



The SPARC

Volume XIII, Number 8; August 2001
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.barc.org/barc>
w1bos@arrl.net



A Message from the President

Mark Duff KB1EKN

Many thanks to Mr. Peter Sturges who spoke at the July meeting. His talk was interesting and very informative. Peter has also offered to BARC a tour of the Smart Routes Facility in Cambridge. Arthur Ashley/N1NHZ is making arraignments for the tour to take place sometime later in the year.

It looks like this fall is shaping up to be very busy one for BARC. There are several public service events we will be involved in along with all the other activities we participate in. BARC is always looking for help at these events and your assistance is not only welcome but also needed. Please contact ever-faithful Bob Salow/WA1IDA if you can help us.

In addition to the public service events in which we will be participating, I would like the club to start operating a special event station at some of these same activities. The recently acquired YAESU FT900 should work very well in such a situation. Please contact Mike Coffey/KB1EZL or myself if you are interested.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing you this fall.

Mark J. Duff/KB1EKN
President

BARC Business Meetings now in Everett

Starting in September, the BARC Business Meetings will be held in the basement of the Parlin Memorial Library in Everett. This is a welcome change from the food court at the Cambridge-side Galleria, which is far too noisy.

The Parlin Memorial Library is at 410 Broadway St. (Rt. 99) in Everett, across the street from the old post office. There is free parking on the street, parking meters are turned off after 6 p.m. There is also parking in the lot of the old post office across the street.

By public transportation, take the Orange Line to Wellington Station and take bus 110, getting off at Everett Square. Alternatively, take the Orange Line to Sullivan Square and take either bus 104 or 109, getting off at Sullivan Square.

Meetings will now start at 7 p.m. rather than 6:30 p.m. and *must* end by 8:45 p.m. There are many places to eat nearby.

Our thanks to Dick Doherty KA1TUZ and Joe Scully Jr. K1SQT for their efforts in bringing this happen.

We Should Be Proud

Bob Salow WA1IDA

When it comes to supporting public service events with our communications skills, the event planners look to BARC for protection of the health and safety of the participants and spectators. When new events are planned, we get the call. Here are brief descriptions of two brand new and two repeat events coming in the next few months. Because these four events take place in a six-week period, we must plan carefully and begin recruiting immediately.

The new events are not only firsts for Boston, but are starting as world-class. It is expected that much publicity will be focused on them. Your help is needed. Please volunteer for as many events as you can (without exhausting yourself). Keep your batteries dry.

First will be the new *Boston Triathlon*. Anywhere in the world it would be an exciting and very demanding race. In urban Boston it will be a further test of strength and will. Designed to professional standards, the swim-bike-run will be held on **Sunday, 2 September**. The problem for us is that this is Labor Day weekend, so extra effort must go into getting enough hams. A bit of relief is provided by the schedule, which expects the entire event to go from 0700 to 1100. We need to make a good showing because this is planned to become an annual event. Because time is short, please sign up for this immediately.

Next will be the *WGBH Ice Cream FunFest*. We have been supporting this for many years to protect the safety of the thousands of visitors. BARC is given free booth space to promote public awareness of ham radio. In past years the booth has attracted inactive hams and also introduced many people to our hobby. As a special attraction, we will have a Morse code demonstration and brief "lesson" for the visitors.

One of the added benefits of our participation is to sample all the ice cream you can eat (it's really worth it). This takes place on

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Saturday and Sunday, 8 and 9 September at the WGBH studio area in Brighton. Hams are needed on either or both days - for communications and/or meeting the public.

Another repeat event is the **Jimmy Fund Marathon Walk**. Not nearly as intense as the Boston Marathon, it covers the full 26 miles of the Marathon course from Hopkinton to Boston. There are 13 Walker Support Stations along the route, plus the very special patient walk and the finish. This walk is on **Sunday, 30 September**. Because the walk is lengthy, no assignment lasts more than a few hours.

We have another new world-class event right here in Boston. To compliment the Boston Marathon, the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) has devised a **Half Marathon**. The 13.1-mile course will be run along the "Emerald Necklace," entirely within Boston and Brookline. Already, notice has been taken and entry runner applications are coming from around the world. The Half Marathon will be held on **Sunday, 14 October**, and is also expected to become an annual event.

Note that all of these events are within easy reach of local repeaters. Your hand-held 2-meter and 70-centimeter radio will do just fine. A day's worth of battery power will do the trick.

There you (we) have it. It is a lot of work ahead. More detail will be published as it becomes available, but you can always contact Bob Salow, WA1IDA, if you have any questions. If you can, please volunteer as soon as possible.

Contact Bob at wa1ida@arrrl.net or 508.650.9440.

MEMA Public Safety Fair

Bob Salow WA1IDA

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will sponsor its 11th annual Public Safety Fair on Saturday, 22 September at the Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield MA. The Fair will be open from 0900 to 1500.

The entertainment and information for the whole family will include:

- Search and Rescue Demonstrations
- Skydiver & Helicopter Demonstrations
- K-9 Dog Units
- Hazmat Teams
- Child Safety Fingerprinting
- Police, Fire, Emergency Vehicles
- Public Safety Displays
- Food, Fun and Lots of Surprises

Admission and parking are both free.

BARC 2001 Field Day Score

The Boston Amateur Radio Club, in its 2001 Field Day operation, is claiming 4388 points. The total QSO points claimed are 2798.

Band	CW	Phone	Total	Points
80	43	26	69	224
40	397	14	411	1616
20	59	136	195	508
15	77	35	112	378
10		13	13	26
6		19 (ssb) + 0 (fm)	19	38
2		2 (ssb) + 2 (fm)	4	8
220		0 (fm)		
440		0 (ssb)		
1.2g		0 (fm)		
Total	576	247	823	
QSOs				
Total	2304	494		2798
Points				

Our total bonuses claimed are 1590 points. Public Location, 100 points; Information Booth, 100 points; 100% Emergency Power for 7A, 700 points; APRS Demo, 100 points; Microwave Link Demo, 100points; Message Origination to Section Manager, 100 points; NTS traffic handled, 90 points; Visit by public official, 100 points; Public Relations, 100 points; Natural Power, 100 points.

A detailed description of the 2001 Field Day operation, with photographs, is at

http://world.std.com/~wdr/x/fd/w1bos_01.html

ARRL Membership And Renewal

If your ARRL membership is coming up for renewal, please do so through BARC. Your ARRL membership dues remain the same, but the club gets a small income from your renewal. If you are joining the ARRL for the first time, sign up through BARC. In either case, **make your check out to BARC** and give it and your ARRL membership form to the BARC Treasurer. He will handle the rest, and you will get all the benefits of being a member of ARRL, The National Organization for Amateur Radio.

BARC Monthly Breakfast

Every month, BARC has a social breakfast on the second Sunday of the month, which will be August 12 this month. We'll be meeting at the Old Country Buffet at the Watertown Mall at 8:30am.

They are *very* good, offering an extensive breakfast buffet, costing \$6.35 per person.

We just intend to get together, socialize and eat, without having any formal club events or business. Family and friends of club members are welcome also. If you are not a BARC member, you too are invited to meet with us and see what we're all about.

The Old Country Buffet is in the Watertown Mall, on Arsenal St. in Watertown. From Memorial Drive continue on Greenough Boulevard to the Watertown exit, and then turn right onto Arsenal St. There is plenty of mall parking. The #70 T bus from Central Square Cambridge to Watertown Square stops right at the Watertown Mall. Hope to see all of you there – and bring your appetite!

August General Meeting

This month's BARC General meeting is on Thursday, August 16 at 7p.m. This month, Bill Ricker, N1VUX, will speak on tropospheric radio propagation

BARC General meetings are held at the Boston Back Bay Salvation Army Building, corner of Berkeley St. and Columbus Ave. near Copley Square, in the second floor auditorium.

Parking is available; the entrance to the parking lot is from Columbus Ave. (across the street from the firehouse). It is also T accessible; the nearest T stations are Back Bay on the Orange and Purple lines (exit the rear of the station by the busway and walk down Columbus) and Copley or Arlington on the Green line (use the Berkeley Street exit). A map appears on page 7 of the newsletter.

People arriving after 7:15 p.m. need to ring the bell at the door to be admitted, as the door is locked then.

Future General Meeting Dates

(Third Thursdays at 7 p.m.)

20 September 2001
 18 October 2001
 15 November 2001
 20 December 2001 (Holiday Party)
 17 January 2002
 21 February 2002

Boston Amateur Radio Club Business Meeting

2 August 2001
 Recorded by Guy Bzibziak, KB1CRY, BARC Secretary

Present Were:

Mike Ardai	N1IST	Vice-President
Arthur Ashley	N1NHZ	
Guy Bzibziak	KB1CRY	Secretary
Paul Carter	N1TMF	Newsletter Editor
Bob Cassell	N1ENS	Executive Committee

Jim Clogher	N1ICN	Treasurer
Mike Coffey	KB1EZL	
Dick Doherty	KA1TUZ	Executive Committee
Mark Duff	KB1EKN	President
Mike Freeman	WB1GVB	
Paul Katz	N1LRT	
Robert McArthur	K1QT	
Dan Malloy	KA1RDZ	
Paul Olivieri	N1ZKR	
Bill Ricker	N1VUX	
Bob Salow	WA1IDA	Public Service
Sarah Salter	KB1HAD	
Joseph W. Scully	K1SQT	

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1834hrs.

Reports were received from the various committees regarding various ongoing concerns of the club, such as emergency response, education and public service.

There was a discussion on the merits of certification for BERT members. ARES team letters are due to go out shortly. The annual SET (Simulated Emergency Training) exercise is being planned. Details will be given as they are made available.

There is still a great need for more volunteers to staff (and drive) the Salvation Army canteen truck. There are various days and hours available. People interested are encouraged to contact Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ.

Bob Salow, WA1IDA, reported that the next scheduled public service event is the Boston Triathlon on 9/2, with other events on the following dates:

9/8 & 9/9 - WGBH Ice Cream FunFest
 9/30 - Jimmy Fund Marathon walk
 10/14 - Half Marathon
 MEMA Public Safety Fair

Contact Bob Salow, WA1IDA to volunteer and for further details.

At a time and place to be announced, there will be a Coax & Equipment testing "party" to "go over" the Club's gear. Contact Mark Duff, KB1EKN for details.

We are looking for ideas for field trips and tours. Contact N1NHZ with ideas.

The club is trying to arrange a tour of SmartRoutes for late November or early December.

This is where the real business of BARC is conducted. If you have any suggestions, questions or comments, this is where to bring them. All members are welcome (and encouraged) to join us at this meeting.

The next Boston Amateur Radio Club business meeting will be held Thursday, 6 September 2001 (1st Thursday of the month), 7:00pm, at the Parlin Memorial Library [410 Broadway, Everett, MA] (off rt. 99) in Everett, MA.

Check the Web page and/or listen to the repeater for directions.

Future Business Meeting Dates

(First Thursday at 6:30 p.m.)

4 October 2001
1 November 2001
6 December 2001
3 January 2002
7 February 2002

BARC Growth

It's a rare month when we fail to add a few new members. Periodically we publish their names so that you can give them a special welcome. There may also be some long lost members who rejoin, so greet them, too.

Hank Buccigross KB1GRQ upgrade to Extra - now K1QK
Joe Flaherty KB1GYP
Sandy Salter KB1HAD

Please welcome the 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 Keeper of the Database, Bob Salow, WA1IDA at: 508.650.9440 or email: wa1ida@mediaone.net.

BARC VE Session

The Boston Amateur Radio Club holds its monthly VE session on the second Monday of each month. The next session will be at 7pm on Monday, August 13, 2001 at the Pierce School at 50 School Street in Brookline, Room 110 next to the cafeteria.

There is a free parking garage at the circular driveway. If driving, enter School Street from the Washington street side (opposite 394 Washington,) rather than from Harvard Street. Check:

http://www.barc.org/barc/school_map.gif

for more info. This map also appears on page 7 of this newsletter.

For those traveling via public transportation, take the "D" branch of the Green Line to the Brookline Village station. Walk north along Harvard Street 0.2 miles to School Street then turn left. The Pierce School is on the left. The #66 bus runs on Harvard Street, crossing School Street.

Talk in on 145.23(-), PL 88.5.

We give all exams (Technician thru Extra, CW and written), and you don't need to pre-register. Please bring the following with you:

- Your current license *and a photocopy for the ARRL*, if you are upgrading
- Any CSCE's you are claiming, and a photocopy of them
- Valid ID (picture ID preferred)
- A pen and a calculator (if you want to)
- **\$10.00** (good for all the tests you take at that session, except for retests).
- Note that code tests are no longer free. Those taking the code test only will also have to pay the \$10 fee. Code and written tests can be taken together at the same session for a single \$10 fee.

The needed FCC forms will be provided.

For further information, contact
Mike Ar dai, N1IST
781.321.7939
n1ist@arrrl.net

or

Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ
617.969.4880
ka1tuz@arrrl.net

Future Exam Dates

(Second Mondays at 7:00 pm)

10 September 2001
8 October 2001 (possible reschedule for holiday)
12 November 2001 (possible reschedule for holiday)
10 December 2001
14 January 2002
11 February 2002

I See the Future

12 Aug	BARC Breakfast
13 Aug	BARC VE Examinations
16 Aug	BARC General Meeting
19 Aug	MIT Flea
2 Sept	Monster Triathlon (Rp)
6 Sept	BARC Business Meeting
8-9 Sept	WGBH Ice Cream FunFest
9 Sept	SEMARA Fleamarket (So. Dartmouth)
9 Sept	BARC Breakfast
10 Sept	BARC VE Examination
15 Sept	RIFMRS Flea (Forestdale RI)
16 Sept	MIT Flea
20 Sept	BARC General Meeting

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22 Sept MEMA Public Safety Fair (Westfield)
 30 Sept Jimmy Fund Marathon Walk **(Rp)**
 5-6 Oct Hoss Traders Flea (Contoocook NH)
 14 Oct BAA Half-Marathon **(Rp)**
 21 Oct MIT Flea (last of 2001)
 27 Oct Antique RC Flea (Nashua NH)
 4 Nov Framingham ARA Flea
 17 Nov 1200 RC & WARA Auction (Newton)

(Rp) = BARC repeater(s) may 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 New England and some of New York, the "Ham - Electronic Flea Market" and the "PSLIST" lists tell the story. They are posted by e-mail to barc-list and on PBBs regularly. If needed, contact any club member who has access to these.

FCC Action For Rapid Info Access

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has assigned easy to use and easy to remember three-digit dialing codes for quick access to community information and referral services (211), and traffic and transportation information (511). Once these codes are activated by the carriers they can be dialed instead of the seven or ten-digits currently required to reach these services.

There are only eight possible three-digit codes, making them among the scarcest of telephone numbering resources. To ensure the efficient use of these codes, the Commission has established a "public interest" standard for assignment of such codes.

With this action, the Commission has assigned the 211 dialing code for use by community information and referral service organizations. The easy to remember 211 dialing code will provide direct access to organizations providing community information and referral services, such as child care solutions, housing assistance, maintaining utilities, legal assistance, counseling, and hospice services, that are not currently available through the 911 emergency code or the 311 police non-emergency code.

The Commission has also assigned the 511 dialing code for use by state and local governments in their efforts to improve local traffic and transportation conditions. The US Department of Transportation expects that the widespread use of the 511 dialing code will lead to reduced congestion and pollution on our nation's roads, lower fuel consumption, provide superior traffic management, enhance roadway safety, and enable the public to make wise travel decisions.

The Commission also concluded that because such codes are a scarce resource, it would examine and reassess these assignments in five years. If their use is not widespread, the

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Commission may consider expanding the use of these codes for other purposes.

More information about 211, including national and state contacts, press coverage, a press release, and a map showing 211 progress throughout the US can be found on the 211 web site: <http://www.211.org>. It also gives information on the first city (Atlanta) and first state (Connecticut) to establish the 211 phone number. Additional information can be found on this from the Alliance on Information Referral Systems at <http://www.airs.org/>

Among abbreviated dialing arrangements, "N11" codes are three-digit codes of which the first digit can be any digit other than 1 or 0, and the last two digits are both one. There are only eight possible N11 codes, making N11 codes among the scarcest of numbering resources. Following are the existing N11 code assignments:

- 211: Assigned for community information and referral services
- 311: Assigned nationwide for non-emergency police and other government services
- 411: Unassigned, but used virtually nationwide by carriers for directory assistance
- 511: Assigned for traffic and transportation information
- 611: Unassigned, but used broadly by carriers for repair service
- 711: Assigned nationwide for access to Telecom Relay Services
- 811: Unassigned, but used by local exchanged carriers for business office use
- 911: Unassigned, but used nationwide for emergency services

N11 codes "011" and "111" are unavailable because "0" and "1" are used for switching and routing purposes.

The information for this article has been obtained from the FCC, FEMA, the 211 Coalition, and the United Way of America.

BARC Net Preamble

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 145.23 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 checkins for the Boston Amateur Radio Club net please call now.

Is there any further business for the net before I close?

Simplex: 147.42

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.

BARC Runs Friday Night Nets

The Boston Amateur Radio Club runs special interest nets every Friday evening at 9p.m. on the 145.23 machine. The net will switch to a new format in October. Each Friday of the month, the net will be devoted to a specific activity/interest.

1st Friday - SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Response Net);

2nd Friday - Weather Net;

3rd Friday - ARES net;

4th Friday - Tech Net;

5th Friday - All or some of the above.

All BARC members and other members of the Boston area Amateur Radio community are welcome to check in and participate.

Got A Question?

You have a question - technical, operating, equipment, club activities, ham radio, computer, whatever. You asked on the air. You asked at a club meeting. You asked your friends (maybe even your enemies). No useful answers. Next step? The Reader's Forum in the SPARC. This space will be devoted to your questions, problems and grief relief. If we can't get you quick internal solutions, there are 300 other readers who can take a crack at it. Contact the Editor by e-mail, snail-mail, phone, or in his face. You'll be glad you did.

By the way, if you have something to sell or you're looking for a special part or equipment, The SPARC is the place to let the ham community know about it. These notices are free for members.

Free Stuff!

A lady in Westford is moving and would like to get rid of "wire" her husband had purchased. The wire is ten foot lengths of 0.175" steel rod that is in plastic tubes. This stuff looks great for building antennas. Some surface rust on the ends, but in pretty good shape. There are also coils of other wire that I'm not sure what it is good for.

The owner wants someone to take it all, so if you are interested contact me. The catch is that whoever takes it must take it all. I will help load it and want nothing monetarily. It isn't a huge load, but enough for a club to build quite a few antennas.

If the people who do take it wish to pay something for it, offer it to the owner when picking it up. She could certainly use assistance.

Rob Putala - KE8UW
(978) 692-5751

Several Hundred Boston Area Hams Could Be Reading Your Ad Right Now

The SPARC accepts commercial advertisements. BARC encourages monthly promotion of your products and services which would be of interest to our hundreds of members and others interested in the Amateur Radio Service.

Rates for display advertising are:

1 col x 2 in. (business card)	\$10 per issue
1 col x 2 in. (business card)	\$50 per 6 consecutive months
1 col x 2 in. (business card)	\$90 per 12 consecutive months
1 col x 4 in. (1/2 col)	\$20 per issue
1 col x 9.5 in. (full col)	\$40 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.

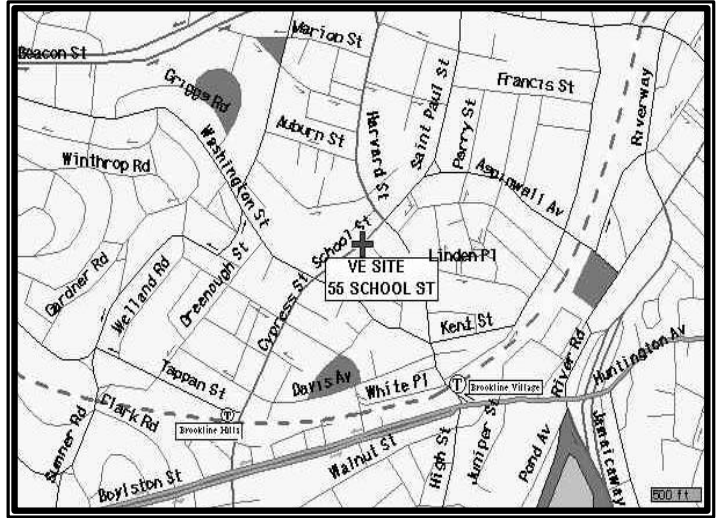
For additional information, contact Paul Carter at n1tmf@pvetronics.com or 617.232.6982; or Bob Salow at wa1ida@mediaone.net or 508.650.9440.

Your Ad Could Have Been Here

Are you a depressed BARC member because you have a treasure you must turn to cash and you couldn't make it to the last flea market? Well, cheer up, Bunky! The SPARC will run your (non-business) ad for free. Of course, a 10% donation if you sell it (and of course you will) will be cheerfully accepted. Just send your ad to Editor Paul Carter, N1TMF.



General Meeting – Boston Salvation Army
 Corner of Berkeley St. and Columbus Ave.



VE Session – Pierce School
 50 School Street, Brookline, Room 110 next to the cafeteria

BARC Officers and Staff

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Newsletter Editor: Paul Carter, N1TMF;	617 232 6982; n1tmf@pvctronics.com

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 a participant in Partnerships Advancing Technical Hobbies Which Attract Youth to Science (PATHWAYS). The Club is also an associate member of the Courage Handi-Hams system.

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Greater Boston Net Directory

daily 5:30pm Eastern Mass/Rhode Island Phone Net (NTS)	3.915	
daily 7 and 10pm Eastern Mass/Rhode Island CW Net (NTS)		3.658
daily 8pm Eastern Mass 2M Traffic Net (NTS)		145.23 (PL 88.5)
daily 8pm Slow Speed CW Net		28.160
daily 10:30pm Heavy Hitters' Traffic Net (NTS)		146.64
M 9pm BARC Club Net		145.23 (PL 88.5)
Tu 8pm MMRA Club Net		146.61 and all MMRA links
Tu 9pm EMA Public Safety Net		145.23 (PL 88.5)
Tu 9pm NETARC Satellite Net W1ME (ex K1MON)/NCS		446.575 (PL 88.5)
W 8pm Wellesley Amateur Radio Society Net		147.03
W 9pm HHTN Swap Net		146.64
Th 8:30pm Amsat Net N1OHJ/NCS		146.64
F 9pm SWAT (SATERN, Weather, ARES & Tech) Net		145.23 (PL 88.5)
Su 9:30am Yankee SSB Net (6M)		50.275
Su 3:30pm Youth Net		3.970
Su 7pm Algonquin Amateur Radio Club Net		53.470 (PL 100.0/71.9), 223.860 (PL 241.8),
	446.675 (PL 88.5)	
Su 8:30pm NSRA Net (with Newsline)		145.47
Su 9:30pm EMA Section ARES Net		146.61 and all MMRA links
(4 th Sun. of Month)		

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