



# The SPARC

*Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century*  
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club  
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area  
May 2015 - VOLUME 27, NUMBER 5  
[www.barc.org](http://www.barc.org) - [w1bos@arrl.net](mailto:w1bos@arrl.net)



## Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

*A former colleague of mine, Andy Tannenbaum, once snarkily observed that "the great thing about standards is there are so many to choose from!" He was talking about the software industry but could just as easily be talking about amateur radio digital modes.*

*There is the question of whether digital constitutes "real ham radio". I once heard someone whose definition of real ham radio was so rigorous that he may well have been the only ham in existence. I suppose he could talk to himself, which at least would have the benefit of guaranteeing him a sympathetic and appreciative audience.*

*As an exercise in frustration I might have been tempted to point out to him that if you consider CW to be a digital mode, it's the non-digital modes that are the newcomers, and moreover amateur use of SSB and RTTY both date from about the same era.*

*If you're going keyboard to keyboard the digital situation is at least not expensive; in my shack just about everything except the WSJT family is sitting there on the fldigi menu waiting to be experimented with, and WSJT was another free download. I keep meaning to sit down and try out more of the esoteric modes like the Olivia variant called Contestia, which sounds like a dowager in an Oscar Wilde play ("Lane, please put out the sherry and cucumber sandwiches, Aunt Contestia is coming for a visit.")*

*It's digital voice that presents an alphabet soup of different incompatible protocols, too many of them tied to a single manufacturer. One promising new protocol is Digital Mobile Radio (DMR), which I learned about from Joe Harris, N1QD. DMR is an open standard with increasingly good repeater coverage and an active user community in New England. Product support is still in the early stage, and the radios that are available are definitely more focused on the commercial than the amateur market.*

*There will be an opportunity to learn more about DMR at our May meeting, when we will be joined by Bill Barber, NE1B, who is the panjandrum of DMR in New England. We will not have sherry and cucumber sandwiches, as I'm saving them for a future presentation on Contestia.*

73,

Joe, NV1W

## BARC General Meeting Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 7:30pm

BARC's next general meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21, at 7:30 pm at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline Village. Bill Barber, NE1B, will be speaking on Digital Mobile Radio (DMR). Talk is on the 145.230 Boston repeater, PL 88.5, and for the adventurous and bold on the DMR Massachusetts Statewide talkgroup.

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	<del>at the Clay Center in Brookline</del>
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	<del>at the Cambridgeside Galleria Food Court</del>
June 4	Thu	7:30 pm	
September 3	Thu	7:30 pm	
December 3	Thu	7:30 pm	

**BARC Public Service Events for 2015—Brett Smith, AB1RL**

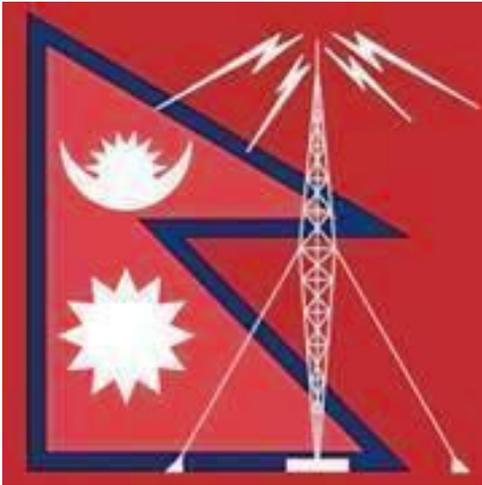
The Boston Amateur Radio Club organizes hams to provide communications support to several charitable and athletic events in the area. Volunteering at these events is a great way to be active in the hobby: we demonstrate how amateur radio serves the community, and learn a lot about effective communication. 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](mailto:ab1rl@arrl.net)>.

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

**New Nepal Earthquake Keeps Amateur Radio Relief Effort Going—*The ARRL Letter, May 14***

Amateur Radio relief activity in Nepal had begun to wind down before a magnitude 7.3 earthquake shook parts of the Himalayan nation on May 12, collapsing buildings and killing dozens in a region that's still trying to recover from the much stronger earthquake on April 25. The latest quake revived the ham radio effort. Centered some 50 miles east-northeast of the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu and near the border with Tibet, the temblor was felt in India and Bangladesh. The US Geological Survey considers the May 12 tremor as an aftershock of the magnitude 7.8 earthquake on April 25.



"Immediately after the first tremor, I turned on my station and gave a call on 14.210 MHz," said Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI) National Disaster Communication Coordinator Jayu Bhide, VU2JAU. He subsequently made contact with Satish Kharel, 9N1AA, who reported that power as well as Internet and cell phone service were out, although text messaging was still possible. 9N1AA was operating from battery power at the time, but later got his power back. Other parts of Kathmandu are still without electricity, however.

Bhide said he learned that some multi-story structures that had suffered cracks in the initial earthquake collapsed, killing several people. He said on May 14 that people were returning home from temporary shelters. He continues to receive missing person inquiries from abroad. About 300 people are still missing in Langtang Valley.

Bhide said he would continue monitoring 14.210 MHz.

The Computer Association of Nepal-USA ([CAN-USA](#)) project "Radio Mala" reported that equipment it deployed in 2013 continues to function in the aftermath of the latest tremor. Radio Mala team member Rick Santana, W6IFA, said that Sanjeeb Panday, 9N1SP, had e-mailed the CAN-USA team that the HF station was still working. Panday has installed the antenna for the second CAN-USA UHF/VHF repeater, but the installation was not able to be completed before this week's aftershock.

"We are still deploying ham radio equipment to Nepal in response to this humanitarian crisis," said CAN-USA Disaster Preparedness Committee Chairman Suresh Ojha, W6KTM.

## **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](http://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](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*

145.230 ( - ) CTCSS 88.5

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# 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

16 May	MS Journey of Hope Walk
17 May	Boston Brain Tumor Bike Rides (Rp)
17 May	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
21 May	BARC General Meeting
4 Jun	BARC Business Meeting
18 Jun	BARC General Meeting
21 Jun	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
27-28 Jun	Field Day
13 Jul	BARC VE Session
19 Jul	MIT Flea (Cambridge)

▲ *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 June issue must be received by June 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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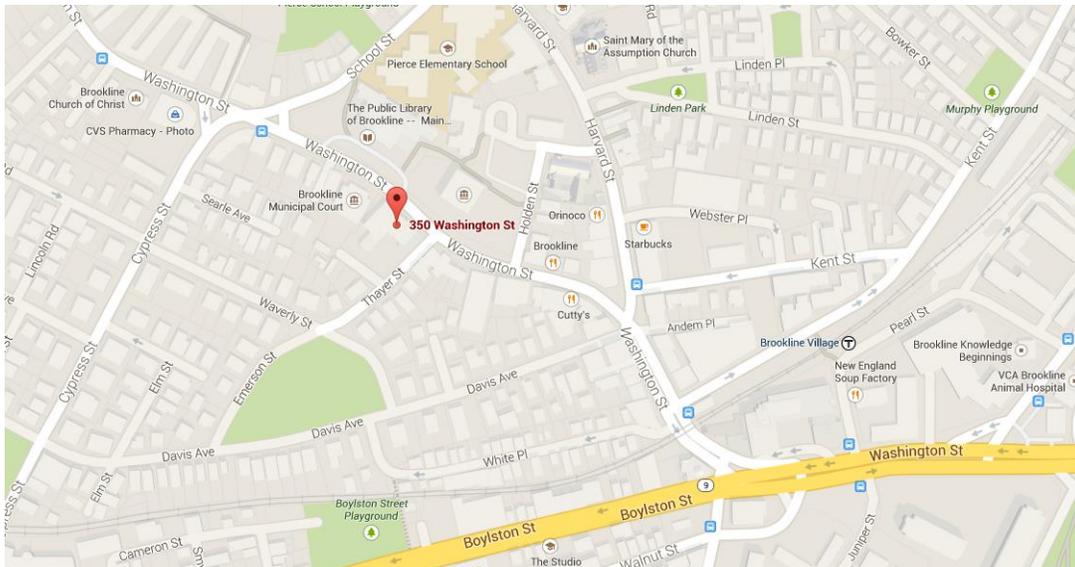
## Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

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 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>.

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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  
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

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