several terrifying minutes of a steely-eyed government inspector sending you Morse Code. It was towards the end of the slide rule era, and I may have even taken my faithful Pickett N4-ES to the test session.

I have a certain nostalgia for the FCC of that era, when the chief of a regional office had the title of Engineer in Charge and none of the Commissioners was under the impression that Ohm's Law has something to do with meditation.

It's hard to think of a more successful policy change than the introduction of the Volunteer Examiner system. The latest ARRL letter reports that licensing in the US has reached an all-time high of 726,275, approximately 83% of whom were in whatever pileup I was in trying to contact K1N in Navassa last month. Maria Somma, AB1FM, reports that the ARRL VEC conducted more than 7000 VE sessions last year for the first time. It hard to imagine that if license exams were as much of a hassle as they were in the old days the numbers would be anywhere near this good.

BARC continues to hold VE sessions under the able leadership of Linda, NA1I, and Jim, N1ICN. Jim probably leads the club in terms of the sheer number of VE sessions he's participated in, and I keep waiting to see him appear in the list of stellar VEs in QST. We have a reliable and dedicated group of core volunteers--if only all the examinees were to show up so dependably--who reflect well on the club and the hobby.

Extra class licensees who aren't accredited VEs can contact Linda to find out what becoming a VE entails. Members of the club who don't hold an Extra class license are welcome to try a VE session out for themselves. Those who are nostalgic for the old days should contact me and I'll bring a slide rule for you to use.

Joe Chapman, NV1W

BARC General Meeting Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 7:30pm

BARC's next general meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18, at 7:30 pm at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline Village. Andy Stewart, KB1OIQ, will be speaking on Linux in the ham shack.

In the event we have to cancel due to nasty weather, a notice will be sent to the club email list at least 24 hours in advance. You can also confirm the status of the meeting on the 145.230 repeater or call Joe, NV1W, at 617-267-6349.

Repeaters: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

443.550 (+) CTCSS 110.9

The SPARC

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 *at the Clay Center in Brookline*
- 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 ~~at the Cambridgeside Galleria Food Court~~
- June 4 Thu 7:30 pm
- September 3 Thu 7:30 pm
- December 3 Thu 7:30 pm

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>.

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**
- **Sunday, April 26: Run of the Charles**
- **Saturday, May 16: MS Journey of Hope Walk at Natick High School**
- **Sunday, May 17: Boston Brain Tumor Ride, Waltham, MA**

Minutes of the March BARC Business Meeting- Joe Harris, N1QD

The March Boston Amateur Radio Club Business Meeting was held on March 5 at the Cambridge Galleria food court. The meeting was attended by:

Joe Chapman, NV1W – President	Linda Blair, NA1I
Mark Duff, KB1EKN – Vice President	Geri Duff, KB1ISG
Jim Clogher, N1ICN – Treasurer	
Joe Harris, N1QD – Secretary	

The meeting was called to order at 7:40PM.

President's Report: Joe, NV1W, reported that speakers are lined up thru the June BARC general meeting. Additionally, any club members seeking to run for office are encouraged to contact him. Finally, the repeater fund that was described in the December SPARC is off to a good start, with many generous donations from club members.

Vice President's / Repeater Report: Mark, KB1EKN, described an intermittent issue with noise on distant stations accessing the 145.23 repeater. He believes that it has been happening during periods of high winds.

Secretary's Report: Joe, N1QD reported that as of Feb. 21 there have been 41 member renewals. He reminds the club members that the dues grace period ends on March 31.

Treasurer's Report: Jim N1ICN reported that as of March 4 the club's balance is \$3872.12.

Old Business

A discussion was held regarding the repeater fund. The main issue was whether the club should open up a second account specifically for the fund. It was decided that the club would appropriate the agreed upon \$500 as well as the member donations into a separate repeater account. Jim N1ICN and Joe NV1W will look into opening a second account at Cambridge Trust, and Linda NA1I will investigate Eastern Bank's offerings.

New Business

Geri KB1ISG reported that the Bare Cove Fire Museum has been booked for Field Day weekend. She also informed the officers that the MBTA has started running weekend service on the Greenbush Line, so there will be easy T access to Field Day. Mark KB1EKN recommended that the club send out Field Day PR at least one month in advance of the event this year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40PM.

The New England Amateur Radio Festival, Inc.

at the Deerfield NH Fairgrounds May 1st and 2nd 2015



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1st 2015.

Dear Friends of NEAR-Fest:

It is with great regret and sadness that I must inform the radio amateurs and electronic hobbyists of New England that the NEAR-Fest Board of Directors finds it necessary to POSTPONE the FreeFest aspect of NEAR-FEST XVII that was scheduled for May 2015. It will be held at a later date. However, first and foremost, I want to assure everyone that NEAR-Fest XVII WILL TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED on May 1st and 2nd, 2015, at the Deerfield NH Fairgrounds. NEAR-Fest XVIII will also be held as scheduled on October 16th and 17th, 2015.

The Directors made the difficult decision to POSTPONE the FreeFest due to a legal issue that has arisen since the FreeFest was announced last October. The matter is being addressed professionally; however the funds that would have financed the FreeFester may now be needed to resolve this issue at hand. There was no other option open to us. It is important for everyone to understand that there are no issues or problems with the Deerfield Fair Association; in fact our relationship with them is better than ever.

I want to personally assure you all that the FreeFest will be rescheduled as soon as possible once this issue has been resolved. The entire NEAR-Fest management team is committed to, and is looking forward to, hosting the FreeFest, in its original spirit, to thank all our loyal attendees and the amateur radio community for the support since 2007. We appreciate your understanding and continued support. We hope to be able to post an update about FreeFest on our website before the end of the year. Advance tickets and inside parking passes will be on sale in the usual places starting in April. Check our Web site (www.near-fest.com) for more details.

To summarize: NEAR-Fest XVII WILL TAKE PLACE on May 1st and 2nd, 2015, exactly as scheduled, Admission will be the same as always, \$10 per person and \$10 for an inside parking pass. NEAR-Fest XVIII will also take place as scheduled on October 16th and 17th, 2015. The FreeFest that was planned to take place as a part of NEAR-Fest XVII is POSTPONED until a later date.

The NEAR-Fest staff and management as well as I thank you for your total support and understanding.

73,

MisterMike, W1RC

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.




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 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



I See the Future

- 18 Mar **BARC General Meeting – Wednesday ▲**
- 6 Apr FARA Flea (Framingham)
- 12 Apr **Boston MS Walk at Boston University (Rp)**
- 13 Apr **BARC VE Session**
- 16 Apr **BARC General Meeting – at the Clay Center ▲**
- 18 Apr **BAA 5K (Rp)**
- 19 Apr MIT Flea (Cambridge)
- 20 Apr **Boston Marathon (Rp)**
- 26 Apr **Run of the Charles (Rp)**
- 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 April issue must be received by April 4.

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.

The SPARC

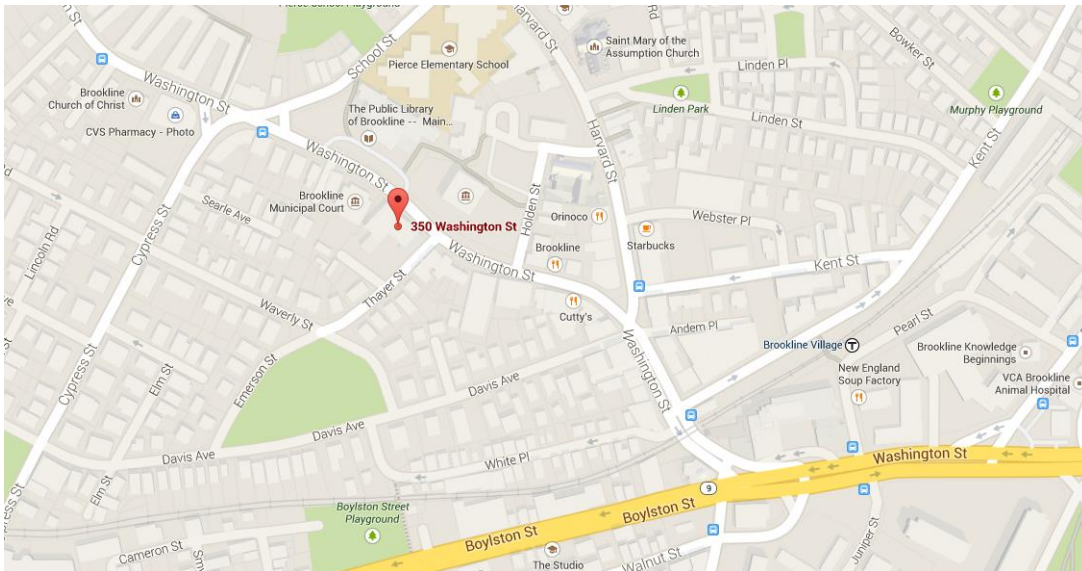
Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1DA

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 June 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



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

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.

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Greater Boston Net Directory

Daily 7 pm	MARI (Mass/Rhode Island CW Net) (NTS)	3.565
Daily 8 pm	Eastern Mass 2M Traffic Net (NTS)	145.230 (PL 88.5)
Daily 8 pm	Slow Speed CW Net	28.160
M, W, F 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	Waltham Wranglers 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)

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

443.550 (+) CTCSS 110.9