



# The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

June 2015 - VOLUME 27, NUMBER 6

[www.barc.org](http://www.barc.org) - [w1bos@arrl.net](mailto:w1bos@arrl.net)



## Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

*This will be my last message as President of BARC. Fortunately for me, I seem to have survived three years of the presidency, and fortunately for all of us, BARC seems to have survived three years of my leadership.*

*A recurring theme of both these messages and my term in office has been the need to extend my thanks to those members who are so devoted to the club. I have benefited from the wise counsel of my predecessors, especially my immediate predecessor, Linda, NA1I, and our founding President, Bob, WA1IDA. I have constantly relied on our other officers as well as those whom I have had the privilege to appoint. Finally, there have been several members who have been especially encouraging and supportive. I'll not mention them for fear of accidentally leaving someone out, but you know who you are.*

*The club is facing several serious challenges, which were a topic of discussion at the June business meeting. Membership organizations in the US are declining in general, and the trend applies to BARC as well. We've had disappointing turnouts for general meetings, and there probably is no good location for meetings. For several years now it's been difficult to find people who are willing to serve as officers of BARC.*

*At the same time we need to remember our strengths. The VHF repeater has been temperamental over the past year and a half, but both the VHF and UHF machines are valuable resources and well managed, largely thanks to Mark, KB1EKN, and repeater trustee Joe, N1QD. We have a good assortment of spares and over \$1000 in the repeater fund. The response to this year's drive for donations to that fund exceeded all our expectations, and I am grateful to those who added a little extra to their checks this year, as well as those who made generous gifts.*

*Our public service program, which has been a vital part of the club since its inception, continues to be something we can all be proud of. Brett, AB1RL, is doing an outstanding job as Public Service chair, one that reflects well not just on BARC, but on amateur radio in general.*

*Field Day continues to be a high point of the year. Mark Duff, KB1EKN, and Geri Duff, KB1ISG, put in many hours to make the weekend a success. Joe, N1QD, oversees the technical challenges of setting up a multi-operator station along with racking up most of our points. Of course, it wouldn't be Field Day without the many members and friends of the club who join us down in Hingham for the event.*

*On a less festive note, two of our members became silent keys during my term, Eric Falkof, K1NUN, and Frank Murphy, N1DHW. I am grateful for their devotion to the club and for their friendship. I've used Eric's method of re-forming geriatric filter capacitors with a Variac, and maybe someday I'll have use his trick of putting vacuum tubes in the freezer so their markings will be visible when they fog up. May both Eric and Frank rest in peace.*

*Last week I finally managed to bag Hawaii on 20m CW. Alas, it's not the last state I need for QRP WAS, but it was the one I considered the biggest challenge. Similarly, I'm looking forward to many more years of involvement with BARC, and will have work to do, even if the big challenge of serving as your President is over. Thank you for your support over the past three years and 73.*

## BARC General Meeting

Thursday, June 18, 2015 at 7:30pm

BARC's next general meeting will be held on Thursday, June 18, at 7:30 pm at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline Village. This will be our annual elections meeting, and we will discuss plans for Field Day as well. Talk is on the 145.230 Boston repeater, PL 88.5.

Repeaters: 145.230 ( - ) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

443.550 ( + ) CTCSS 110.9

# The SPARC

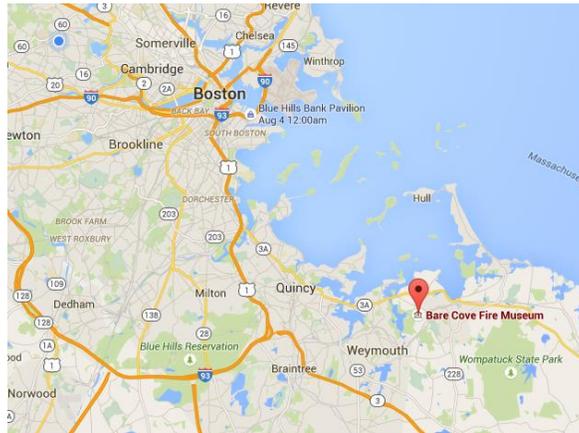
## Field Day is This Month!

Field Day, the ARRL's annual communications exercise, takes place annually during the fourth full weekend of June. This year, it takes place over the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. The Bare Cove Fire Museum has graciously agreed to host our Field Day again this year, and we are grateful for their continued hospitality. Preliminary plans are for 3A plus a VHF station. Come to the June general meeting on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup>, where the club will finalize their plans. Have an activity you'd like to see the Club try out? Come talk about it at the planning meeting!

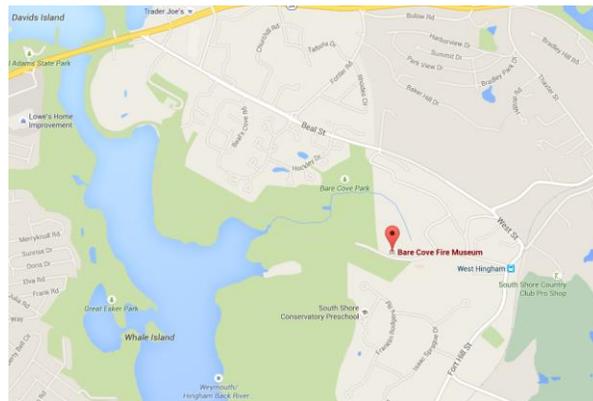
We're always looking for more hands to assist with setup and (especially) takedown, so come by and join in the fun! For more information, contact our Field Day chair, Mark Duff KB1EKN at <[emgmt@comcast.net](mailto:emgmt@comcast.net)>.



*The Bare Cove Fire Museum is located at 45 Bare Cove Park Dr. in Hingham.*



Area Map



Local Map

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## ***The SPARC***

### **UHF Repeater Update**

BARC's UHF repeater has been on the air for close to a year and a half now. In that time, it has not been particularly active. In an effort to boost traffic and interest, the club voted at the June business meeting to transition the repeater to digital, running DMR (also called MOTOTRBO). The club's repeater is DMR-capable, though it has been running in analog mode since it was put into service in early 2014. Once the repeater has been reprogrammed to DMR, the intent will be to connect to the DMR-MARC network via the New England Digital Emergency network, a group founded by Bill Barber, NE1B. Bill was the club's guest speaker at the May general meeting. Once the transition is complete, users will be able to have QSOs locally, within the region, or across the nation. More details will be available over the summer, and will be published in upcoming issues of the SPARC. Up-to-the-moment details will be posted to the yahoo group as soon as they are available, so see the post elsewhere in the SPARC for information on joining the group. Joe Harris, N1QD, the repeater trustee, can be reached via email at <n1qd@n1qd.org> to answer any immediate questions you may have. For more information about DMR, see <www.dmr-marc.net> and <www.nedecn.org>.

### **BARC's Online Discussion Group – Joe Harris, N1QD**

BARC has an online forum at Yahoo groups. The Yahoo group serves as a sounding board for members to post their suggestions and comments, and is intended to foster discussion. The group can also be used to share photographs from club events! Come visit us at: <<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/bostonARC/info>>.

### **Minutes of the June 4 BARC Business Meeting – Joe Harris, N1QD**

#### ***Members in Attendance:***

Mark Duff, KB1EKN – Vice President	Hank Buccigross, K1QK
Jim Clogher N1ICN – Treasurer	Joe Flaherty, W1JJF
Joe Harris, N1QD – Secretary	Blake Haskell, K1BTH
Linda Blair, NA1I	Bob Salow, WA1IDA

The meeting was called to order at 1931.

**Treasurer's report:** Jim N1ICN reported the club's balance at \$3639.95, including the repeater fund. The only planned expense on the horizon is food for Field Day. \$50 was sent to the New England QSO Party for plaque sponsorship. Linda NA1I e-filed the club's tax exempt status with the IRS.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Club Bank Accounts:** Linda NA1I reported that the BARC funds will be transferred from Cambridge Trust to Eastern Bank. Two separate accounts will be set up: a checking account for general expenses and a savings for the repeater fund.

**Nominating Committee:** Hank K1QK presented the slate of officers for the 2015-2016 season:

President: Joe Harris, N1QD  
Vice President: Mark Duff, KB1EKN  
Secretary: Joe Chapman, NV1W  
Treasurer: Jim Clogher, N1ICN

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Newsletter:** A discussion was held regarding the publication interval of the SPARC. With the exception of meeting announcements and the President's column, there had been little content submitted for publication. The argument was made that if the newsletter was published quarterly, it would likely be richer in content, with meeting notices being distributed via email and the web site. Bob, WA1IDA cautioned that the newsletter is a critical means of communication from the club officers to its membership, and it would be unwise to reduce the number of issues published annually. As

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## ***The SPARC***

Joe Chapman will be taking over as newsletter editor, it was agreed to table discussion on the issue until the September business meeting when he could be present.

**Proposal to change the UHF repeater to DMR:** Joe N1QD proposed that the club's UHF repeater should be converted to DMR from analog. His argument was that the repeater had been back on the air for over a year, and was largely unused. Converting to DMR would provide a differentiator for the club, and would potentially be a draw for new members. Because the club's UHF repeater was a DMR-capable Motorola XPR8300, the only cost involved would be providing internet access to the site. Options considered were cellular internet and pairing with other tenants, or with the host site itself. A motion was made by Mark, KB1EKN, and seconded by Joe, N1QD, to convert the repeater to DMR pending the diagnosis of the intermod issue with the VHF repeater. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Field Day:** Mark, KB1EKN, reported that the club was set to use the Bare Cove Fire Museum for Field Day again this year. Operational plans will be similar to last year (3A with a VHF station). Further planning will be held at the June General meeting.

**Future of the Club:** a discussion was held regarding the club's direction, and its future activities. In particular, the officers want to provide an environment for club members to have discussions, be social, and be able to provide assistance to new hams and those interested in ham radio. Joe, N1QD suggested that the club make a stronger effort to promote its Yahoo group. He agreed to write an article promoting the Yahoo group in the SPARC. Hank, K1QK, suggested that the club consider having a meeting on Saturday morning to make city traffic less of a factor for members living in the surrounding communities. Joe, N1QD, suggested that a purely social gathering such as a breakfast might be a good way to get the club together. It was agreed to plan a breakfast for later in the summer, with the possibility of making it a recurring event, depending on its success.

The meeting adjourned at 2145.

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

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### 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, 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](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*



## I See the Future

- 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-tos, or other ham related information. Send your submissions to the Editor, Joe, N1QD, at <n1qd@n1qd.org>.

Articles for the July issue must be received by July 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***

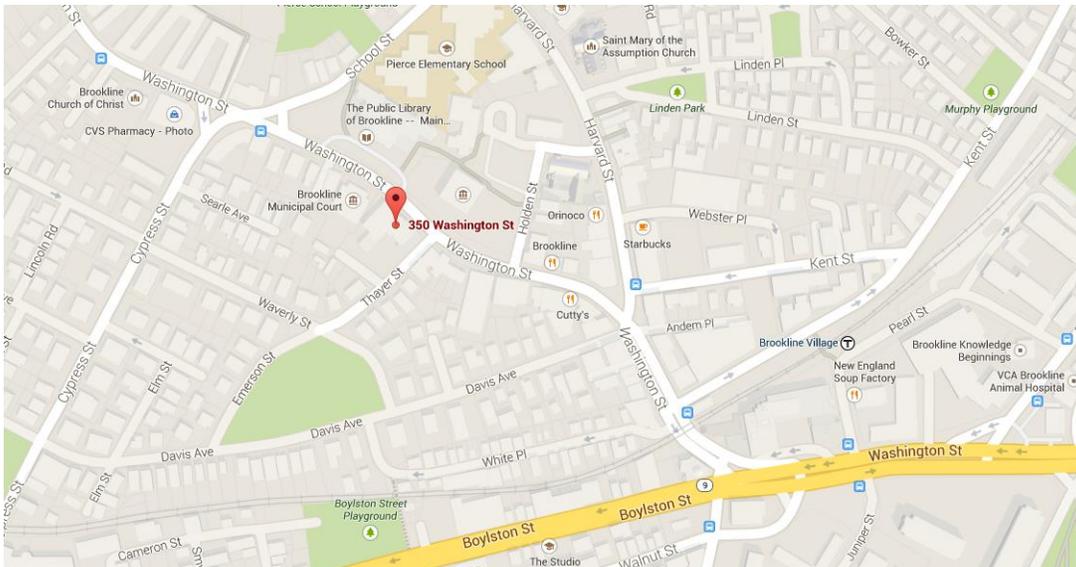
### **Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1DA**

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 **3 September 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.

### **Area Map for 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)