



The SPARC

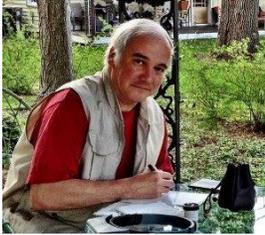
Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

July 2017 - VOLUME 29, NUMBER 7

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the Editor – Joe Chapman, NV1W



It's summertime, and the living is easy, and many of our members are on the road, including President Joe Harris, N1QD. So while Joe takes a break, I'll briefly resume my old job of rambling away on the first page of this newsletter.

Over the past several weeks I've seen a lot of activity reported on six meters on the web, and so I tried setting up the Buddipole six meter yagi on my roofdeck a few days ago. Apart from a JT-65 signal coming from the direction of the Maritimes, a mode I was not prepared to receive in my alfresco roofdeck shack, things were quiet. I've also been hoping to work Eric, KV1J, on Miquelon (see the article below) but have been as yet unsuccessful, and given the G2- and G3-class geomagnetic storms forecast for the next two days I don't think I'm going to add FP this time around. On the other hand, I bet Eric will be treated to a good display of the Northern Lights.

I had quite forgotten how many operating events there are in August until I began to assemble this month's calendar of upcoming events. There's something for everyone, and even when propagation doesn't cooperate (like last weekend's IARU HF Championship) there are still contacts to be made. If you don't do contesting, there's always the BARC Net on Monday nights!

Although the club won't have any meetings until September, things have been hopping. We had one of the most successful Field Day operations in anyone's memory at the end of June; a full article will appear in next month's issue of The SPARC. Joe, N1QD, and I have been working on a new website for the club which has finally gone live, and we are once again processing dues payments via PayPal. The club has also picked up a few new members.

Summer is a quiet season for The SPARC, and your contributions would be most welcome.

Joe Chapman, NV1W

Next BARC General Meeting

Thursday, September 21, 2017 at 7:30 pm

The next BARC General Meeting will be on Thursday, September 21, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline. Directions to this location can be found elsewhere in this issue. Note that there are no General Meetings in July and August.

Repeaters: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

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: <http://groups.yahoo.com/bostonARC>.

Helping Hands at the BAA 10K – Brett Smith, AB1RL

The BAA 10K is one of the most intense public service events on our calendar. More than 10,000 runners come on a summer morning to compete on a fast course through Boston's Back Bay. All those circumstances tend to keep the race medical team busy, and us busy too helping them.

Fifteen people gave up part of their Field Day on June 25 to join the team for this event, and it made a real difference. Twice we had to request EMS at a scene where medical staff weren't already on site. Being able to respond so rapidly makes a huge difference toward successful treatment, and sure enough, all the runners ultimately went home healthy after the race.

Thanks to all of our volunteers: Cheyenne Greator, N1QZX; Peter Sullivan, W1ABC; Ann Glezen, KC1CFG; Adrian Conte, KC1BEZ; Robert Mulloy, KB1OSP; John Glezen, N0RUN; Brian Mallory, KB1WZU; Nathan Strack, KC1GEL; Jim Clogher Jr., N1ICN; Thomas Achtemichuk, W0ZIO; Mark Richards, K1MGY; Keilin Bickar, KE1LIN; Gregory Tighe, KC1EZL; Justin Slepak, K0DAMG; and David Gilman, KC1DDH.

Equipment Review: K1EL Code Practice Oscillator Kit – Joe Chapman, NV1W



I had a literature professor at MIT who was infamous for saying “uhhhh...” in every other sentence. What made it notable was that when she said, “uhhhh...” it came out as an alarming, loud, nasal buzz. I later found out she was a former spy and was teaching at MIT under an assumed name, the sort of thing I expect from my beloved alma mater.

The most common circuit for a code practice oscillator is built around a 555 timer chip. It has the virtue of being inexpensive, but it also sounds like Prof. Bmzklfrpza after she drank a half bottle of Scotch and smoked a pack of unfiltered Camels. It produces a square wave, which when fed into an 8Ω speaker produces the sound of an 8Ω speaker in pain.

Steve, K1EL, to the rescue. He offers a \$29 code practice oscillator that produces a nice clean sine wave that you can adjust for both pitch and volume, and it's a joy to listen to after the drunken ravings of a 555. It's a kit, but a very easy build with large components and a generously spaced circuit board. I put mine together in less than half an hour.

There's no enclosure. You have to supply power (I use a 9V battery attached to one of these wonderful doodads from Adafruit: <https://www.adafruit.com/product/80>) and if you want to hear the output on something other than headphones you'll need a powered speaker. The key plugs into an RCA jack for some reason, so you'll probably need an adapter for that as well.

There's a feature that lets you string multiple CPO's together for classes and the like. I've never tried this.

It's a fine piece of equipment, and if you're learning to use oddball keys like a sideswiper or a bug I think it's invaluable. I don't miss being reminded of "and now, uhhhhh..., my favorite author, Heming- uhhhhh...-way..." every time I go to practice sending.

Code Practice Oscillator Kit, K1EL Ham Radio Kits, <http://www.hamcrafters.com>. \$29.00.

Closing Out the Summer Service Season with Finish at the Fifty – Brett Smith, AB1RL

The Finish at the Fifty is a unique event on BARC's public service calendar. It's a combined 5K and 10K around Gillette Stadium on the evening of July 3 every year. The location and time make for a nice change of pace (no need to wake up before dawn!), and a lot of the surrounding community comes out to enjoy the expo around the race.

One thing we're glad doesn't change is that we work with much of the same medical staff as the BAA races. Fortunately we didn't have to handle any medical issues, but we still provided them with increased coverage (especially along the 10K course) and valuable situational awareness.

Thanks to the entire volunteer team who came out instead of giving themselves a four-day holiday weekend: Bob Salow, WA1IDA; Allan Cox, K1VQ; Jim Clogher, N1ICN; Ed Parish, K1EP; Thomas Achtemichuk, W0ZIO; Mark Richards, K1MGY; Tim Pandiscio, W0TJP; Brian Mallory, KB1WZU; David Mak, KC1CHR; David Gilman, KC1DDH; Keilin Bickar, KE1LIN; Jeanine Swick, N1QIT; and Ralph Swick, KD1SM.

Eric Williams, KV1J, in Miquelon – Joe Chapman, NV1W

This month Eric Williams, KV1J, will once again be operating as FP/KV1J from the French Overseas Territory of St. Pierre and Miquelon. (Some may remember Eric's presentation to BARC on his DXpeditions to this tiny outpost of France just off the coast of Newfoundland.) He'll be QRV from July 4–18; for more information see <http://www.kv1j.com/fp/July17.html>.

A New Website for the Club – Joe Chapman, NV1W

A new BARC website, <http://barc.org>, has been under construction for the past few months by Joe Harris, N1QD, and Joe Chapman, NV1W. You may already have visited it, since the past few issues of *The SPARC* have been hosted there.

The main objective was to get the online signup and PayPal link working once again, and while there's certainly some tweaking to be done, we have processed a few signups and renewals using the new site. We also hoped to improve the experience for people who are interested in getting licensed, and who may have been sent to the site via a web search.

An expanded version of the "I See the Future" section of *The SPARC* can be found in the "Resources" menu under "Calendar". This includes links to web pages for the contests and other events we list, as well as directions to the Brookline Police HQ and other sites. I am currently listing BARC events, major contests and operating events, New England QSO parties, local flea markets, the Dayton Hamvention, and anything else that comes to mind.

Comments and offers to help are always welcome. As always, we are grateful for the assistance of our web host, Phil McNamara N1XTB, Phil Temples K9HI, and our founding webmaster Mike Ardai, N1IST.

New Members and Former Member News – Joe Chapman, NV1W

BARC welcomed two new members in the last month. Be sure to say hi if you hear either on 145.230 or on the Monday night club net!

Tom Achtemichuk, W0ZIO, is a recently licensed Extra who lives in Boston’s South End. He’s already been participating in Public Service events and (like your Secretary) is discovering the joys of urban HF.

Ryan Greenblatt, KC1GWY, got his Technician ticket at BARC’s Spring VE session, and participated in both days of Field Day, after being introduced to digital modes by Scott, KO4W. Ryan lives in downtown Boston and can probably work the BARC repeater on a dummy load.

Our old friend **Mike Simonds, N25H**, says hello from sunny San Diego. He’s dealing with some challenging antenna restrictions and a Faraday Cage with Stucco house that precludes indoor antennas, but is getting around to experimenting with discreet wires for 20 meters.

Field Day – Joe Chapman, NV1W

BARC held a very successful Field Day at the Bare Cove Fire Museum in Hingham, on the last weekend of June. We were once again joined by Bill Collins, W1PL, and members of the Harvard Wireless Association.

The quick summary is that setup was rainy and hair-raising at times, and teardown went astonishingly fast. In between we made more QSOs than anyone can remember, almost 1100. SSB, CW, PSK31, and RTTY were all used. We were even surprised by an opening on 10 meters, and in the final hour of the event, Nathaniel Vishner, KB1QHX, had a fantastic run on six meters.

The satellite contact once again failed to happen, but I felt we came a lot closer than we had a previous years. We also enjoyed visits from Tom Frenaye, K1KI, the ARRL New England Division Director, and Tom Walsh, K1TW, the Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager.

Mark Duff, KB1EKN, and Geri Duff, KB1ISG, saw to it that we were well-fed and well-taken care of as usual.

A full recap will appear in next month’s issue of *The SPARC*.



Elections – Joe Chapman, NV1W

At the June, 2017, General Meeting the following club officers were elected for 2017–2018:

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

BARC Meeting Calendar for 2017

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place at the Brookline Police Headquarters.

General Meetings

September 21 2017 Thu 7:30 pm
 October 19 2017 Thu 7:30 pm
 November 16 2017 Thu 7:30 pm

Business Meetings

September 7 2017 Thu 7:30 pm
 December 7 2017 Thu 7:30 pm

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

VE Sessions

October 9 2017 Mon 7:30 pm

Area Map for Brookline Police Headquarters, 350 Washington St., Brookline



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.



145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

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I See the Future

16 July	Flea at MIT, Cambridge
5 August	Deadline for articles for the August SPARC
5–6 August	North American QSO Party, CW
5–6 August	ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest
12–13 August	WAE DX Contest, CW
19–20 August	North American QSO Party, SSB
19–20 August	ARRL 10 GHz and Up—Round 1
20 August	Flea at MIT, Cambridge
20 August	ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY
21 August	Solar Eclipse QSO Party
26–27 August	W/VE Islands QSO Party

▲ **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.

For an up-to-date calendar of events, including web links, visit <http://www.barc.org/calendar>.

See Yourself in Print! (well, PDF) – Joe Chapman, NV1W

We are always looking for articles for the newsletter. I have reserved this space for your articles, reviews, tips, how-tos, hints, kinks, photos, schematics, or other ham related information. Photos of you operating or your shack are especially welcome. Send your submissions to the Editor, Joe, NV1W, at nv1w@arrl.net. Articles for the August issue must be received by August 5.



**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



KO4W introduces KC1GWY to digital modes (KC1CIC, photo)

Fall Public Service Events – from Brett Smith, AB1RL

Save the dates!

- Jimmy Fund Walk, September 24, 2017
- BAA Half Marathon, October 8, 2017 (volunteer registration in August)

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

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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 **September 7, 2017** at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline. 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 Harris, N1QD.

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 × 2 in. (business card)	\$15 per issue
1 col × 2 in. (business card)	\$75 per 6 consecutive months
1 col × 2 in. (business card)	\$125 per 12 consecutive months
1 col × 4 in. (½ column)	\$30 per issue
1 col × 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 Chapman, NV1W, at 617.267.6349 or nv1w@arrl.net.

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 next exam session will be on October 9, 2017.** Generally, sessions are held at Brookline Police Headquarters, 350 Washington St. in the Community Room (across from the information desk).

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 picture ID or two valid non-picture IDs
- 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.

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 Joe Chapman, NV1W, nv1w@arrl.net.

BARC Officers and Staff

President: Joe Harris, N1QD
781.844.8684; n1qd@n1qd.org

Vice President: Mark Duff, KB1EKN
781.749.7664; emgmt@comcast.net

Secretary: Joe Chapman, NV1W
617.267.6349; nv1w@arrl.net

Treasurer: Jim Clogher, N1ICN,
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Linda Blair, NA1I, na1i@arrl.net

Public Service Coordinator: Brett Smith, AB1RL
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Membership Services: Linda Blair, NA1I
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Newsletter Editor: 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 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
First Mon 8:30 pm	EMA Section ARES Net	146.610 and all MMRA links
Mon 8 pm	New England DMR Net	DMR New England Talk Group (TG 3181)
Mon 9 pm	BARC Club Net	145.230 (PL 88.5)
Sun Mon Wed Fri 10 pm	Heavy Hitters Traffic Net (NTS)	MMRA-linked repeaters: 146.610, 146.670, 146.715, 146.820, and all 222 and 440 repeaters
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)