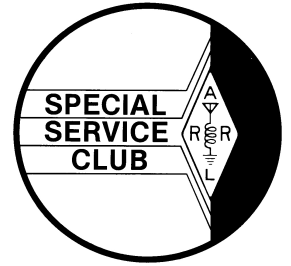




The SPARC

Volume XIV, Number 7; July 2002
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.barc.org>
w1bos@arrrl.net



The President's Word

Greetings to all. Well, July 1st has passed which means that I am officially your new President. While this is my first term as an officer of BARC, I'm not at all a newcomer to the club. Many folks will recognize my call sign from the weekly nets ("Here is... N1ZKR - Paul"). I have regularly attended the club business meetings for a couple of years. I'm not sure that anyone can really say that they're "ready" for this position, but I know most all of the goings on of BARC and of ham radio in the area and most of the club members. I am looking forward to an active year together.

A successful Field Day took place on June 22 & 23 at Larz Anderson Park in Brookline. BARC operated in the 6A category this year. In spite of the many challenges (the weather, the cramped space due to construction at the site, etc.) all pulled together to make the event a success and many contacts were made. A hearty thank you to all who worked so hard to make the Field Day operation happen.

The business meeting this month will be held at the Parlin Library in Everett on the second Thursday, July 11th, due to the holiday on the fourth. The minutes of the meeting will be posted on the BARC website. Current plans are to continue to hold the business meetings at the Parlin Library. While some of us miss the food that was available at the Galleria, I'm sure that no one misses shouting over the background noise.

There will not be a General Meeting this month or in August. This change was announced at the June General Meeting and in the President's message in the June SPARC by my predecessor, Mark, KB1EKN. This is possible due to a recent change in the by-laws. This will give a well deserved rest to those members who have been doing much of the work during the last year. It also affords a break for our gracious hosts at the Salvation Army. Many folks have expressed interest in holding a club cookout. At this time no one has come forward to plan and coordinate this activity. If someone does not step up soon it probably will not happen.

We are planning to have a club space at the upcoming New England Division Convention in Boxboro on August 24

25. We have spaces #1 and #2 for outside in the flea market area. (Thanks to Frank, N1DHW, for handling that.) We are planning to have an information table and a sales table if any member would like to put an item for sale. We can use help staffing this area from anyone is planning to attend. Of course, everyone needs to purchase an entry ticket to the event.

I was fortunate to attend the recent "cabinet meeting" hosted by ARRL New England division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI. There were club presidents and ARRL volunteer Section Staff members attending from all six New England states. Many topics were discussed including present and possible future FCC actions affecting amateur radio and a bill presently in the House of Representatives, HR-4720, about providing relief from CC&Rs for hams to erect antennas. Part of the discussion at this meeting focused on concern about attracting new folks to become hams, retention of those already licensed, and getting increased participation from those who are not active now.

The last point prompted a lot of discussion. To borrow an idea from Marshall McLuhan, ham radio, for the most part, is a "hot" medium. It requires action - speaking into the mike, putting fist to key (or keyboard) and participating in a QSO. Be it a roundtable on the local repeater or a contact with a DX station in a rare location, no one is going to answer you if you don't act. Our club is a "hot" medium too. It requires participation from the members for things to happen. The elected officers are *not* the "entertainment committee." We cannot possibly run every net, plan and run every event and hold every meeting by ourselves. We need your help. If there is no net control at the appointed net time, pick up your mike and be the net control. When there is an event planned, please come early to help "tote that barge and lift that bale." If you know someone who would be an interesting speaker at a general meeting or if you yourself have interest in a particular area of the hobby, please let us know! It's your club and we need your help, your participation, to make it work.

Thank you to all for your anticipated support in the coming year.

Paul Olivieri, N1ZKR

Ham Courtesy

I have noticed a departure from the Repeater Protocol that was so strict when I first started on repeaters. All the bands should be fun - *except* when an emergency is going down or a net is in session. What has slipped by all of us is letting people have a QSO. Shocked? The proper procedure is if a QSO is in progress and you can add information to the subject, then do it. If you want to change the subject, or just break in to hear yourself talk, or to break up the QSO, please restrain yourself. If you want to make a call and move to another frequency, that is ok anytime. Let's think of our fellow hams and enjoy the repeaters.

-- 73 KA1TUZ Dick ka1tuz@arrrl.net

ZZAAP!! -- Don't be part of it

Lightning is born in the belly of thunderstorms, where opposing electrical charges build up between the ground and the cloud. Negatively charged electrons zigzag to the ground. Rising to meet them - usually from a tree, building, or unlucky golfer - is a positively charged streamer.

In a fraction of a second, this process gives life to a bolt of lightning that heats the surrounding air to 54,000 degrees Fahrenheit (more than five times the temperature of the sun's surface). The suddenly heated air creates a shock wave we hear as a deafening crack of thunder.

At any given moment, some 2,000 thunderstorms are raging around the globe - a total of 16 million per year - and the lightning they spawn strikes the earth about 100 times per second. Each year, lightning injures some 1,500 Americans and kills between 100 and 300 - more than tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods combined. Undocumented injuries caused by lightning are probably much higher. Obviously, this is far more likely than winning the lottery.

An Underrated Killer

In the United States, there are an estimated 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes each year. While lightning can be fascinating to watch, it is also extremely dangerous. However, because lightning usually claims only one or two victims at a time, and because lightning does not cause the mass destruction left in the wake of tornadoes or hurricanes, lightning generally receives much less attention than the more destructive weather-related killers.

Beware of a Developing Thunderstorm

Thunderstorms are most likely to develop on warm summer days and go through various stages of growth, development and dissipation. On a sunny day, as the sun heats the air, pockets of warmer air start to rise in the atmosphere. When this air reaches a certain level in the atmosphere, cumulus clouds start to form. Continued heating can cause these clouds to grow vertically upward in the atmosphere into "towering cumulus" clouds. These towering cumulus may be one of the first indications of a developing thunderstorm.

The Lightning Discharge - Don't Be A Part of It

During a thunderstorm, each flash of cloud-to-ground lightning is a potential killer. The determining factor on whether a particular flash could be deadly depends on whether a person is in the path of the lightning discharge. In addition to the visible flash that travels through the air, the current associated with the lightning discharge travels within the ground. Although some victims are struck directly by the main lightning stroke, many victims are struck as the current moves in and along the ground. While virtually all people take some protective actions during the most dangerous part of thunderstorms, many leave themselves vulnerable to being struck by lightning as thunderstorms approach, depart, or are nearby.

An Approaching Thunderstorm - When Should I Seek Safe Shelter?

Lightning can strike as much as 10 miles away from the rain area in a thunderstorm. That's about the distance you can hear thunder. When a storm is 10 miles away, it may even be difficult to tell a storm is coming.

IF YOU CAN HEAR THUNDER, YOU ARE WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE. SEEK SAFE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY!

The first stroke of lightning is just as deadly as the last. If the sky looks threatening, take shelter before hearing thunder.

The 30-30 Rule

Use the 30-30 rule where visibility is good and there is nothing obstructing your view of the thunderstorm. When you see lightning, count the time until you hear thunder. If that time is 30 seconds or less, the thunderstorm is within 6 miles of you and is dangerous. Seek shelter immediately. The threat of lightning continues for much longer period than most people realize. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last lightning flash before leaving shelter. Don't be fooled by sunshine or blue sky!

Minimize The Risk Of Being Struck

Outdoors is the most dangerous place to be during a lightning storm. When lightning is seen or thunder is heard, or when dark clouds are observed, quickly move indoors or into a metal-topped vehicle and remain there until well after the lightning storm ends. Stay away from windows and doors and avoid contact with anything that conducts electricity.

If Someone is Struck, What Do I Do?

In the unfortunate event that a person is struck by lightning, medical care may be needed immediately to save the person's life. Cardiac arrest and irregularities, burns, and nerve damage are common in cases where people are struck by lightning. However, with proper treatment, including CPR if necessary, most victims survive a lightning strike, although the long-term effects on their lives and the lives of family members can be devastating. Check for burns in at least two places. People struck by lightning carry no electrical charge that can shock other people. You can examine them without risk.

Safety Rules

Postpone activities promptly. Don't wait for rain. Be the lowest point. Lightning hits the tallest object. In the mountains if you are above tree line, you *are* the highest object around. Quickly get below the tree line and get into a grove of small trees. Don't be the second tallest object during a lightning storm! If you can't get to a shelter, stay away from trees. If there is no shelter, crouch in the open, keeping twice as far away from a tree as it is tall.

Crouching lesson

Squat with your knees fully bent. Lower your head to reduce your height. Keep your feet together and contact the

ground with only your toes. While it may seem uncomfortable, the object is to minimize your contact with the ground and the huge current passing through it. Do the math - 50 kiloamps (easily) passing through 10 milliohms of the earth under you puts 500 volts between your legs. Yikes!!

Seek Shelter

Many people take shelter from the rain, but most people struck by lightning are not in the rain! Go quickly inside a completely enclosed building, not a carport, open garage or covered patio. If no enclosed building is convenient, get inside an all-metal vehicle. Avoid sheds, picnic shelters, baseball dugouts, and bleachers. A cave is a good option outside, but move as far as possible from the cave entrance.

Keep an eye on the sky. Look for darkening skies, flashes of lightning, or increasing wind, which may be signs of an approaching thunderstorm. If you see or hear a thunderstorm coming or your hair stands on end, immediately suspend your activities and instruct everyone to go inside a sturdy building or car. Avoid leaning against vehicles. Get off bicycles and motorcycles. Get out of the water - it's a great conductor of electricity.

Stay off the beach and out of small boats or canoes. If caught in a boat, crouch down in the center of the boat away

from metal hardware. Swimming, wading, snorkeling and scuba diving are NOT safe. Lightning can strike the water and travel great distances beneath and away from its point of contact. Don't stand in puddles of water, even if wearing rubber boots.

Drop metal-frame backpacks, stay away from clothes lines, fences, exposed sheds and electrically conductive elevated objects. Don't hold on to metal items such as golf clubs, fishing rods, tennis rackets or tools.

Stay Informed About the Storm

Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or local media for the latest severe thunderstorm WATCHES and WARNINGS. Severe thunderstorms are those storms with winds in excess of 58 mph or hail larger than 3/4 inches in diameter. When conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop, a severe thunderstorm WATCH is issued. Remember, however, that ALL thunderstorms produce deadly lightning.

-- Extracted and edited from the National Weather Service web site by Rob, KD1CY and Bob, WA1IDA.

Attention all members (and guests)

There will *not* be a General Meeting this month (July) or in August 2002. This will provide a vacation for our gracious hosts at the Salvation Army and a much needed rest for those who have been doing a great deal of the work during the past very busy year. This is possible due to a change that was made in the by-laws at a special meeting that took place at the business meeting on June 6, 2002.

There *will* be a business meeting on the second Thursday, July 11, 2002 at 7 pm at the Parlin Library on Broadway in Everett. The meeting was changed to accommodate many who had other plans on the holiday on July 4th. There is also a business meeting planned for August 1, 2002, also to be held at the Parlin Library. The minutes of the meetings will be posted on the BARC website www.barc.org

Grueling Triathlon - Again

The international triathlon, which was run for the first time in Boston last year, was such a success that it is being continued this year. We have been asked again to provide emergency and safety communications support. The formal name for the event is the *Monster Challenge*. It is sponsored by Monster.com for the benefit of the AIDS Action Committee.

Anywhere in the world a triathlon is an exciting and very demanding race. In urban Boston it is a further test of strength and will. Designed to professional standards, the swim-bike-run will be held on **Sunday, 1 September**. The Olympic-class triathletes will swim one mile, bike 25 miles, and run 6.2 miles. The course is laid out in Boston harbor, downtown Boston and

Cambridge, and in the Boston seaport. There are a number of hazardous and confusing locations, which we are assigned to monitor, as well as the medical stations.

The problem for us is that this is Labor Day weekend, so extra effort must go into getting enough hams - **we need your help**. A bit of relief is provided by the schedule which expects the entire event to go from 0630 to 1100, so the rest of the day is free. If you can support this event, contact Mark Duff, KB1EKN, at 781.749.7664 or email to emgmt@attbi.com; or Bob Salow, WA1IDA, at 508.650.9440 or email to wa1ida@arri.net.

All You Can Eat And Public Service, Too

Here's a ham public service event where the reward might be better than the job. WGBH, the public TV channels 2 and 44, and FM radio, will hold its annual Ice Cream FunFest on both **Saturday and Sunday, 14 and 15 September** at and around the WGBH station on Western Avenue in Brighton.

As in past years, thousands of people are expected. We have been asked to provide communications for the safety and management of the crowd and their vehicles. It's a compact area, so 2-meter simplex HTs can be used. About 14 to 16 hams are needed each day for communications and/or meeting the public.

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.

Although such a good cause (and good publicity for us) doesn't need it, here's the good part: all volunteers get to eat all the ice cream you can consume (urp!). 5-6 manufacturers provide the ice cream, so you can make comparative tests (urp, urp!).

If you can help either or both days (from 1100 to 1500), get more information by calling Bob Salow, WA1IDA, at 508.650.9440, or email to walida@arrl.net.



The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing in the right place, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.



You Say You Have Free Time?

Frank Murphy N1DHW

The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) is looking for new members. They are seeking both drivers for the EDS trucks (canteens), and those who can respond to multiple alarm fires direct from home to assist the canteens at the fire or disaster scene.

Hams are the perfect choice for this volunteer work. Not only are you there to refresh those hardworking firefighters, but also in times of disaster, you are available and trained to assist with radio communications.

Contact Bill Foley, KB1GLF, EDS Coordinator, at 617.338.4155 x513, or Frank Murphy, n1dhw@arrl.net for more info.

Field Day 2002

Michael Ardai, N1IST

Field Day 2002 was a success! Thanks to everyone who helped out planning, setting up, operating, and tearing down at Field Day. Despite some concern about the limits that Brookline placed on the site due to reseeding, the new location, set up under the pergola and BARC's new large canopy, worked out very well. All operating locations were set up in a line while being easily accessible by the public (a criticism in prior years). I still have to finish totaling up the score, but here are the HF results:

QSOs:	CW	PHONE	RTTY
80m:	120	34	0
40m:	246	109	15
20m:	76	4	45
15m:	155	58	4
10m:	0	49	0
6m:	16	0	0

CW QSOs

613 x 2 = 1226

PHONE QSOs

254 x 1 = 254

RTTY/PSK31 QSOs

64 x 2 = 128

We had a few additional contacts on 2FM and packet.

As with any drill, we learned quite a bit, and discovered that autotuners don't do much good if you leave them home in your basement. All in all, a great Field Day. We are looking for someone to volunteer to be Field Day chair for next year. I've done it for quite a few years on-and-off, and it is time for someone else to pick it up. I may just operate 1E in 2003.

Bill Sullivan, N1TDF, SK

We regret to note the death of Bill Sullivan, a BARC member for many years. Bill was very active traffic handler - EM2MN, HHTN and the Cape & Islands nets. He was a member of BARC until this past December when he became ill. His wife said he did not renew his membership because of his ongoing treatment of his cancer.

Thanks - N1LKJ

Repeaters: 145.230 MHz (-) PL 88.5 Hz 447.175 MHz (-) PL 110.9 Hz

Simplex: 147.420 MHz

BARC Monthly Breakfast

Every month, BARC has a social breakfast on the second Sunday of the month, which will be July 14. 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 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 Dr. continue on Greenough Blvd. to the Watertown exit, then turn right on to 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!



Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.



Future General Meeting Dates

(Third Thursdays at 7 p.m.)

19 September 2002
17 October 2002
21 November 2002
19 December 2002 (Holiday Party)
16 January 2003
20 February 2003

Future Business Meeting Dates

(First Thursday at 6:30 pm)

11 July 2002 (*changed for the holiday*)
1 August 2002
5 September 2002
3 October 2002
7 November 2002
5 December 2002

BARC business meetings are held at the Parlin Memorial Library, 410 Broadway, Everett, MA (off Rt. 99). Check our web page and/or listen to the repeater for directions.

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.

BARC VE Session

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

There is a free parking garage at the circular driveway. If driving, enter School St. from the Washington St. side (opposite 394 Washington), rather than from Harvard St. 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 T Green Line to the Brookline Village station. Walk north along Harvard St 0.2 miles to School St, then turn left. The Pierce School is on the left. The #66 bus runs on Harvard St, crossing School St.

Talk in on 145.23(-), PL 88.5.

We give all exams (Technician thru Extra, CW and written). 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 CSCEs 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 only the code test 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 or n1ist@arrl.net
or
Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ
617.969.4880 or ka1tuz@arrl.net

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Simplex: 147.420 MHz



Future Exam Dates

(Second Mondays at 7:00 pm)

12 August 2002

9 September 2002

14 October 2002 (subject to adjustment)

11 November 2002 (subject to adjustment)

9 December 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 upgrades and long lost members who rejoin, so greet them, too.

Eric Dana N1YSS

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: walida@arrrl.net.

I See the Future

14 July	BARC Breakfast
21 July	MIT Flea
27 July	NE Antique RC (Nashua NH)
11 Aug	NoBARC Flea (Adams)
18 Aug	MIT Flea
24-25 Aug	ARRL NE Div Conv (Boxboro)
1 Sept	International Triathlon (Rp)
8 Sept	SEMARA Flea (S Dartmouth)
8 Sept	Mohawk ARC Flea (Orange)
14-15 Sept	WGBH Ice Cream FunFest
15 Sept	MIT Flea
21 Sept	RIFMRS Flea (Forestdale RI)
4-5 Oct	Hoss Traders (Hopkinton NH)
13 Oct	BAA Half Marathon (Rp)

(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.

BARC Net NCS stations needed

Mike Ardai N1IST

We are constantly looking for people to help run the BARC Net each Monday night. This is a great way to get your feet wet in running a net and a nice way to help out the club. If

you can help, please let me know when I ask for volunteers during the net or drop me an email at nlist@arrrl.net.

Special thanks to KB1EZZ, N1NHZ, N1GIE, and all the other regulars who help out by running the nets.

If it is a few minutes after 9 pm and nobody is running the net, please jump in and pick it up. The preamble is in the SPARC and on the BARC web page. If you don't have it with you, just wing it.

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?

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.

Catch us on the Internet!

The Boston Amateur Radio Club has a web page at <http://www.barc.org>. Here you can find some of the latest BARC news, sample exams, maps to our meetings and VE sessions, links to other radio clubs, and a club roster (only names, call signs, and email addresses are on-line). If you have any suggestions, please let me know at nlist@arrrl.net.

New on our web page are the club articles:

<http://www.barc.org/articles.html>

and bylaws:

<http://www.barc.org/bylaws.html>

We also run an FTP site at [ftp.barc.org](ftp://ftp.barc.org) under **pub/hamradio**. We've got a mirror of the ARRL infoserwer, BARC documents, ham radio software, and a huge mods archive.

We also run a club e-mail list via qth.net. You can subscribe, unsubscribe, or manage your qth.net subscriptions at

Repeaters: 145.230 MHz (-) PL 88.5 Hz 447.175 MHz (-) PL 110.9 Hz

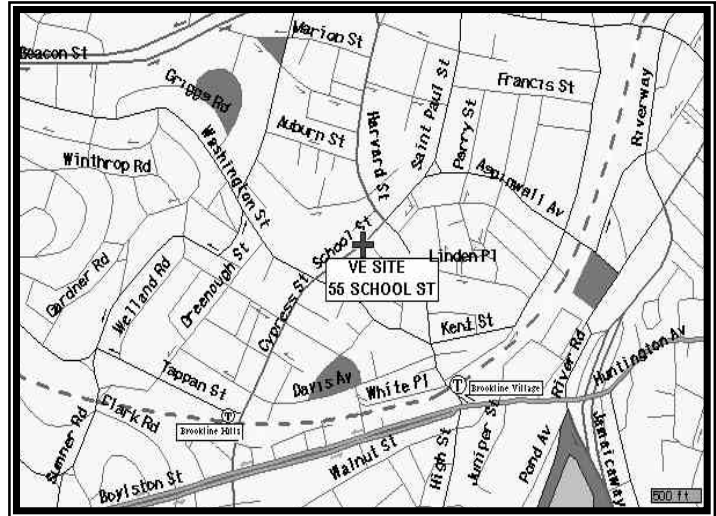
Simplex: 147.420 MHz

<http://www.qth.net>. This change applies to all mailing lists

previously on qth.net directly.



General Meeting – Boston Salvation Army



VE Session – Pierce School

BARC Officers and Staff

President	Paul Olivieri, N1ZKR	617.782.4005	n1zkr@juno.com
Vice President	Hank Buccigross, K1QK	781.862.0418	k1qk@arrl.net
Secretary	Mike Ardai, N1IST	781.321.7939	n1ist@arrl.net
Treasurer	Jim Clogher, N1ICN	617.364.4658	n1icn@rcn.com
Volunteer Exams	Mike Ardai, N1IST	781.321.7939	n1ist@arrl.net
	Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ	617.969.4880	ka1tuz@arrl.net
Membership	Arthur Ashley, N1NHZ	617.661.2988	n1nhz@arrl.net
Public Service	Bob Salow, WA1IDA	508.650.9440	wa1ida@arrl.net
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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I Want - You Want

I'm looking for one or two old, dead, crystal-controlled walkie-talkies. I need some of the generic parts from them. Maybe this request can help someone clean out a corner of their junk box and put that brick to a worthy cause!

I want to sell a Realistic general coverage short wave receiver, Model DX-302. It covers 150 kHz through 30.0 MHz, with a digital readout.

It operates on 120 VAC or 12 VDC, and has compartment for internal batteries. The case has a carrying handle for portability.

Modes: AM, CW, and SSB. with a ceramic filter for narrow selectivity.

Asking \$125/bro. -----

Contact: 508.358.4554

k1nun@netscape.net (but phone is better!)

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Simplex: 147.420 MHz