



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area
April 2015 - VOLUME 27, NUMBER 4
www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

Like many hams my age, I first got interested in radio through shortwave listening as a teenager. It had started innocently enough when I discovered that I could pull in distant AM radio stations late at night. At a hamfest I managed to find an army surplus general coverage receiver the size of a modern microwave oven that didn't eat too deeply into my summer-job savings and bought a copy of the World Radio TV Handbook.

Soon I was staying up late trying to catch sporadic transmissions from Radio Berzerkistan, cryptanalyzing numbers stations, and being fooled by noise and lousy propagation into thinking a VoA broadcast was coming from someplace exotic.

Among the stronger stations, Radio Moscow was a favorite of mine, since you could occasionally hear them say something especially ludicrous. My all-time favorite (KB1EKN take note) was the claim that the Russians had invented the fire engine, and that's why they're painted red. They also loved sending propaganda mailings, which in frequency and predictability of content weren't all that different from Levenger catalogs.

While I certainly find Logbook of the World convenient, something about receiving cards in the mail still appeals to me, so it was with a familiar sense of excited anticipation that I sent out a handful of cards to DXCC entities I still need following the last International DX contest. I've been using the cover/return envelope sets from K3FN, the Airmail Postage guy, with their retro red and blue airmail border, which just make you want to go watch black and white TV and vote for Eisenhower. Maybe I'll even get some of them back!

On the topic of cards, our April meeting at the Clay Center will feature Eric Williams, KV1J, who will talk about his DXpeditions to the French island of Miquelon. Eric also co-manages the region 1 QSL bureau, so if you've always wanted to know how the bureaus work, he'll be able to answer your questions. If we're lucky and the clouds stay away, Bob K5TEC may even open up the telescope, though at this point I'll count us lucky if it isn't snowing. This will be an excellent opportunity to come back to a BARC general meeting if you haven't been to one in a while. Parking is easy at the Clay Center, the Red Sox are out of town that day, and a good time will be had by all.

Perhaps I'll bring my latest Berzerkistani QSL along to show. Unless it gets damaged by being crammed into my mailbox with all those Levenger catalogs.

73 and good DX,

Joe, NV1W

BARC General Meeting Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 7:30pm

The next BARC General Meeting will be on Thursday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the Clay Center Observatory in Brookline. Note the change from our usual location; for directions see <http://www.clayobservatory.org/about/directions/>. Our speaker will be Eric Williams, KV1J, who will talk about his DXpeditions to the island of Miquelon.

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@arrl.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**

Boston Globe GRANT Program

The Boston Globe is running a program called GRANT (Globe Readers And Non-profits Together). Globe home-delivery subscribers get a voucher which can be redeemed for \$100 towards an advertisement in Boston's Paper of Record promoting their favorite non-profit organization. BARC, perhaps. The vouchers have to be redeemed by the end of April; see <<https://services.bostonglobe.com/grant/default.aspx>> for details.

If you're able to participate and are interested in doing so, please contact Joe Chapman, NV1W, at nv1w@arrl.net or 617-267-6349. With the end of April fast approaching, the sooner you do this the better.

Thanks to Bob Salow, WA1IDA, for altering us to the program and being the first to offer his voucher to the club.

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.

Cathy Kowalski	KB5FNC
Edward Curley	KC1CLA
Peter Jackson	KI3Y

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

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, 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.



**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

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

443.550 (+) CTCSS 110.9

The SPARC

Hands-Only™ CPR  **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

- 12 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 May issue must be received by May 2.

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

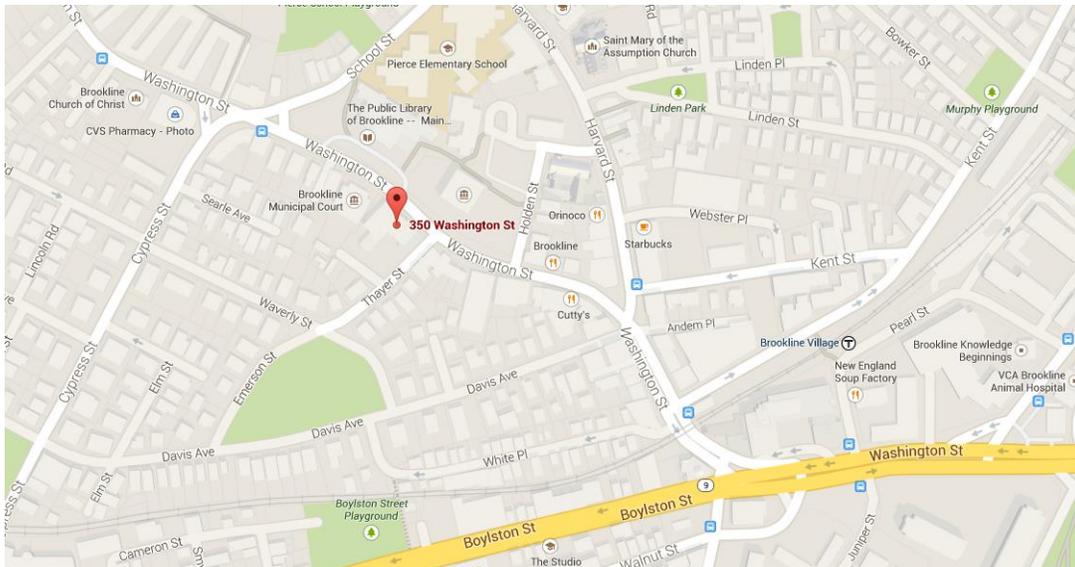
Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

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 June 2015** 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



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>.

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 2015, 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 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