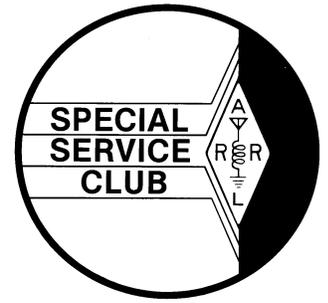




The SPARC

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Volume XV, Number 12; December 2003
<http://www.barcl.org>
w1bos@arrl.net



The President's Word

-- Paul Olivieri, N1ZKR

Greetings to all. Well, another year has passed and it is time again for the BARC Holiday Party and the "Ham of the Year" award. The party this year will again be at the TinTin Buffet on North Beacon St. in Brighton on Thursday, December 18 at 7:00 pm with admission just \$10. As I write this, the first major snow storm of this winter (fall? - winter is still two weeks away!) has been raging for more than twenty-four hours. A small but intrepid group from BARC spent the first part of the storm at the observatory at the top of Great Blue Hill to participate in the SKYWARN Recognition Day special event station. Maybe you worked them. If you did and want a QSL card, don't forget to send a SASE to the given address. A special thanks to Mark Duff KB1EKN for organizing this activity and to all of those brave enough to face the weather and make the trip up Great Blue Hill to participate.

The Membership Information form enclosed in this issue of *The SPARC* is a little different this year. You will notice that there is a space to elect to receive *The SPARC* by email rather than snail mail. This is a very important change and I hope that you will take a moment to consider this option. BARC currently spends over \$2000 per year to produce and mail the newsletter. Everyone who elects to receive *The SPARC* by email will save the club money that can be used in other ways (like Field Day expenses, more special event stations, possibly a summer cook out, etc.), and you will have access to the newsletter sooner than you normally would by getting the hard copy by mail.

There is also the work that is required to prepare the newsletter for mailing - including folding, stuffing any inserts, fastening and putting on the address labels and stamps. This is not a small job, by any means. Many thanks to Dick Doherty KA1TUZ and his small group who have done this for years. Unfortunately, Dick is no longer able to host this activity. Anyone who would be available to help with this task, even once in a while, please contact me at n1zkr@juno.com

Did you enjoy the line up of speakers at the General meetings this year? Our thanks go to Blake, K1BTH, for his hard work. However, Blake has other commitments for his business and he is getting an ARRL EMCOM Level 1 class started for us. If you could be on a speakers committee to help Blake, please contact him at k1bth@arrl.net

Have a happy and safe holiday.

73, Paul, N1ZKR

BARC Helps Recognize SKYWARN

-- Hank Buccigross, K1QK

Saturday, December 6 was SKYWARN Recognition Day, sponsored by the National Weather Service (NWS). BARC, using club call W1BOS with designator /MQE, set up a station at the Blue Hill Observatory on Great Blue Hill in Milton. "MQE" is the station designator assigned by the NWS to the Blue Hill Observatory, home of the longest continuous weather data in North America. A more complete description of this event can be found in the November issue of *The SPARC*.

As Mark, KB1EKN, (the leader of the event) put it, "We'll remember this one for a long time." December 6, 2003 was the day of the storm that was to become one of the most substantial to hit our area. It turned out to be one of the biggest December snow storms on record. You couldn't ask for a more perfect day for a SKYWARN event.

Fortunately, Mark, Bob; WA1IDA, and Hank; K1QK, set up the station, strung a couple HF wire antennas and mounted a VHF ground plane on the day before the event. It turned out to be excellent planning.

The same trio along with Geri, KB1ISG, and Joe; KB1IXK met at the Observatory at the summit of Great Blue Hill about 0900 on Saturday, December 6th as the storm continued to increase in intensity. ~~By then there was approximately 6 inches of snow~~ already on the ground. The Observatory had earlier recorded a wind gust of 53 mph. Thanks to the work done on the day before, the group was able to get on the air in short order.

Contacts were made on the HF bands with stations across the country on 10-, 15-, and 20-meters. We were also active on 2-meters, both on simplex and through repeaters. The wind blew to nearly 50 mph and the snow fell heavily during the event. Since one of the items reported during the QSO exchanges was the local weather, we couldn't have been more pleased with the exciting conditions to report.

Operations continued into late Saturday afternoon when the better part of valor suggested that we shut down and get off the hill before we became stranded. Mark led the way with the dismantling of the antennas in 40+ mph winds. [Boy, these fire fighters sure are tough.] Both of the 4-wheel drive vehicles that brought the group up the hill made it off safely as darkness was falling. All in all, it was quite an adventure - *and we had fun.*

Kudos also to Blake, K1BTH, for providing the mid-afternoon fuel (in the form of coffee and donuts) that helped provide the energy required for the tear down, and to Bill, N1VUX, for

arranging to have W1BOS/MQE listed as an official station. Finally and foremost thanks are due to Mark for the concept and the arrangements with the Observatory.

The Next General Meeting

With the December General meeting cancelled in favor of the Holiday Party, the next General meeting will be 15 January at the Salvation Army Headquarters building in Boston - starting at 7:00 pm.

BARC is Always Looking for Good Speakers

-- Blake Haskell, K1BTH

As the New Year approaches, please help me out by submitting ideas for speakers. I am a one-man army and can only do so much. I need ideas! There are so many different aspects of this hobby that we should have people lining up with ideas. If you have an idea for a speaker or presentation, please feel free to send them to me. You can reach me at k1bth@arri.net. My telephone number is 781.925.9900. Remember – this is your club. Tell me what you want and I'll try to make it happen.

Additionally, don't be bashful about making a presentation yourself. It's lucrative – you get free parking and we'll even throw in a one-year membership to BARC.

Thanks, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Future General Meeting Dates

(Third Thursdays at 7:00 pm)

18 December 2003 (*Holiday Party*)
15 January 2004
19 February 2004
18 March 2004
15 April 2004
20 May 2004

Minutes of the Boston Amateur Radio Club Business Meeting

December 4, 2003 - Recorded by Mike Ardai, N1IST, Secretary

Present were:

Paul Olivieri, N1ZKR, President
Jim Clogher, N1ICN, Treasurer
Mike Ardai, N1IST, Secretary
Bob Salow, WA1IDA, Public Service
Hank Buccigross, K1QK
Mark Duff, KB1EKN
Ed Hennessy, N1PBA
Joe Harris, KB1IXK
Arthur Ashley, N1NHZ
Dan Malloy, KA1RDZ

The meeting started at approximately 1850

Remember that the Business meeting now starts at 1830, *not* 1900

The BARC Holiday Party will be 12/18 at the TinTin Buffet in Brighton. See the BARC webpage for directions..

New BARC name badges are in! These are a new format, and new ones have been made for all BARC members. Please pick yours up at a meeting (Business or General) or send a SASE to the club PO box. Badge clips will be available only at the meetings.

SKYWARN special event station planning and scheduling was discussed.

The next BARC Business meeting will be 1/8 due to the holiday.

The January *SPARC* deadline will remain 1/4.

Upcoming public service events: 2/1 - Miami Marathon; 5/16 - MS Walk.

We will have a think tank meeting shortly to figure out what we can do to attract more people to BARC and to the General meetings. What is the future of BARC?

The 2003 treasury balance sheet will be discussed at the January Business meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2045.

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, January 8 (usually the first Thursday of each month, but it is moved because of the holiday), at 6:30 pm. We meet at the Parlin Memorial Library, 410 Broadway (Rt 99) Everett MA. Parking is available on the street or across the street behind the post office. The 110 T bus from Wellington stops across the street

Future Business Meeting Dates

(First Thursday at 6:30 pm)

8 January 2004 (note reschedule)
5 February 2004
4 March 2004
1 April 2004
6 May 2004
3 June 2004

Are You Protected Against the Flu?

If not, get a shot!

Hank Brugsch, K1HBJ - SK

One of BARC's earliest members, Henry Brugsch, has died after a long illness. Several years ago Hank moved to the UK, and was living in Kidderminster, Worc. at the time of his death. He also held the call G0GKU. He was 60 years old. He leaves his wife Freda, WB1ABD, and a son, Alistair.

It's Holiday Party Time

The holiday season is upon us and it's time to party. We will hold our annual BARC Holiday Party at the Tin-Tin Buffet, 200 North Beacon St in Brighton on **Thursday, 18 December at 7:00 pm**. Our General meeting is cancelled so we can have a great time - as proven by past performance. A map with driving directions is available at www.tintinbuffet.com.

The Tin-Tin has a full Chinese and American buffet with a huge variety. Of course, the best part is having dinner with friends and family in a comfortable atmosphere.

The cost is only \$10.00, payable to BARC at the door (BARC picks up the tax and tip). Bring your friends and family. We hope to see you there. If you have not yet sent in the reservation form which was in the November issue of the newsletter, don't fret - just send an email to nlist@arrl.net. *Do it now to be sure.*

Membership Renewal

As you can plainly see, this issue contains the BARC Membership Information form for 2004. Our fiscal year is the calendar year, so all membership renewals begin on 1 January. Our club is one of the strongest and best around. We need your support to help you get the most out of ham radio.

Please help the Treasurer by renewing promptly. Complete the form and either mail it with your check to the address shown, or bring it to the club meeting. Of course, we would love to see you at the meeting(s).

Get Your Newsletter Hot Off the Wire

In an effort to conserve club resources, we are offering early access to the newsletter electronically to save the costs of paper, printing and postage.

The 2004 Membership Information form (enclosed) gives you the opportunity to accept receiving *The SPARC* at a private member web site as soon as it is published. You will be notified by email each month as soon as the issue is ready for access.

There is considerable cost associated with the hard copy of the newsletter. This can be saved thanks to your acceptance and the generous efforts of Mike, NIIST, who has organized the electronic publication.

If you agree to help save money for the club, please be sure, to provide an accurate email address, clearly written, for your notification. Thanks.

Special Service Club Status Renewed

The Boston Amateur Radio Club has received notice from the ARRL that our Special Service Club (SSC) appointment has been renewed for another two years. We were particularly noted for meeting the highest standards of service to the community.

BARC was founded in 1988 and has qualified as an SSC since its earliest days. We are justifiably proud of our contribution to our community.

Repeaters: 145.23 (-) PL 88.5 447.175 (-) PL 110.9

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.

Fred Beihold	NK1L
Bill Foster	KD1NX
Dave Gilbert	KB1KMA
Steve Muise	KB1KGC

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@arrl.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 7 pm on Monday, December 8, 2003 at the Pierce School, 50 School St 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 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 5 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 145.230 MHz (-), PL 88.5 Hz.

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)
- **\$12.00** (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 \$12 fee. Code and written tests can be taken together at the same session for a single \$12 fee.

The needed FCC forms will be provided.

For further information, contact:

Mike Ardai, NIIST, 781.321.7939 nlist@arrl.net

Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ, 617.969.4880 ka1tuz@arrl.net

Future Exam Dates

(Second Mondays at 7:00 pm)

Simplex: 147.42

12 January 2004
9 February 2004
8 March 2004
12 April 2004
10 May 2004
14 June 2004

New General Class Question Pool Released

-- ARRL Letter, December 5, 2003

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has released a revised and expanded Amateur Radio General class (Element 3) question pool into the public domain. The new question pool becomes effective July 1, 2004, and must be used to generate all General written examinations administered on or after that date.

"The pool has been expanded to 432 questions," said ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, a member of the Question Pool Committee, who notes that all subelements grew slightly. "The largest increase in questions this time around was in our Operating Procedures and Amateur Radio Practices subelements," he said. The General class question pool does not contain any diagrams or symbols.

The new Element 3 question pool is available on the ARRL Amateur Exam Question Pools Web page www.arrrl.org/arrrlvec/pools.html in Adobe PDF and ASCII text format. It includes all questions and answers relating to Element 3. Commenters may address specific Element 3 questions as well as inputs to the Element 3 syllabus and question pool to the QPC via email at qpc@arrrl.org.

The QPC now is turning its attention to developing an outline for an updated Amateur Extra class (Element 4) question pool, which will be revised over the next 24 months, Jahnke said. It will go into effect July 1, 2006. The deadline to submit input to the Amateur Extra question pool syllabus is May 1, 2004.

I See the Future

14 Dec	BARC Breakfast
18 Dec	BARC Holiday Party (No General Meeting)
8 Jan	BARC Business meeting
11 Jan	BARC Breakfast
15 Jan	BARC General Meeting
17 Jan	NE Antique RC (Nashua NH)
14 Feb	AARC Flea (Marlboro)

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 PBBSs regularly. If needed, contact any club member who has access to these.

Logbook Of The World Continues To Grow

-- ARRL Letter, December 5, 2003

The ARRL's *Logbook of the World* secure contact-verification database continues to grow. So far, reports ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, nearly 5000 users have uploaded logs containing some 25.4 million Amateur Radio contacts. This has resulted in more than 1 million QSL records.

"The key is participation, and it doesn't cost a thing to get the software and upload logs," Mills pointed out. "We're encouraging all hams to participate in *Logbook*, whether the ham is a casual operator, contester, ragchewer or DXer." To further expand the database and generate more confirmed contacts for all *LoTW* users, Mills is calling on everyone to sign aboard and submit as many logs as possible.

Once *LoTW* programming is complete, users will be able to redeem credits for ARRL awards without having to go through the expense and trouble of obtaining hard-copy QSL cards. Mills emphasizes that *LoTW* is not meant to replace paper QSL cards, but supplements traditional QSLing.

Signing up as a new *LoTW* user is simple. Visit the Logbook of The World Web site - www.arrrl.org/lotw - and read the "Getting Started" document. Mills advises new users to print it out to have the instructions handy.

The "Getting Started" page offers step-by-step instructions for getting a secure digital certificate from ARRL and preparing and uploading logs. Mills noted that most new user problems result from failing to specifically follow the instructions outlined on the "Getting Started" page.

Amateur Radio software developers are starting to include direct support for *Logbook of The World* in their programs. Most logging software allow users to export a log in ADIF format, which *LoTW* will accept. A few programs incorporate the ARRL's TQSL file-generation and digital certificate code, which simplifies the process of digitally signing logs and exporting them in a separate email.

For more information, visit the Logbook of The World Web site, www.arrrl.org/lotw.

BARC Monthly Breakfast

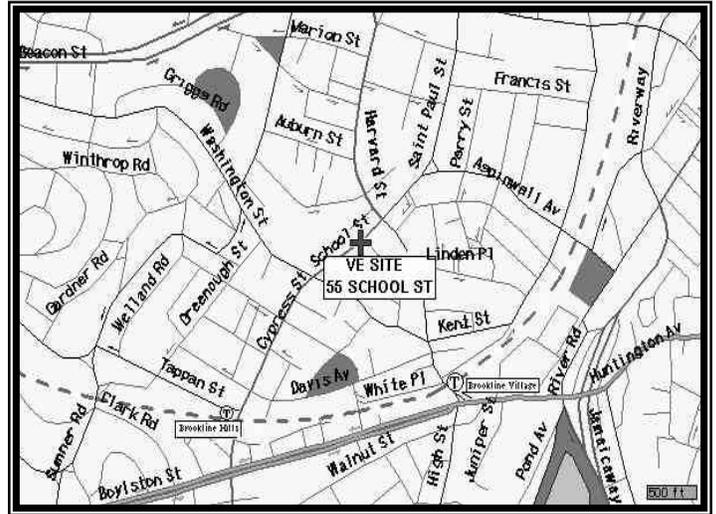
BARC holds a social breakfast on the second Sunday of each month; the next is January 11. We meet at the Old Country Buffet at the Watertown Mall at 8:30 am.

We just get together, socialize and eat, without having any formal club events or business. Family and friends of club members are welcome also.

The Old Country Buffet is in the Watertown Mall, on Arsenal St. in Watertown. There is plenty of mall parking. The #70 T bus from Central Square Cambridge to Watertown Square stops right at the Watertown Mall. We hope to see all of you there.



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

President	Paul Olivieri, N1ZKR	617.782.4005	n1zkr@juno.com
Vice President:	Blake Haskell, K1BTH	781.925.9900	klbth@arrl.net
Secretary	Mike Ardai, N1IST	781.321.7939	nlist@arrl.net
Treasurer	Jim Clogher, N1ICN	617.364.4658	nlicn@rcn.com
Vol Exams	Mike Ardai, N1IST	781.321.7939	nlist@arrl.net
	Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ	617.969.4880	kaluz@arrl.net
Membership	Arthur Ashley, N1NHZ	617.661.2988	n1nhz@arrl.net
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Newsletter Editor	Paul Carter, N1TMF	617.232.6982	n1tmf@pvcronics.com
Programs & Activities	Blake Haskell, K1BTH	781.925.9900	klbth@arrl.net

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)	145.230 (PL 88.5)
daily 8pm	Slow Speed CW Net	28.160
daily 10:30pm	Heavy Hitters Traffic Net (NTS)	146.640
Mon 9pm	BARC Club Net	145.230 (PL 88.5)
Tue 8pm	MMRA Club Net	146.610 and all MMRA links
Tue 9pm	EMA Public Safety Net	145.230 (PL 88.5)
Tue 9pm	NETARC Satellite Net W1ME, NCS	446.575 (PL 88.5)
Wed 8pm	Wellesley Amateur Radio Society Net	147.030
Wed 9pm	HHTN Swap Net	146.640
Thu 8:30pm	Amsat Net N1OHJ, NCS	146.640
Fri 9pm	SWAT Net and Net Control 101	145.230 (PL 88.5)
Sat 11am	Northeast SATERN Net	7.270
Sun 9:30am	Yankee SSB Net (6M)	50.275
Sun 7pm	Youth Net	146.610 and all MMRA links
Sun 7pm	Algonquin Amateur Radio Club Net	53.470 (PL 100.0/71.9), 223.860 (PL 241.8), 446.675 (PL 88.5)
Sun 8:30pm	NSRA Net (with Newslines)	145.470
4th Sundays 9:30pm	EMA Section ARES Net	146.610 and all MMRA links

Repeaters: 145.23 (-) PL 88.5 447.175 (-) PL 110.9

Simplex: 147.42