



The SPARC

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Volume XVI, Number 10; October 2004

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



The New Year Has Begun!

-- Eric Falkof, K1NUN

If you missed our first meeting of the year, you missed a good, fun time - and practical, too. We began by introducing ourselves and describing what we did radio-wise over the summer. And then we had our PowerPole Workshop. About ten members took advantage of the event to wire up radios and cables, and many more chose the option to buy extra connectors for later use. (Remember, each BARC member receives two PowerPoles as a membership benefit; additional connectors are only \$1/pair. See me at each meeting since I'll have the connectors and crimping tool - you bring the radio or cable.) See the article and photos elsewhere in this issue.

For those who chose not to wire up some gear, there was adequate time for socializing, something we missed during the summer. A period of low-key camaraderie and some tall tales filled the evening.

But what does the future hold?

Well, our ever hard-working Blake, K1BTH, has been active recruiting some interesting speakers. See the article elsewhere about a different location for our October meeting, with some very interesting presentations. Our other committee members have been recruiting activities for you, too. Looking ahead, we have the BAA Half Marathon, Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) for those who care to participate, Skywarn Recognition Day, and more. That's about one fairly heavy radio activity per month, and that's not counting your own activity from your home or car. And don't forget the monthly breakfast in Watertown. You're always invited to the BARC business meeting. And the general meeting, too. Is there enough time to get on the air, what with all this? Of course there is!

But that's what we are doing from the front of the room. What about you? Tonight, as I write (late September), there is a contest on 220 MHz. Who is on from BARC? There are QRP contests every week and weekend on the HF bands, mostly on CW. You? And we have other contests slated for most weekends for the next several months. CQWW anybody? Sweeps? FYBO? Are there any contesters out there? (Whoops! As I edit, there is a contest on 432 MHz. CW, no less!)

Of course, winter means an end to temperature inversions ("liff") frequently experienced on VHF during summer mornings and evenings. This is the time when the lower HF bands begin to look attractive on 160, 80, and 40 for long haul DX at night. Say, how many of you who do NOT operate these frequencies would like to

listen in and get a taste of what's out there? We can do it! The club has a radio that can be set up for some casual listening before the meetings begin, if you are interested. Let any of the club officers know.

Remember, we are in Ham Radio for the radio and the contact with other like-minded people. There are so many facets of Ham Radio, it is hard to know where to jump in. But jump you must! We have a smorgasbord of radio events this year and you will want to take a few side dishes along with the main course!

October Meeting Is an Important Field Trip

-- Blake Haskell, K1BTH

The October BARC General meeting will be in a different location this month. We will meet at the Boston Emergency Management Agency (BEMA) Headquarters, 85 Bragdon Street (between Columbus Ave and Amory St), Boston. The meeting will be on October 21, beginning promptly at 7:00 pm.

As many of you know, BARC had the opportunity to support BEMA during the recent Democratic National Convention. We were very warmly received and it is hoped that a long-term working relationship will develop as a result of this recent deployment.

There will be two presentations at this meeting. First will be a representative of BEMA explaining BEMA and its role. A tour of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will also be provided.

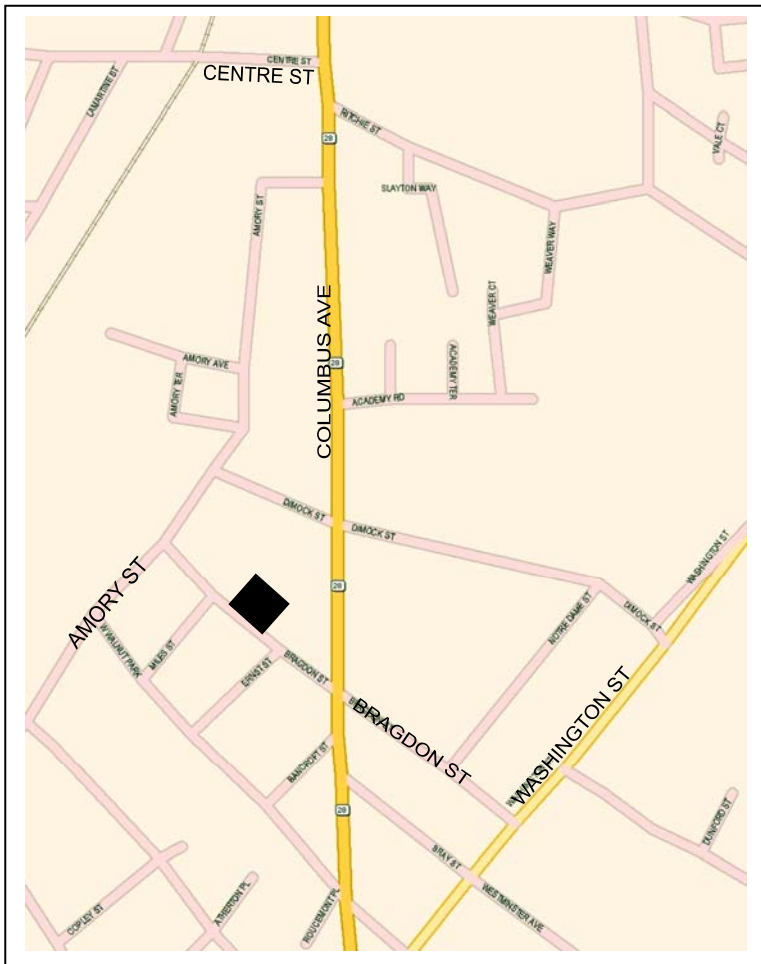
Second, Ms. Amy Zepecki, Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Coordinator, Boston EMS, will talk about her agency's role in emergency situations. BARC is seeking to develop a working relationship with the SNS and possibly provide Amateur Radio support during their deployments in the City of Boston.

There is ample parking in the lot immediately to the right of the building. There is nearby public transportation on the Orange Line to the Jackson Square station. If you need a ride from the nearest **T** stop, call on the 145.230 repeater and we will arrange to have someone pick you up. Since the meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 pm, please plan to be at the **T** station no later than 6:45 pm. A local map is shown on the next page.

If you have an idea for a speaker or presentation, please feel free to send them to me. You can reach me at k1bth@arrl.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.

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

Simplex: 147.42



Map to Boston Emergency Operating Center

I See the Future

17 Oct	MIT Flea
21 Oct	BARC General Meeting
4 Nov	BARC Business Meeting
5 Nov	HCRA Auction (Feeding Hills)
7 Nov	Framingham ARA Flea (Framingham)
8 Nov	BARC VE Session
13 Nov	Falmouth ARA Flea (E Falmouth)
14 Nov	BARC Breakfast
18 Nov	BARC General Meeting
22 Jan	NE Antique RC Flea (Nashua NH)

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.

First BARC Writing Contest! - The Ham Radio Elevator Speech

-- Sponsored by Eric Falkof, K1NUN (k1nun@netscape.net)

What is an elevator speech, never mind the contest?

Suppose you are holding your HT in hand while going down an elevator, and someone gets in and sees you and it. They say, "What's that?"

Do you get flustered and say you're not authorized to give out that kind of information, or do you say it is a Ham radio.

Suppose you say it is a Ham radio, and they say, "What's that?"

Remember, you're in an elevator. You have about 30 seconds until touchdown and the doors open and the inquisitive one will leave with a newfound respect and admiration for Ham Radio - or a confirmation that Hams are strange dudes.

The speech you deliver on that elevator, when you have the sole attention of your listener will determine their impression and memory forever. This is an elevator speech. You can keep this "in your pocket" to deliver any time someone says, "Ham Radio? What's that?" It's not too long, not too short. Just right. If they want to know more, you've accomplished your purpose.

So that's an elevator speech. Now, what's the contest shtick?

Some of us talk. Some of us talk a lot. Some talk a little. This is a writing contest for those who wish they could have said something profound while in that elevator. Remember, the elevator ride is about 30 seconds long, during which an average person might speak about 100 to 150 words.

Write a short elevator speech that someone might say in response to the question: "Ham Radio? What's that?"

Is that all? Who is going to judge this?

You will. The BARC membership, that is. We want to have the speeches published in the December *The SPARC* so all can read them and vote at the December Holiday Party.

But I can't write.

Oh, pshaw, folderol, and twaddle. Just put down what you think. There is no judging on spelling or grammar. These can be fixed real easy so your best face is put forward.

And to whom do I give them?

Submissions must be made by November 25 to ensure they are received on time to be included. You can submit them to me. If you wish, I will guarantee your anonymity; just tell me. Send it to me by email, radiogram, hard copy, any old way is fine. (I can arrange for FAX, if you choose, but not carrier pigeon.)

Yeah, and what do I get for a prize, huh?

For those materialistic enough to want a prize, there will be at least two prizes. Unless I obtain something better, for the winner who turns a good word, I have a new electric screwdriver. (Well, not totally new, but it is in an unopened box.) Second place

winner who sheds new light gets a similarly new flashlight/radio/compass (batteries not included).

Hey! Not too shabby! Can you say that all again, real simple like?

Sure. Write an elevator speech of up to about 150 words that would tell a stranger what Ham Radio is. Send it to Eric by November 25 so it can be printed in *The SPARC*. (**k1nun@netscape.net**) (use MS Word or plain text) Votes will be held at the BARC Holiday Party in December, and the winners get prizes to take home.

Ladies and Gentlemen, sharpen your pencils!

Did You Get Ice Cream On Your Shirt?

Bob Salow, WA1IDA

On Saturday, 18 September, it dawned cold and rainy, and went down hill from there. Thirteen hardy hams braved the remnants of Hurricane Ivan to support the "rain or shine, and no rain date" annual WGBH Ice Cream FunFest. Unlike recent years, visitor attendance was way down, but we hams were ready to manage communications for parking, crowd safety and staff coordination.

As expected, there was plenty of ice cream - to be eaten while rain filled your cup. Of course, if you got ice cream on your shirt, you were still doing a worthwhile public service.

For the BARC participation in Ham Radio Public Awareness Day (an ARRL sponsored national program), we had a booth to meet and greet the visitors. Even in the depleted crowd, several people, including kids, stopped by with interest in ham radio. With an oscillator and a Morse chart, we awarded a certificate to kids who could send their name.

Here are the hams who had unlimited access to the eleven ice cream vendors:

Arthur	N1NHZ
Rowe	K1HRA
Hank	K1QK
Andy	KB1IPW
Allan	K1VQ
Eric	K1NUN
Ed	KA1SAX
Dave	KB1KMA
Blake	K1BTH
Sam	N1QGF
Stu	K3KLQ
Bob	WA1IDA
Sandy	KB1HAD

We received a message of thanks from WGBH:

I would like to extend a special thanks to all of the volunteers who were involved with the Ice Cream FunFest this past Saturday. Over 300 volunteers helped scoop ice cream, participated with kid's activities, costume characters, premium sales, bus greeting and parking areas. The rain did not keep the smiles away from over 1,300 attendees of this year's FunFest. Thank you all for your dedication to WGBH and for making this

year's FunFest possible. We owe a large part of the FunFest's success to you!

Sincerely,
Liz Hagyard, WGBH Volunteer Coordinator

BARC General Meetings

While the next General meeting of the Boston Amateur Radio Club will be on Thursday, October 21, 2004 at a location detailed in an article above, our General meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of each month at the Salvation Army, 147 Columbus Ave, at the corner of Berkeley St in the third floor auditorium.

The meetings at the Salvation Army are convenient to public transportation. The nearest **T** stations are Back Bay on the Orange and Purple lines (exit at the rear of the station and walk down Columbus), and Copley or Arlington (use the Berkeley St exit) stations on the Green line.

Free parking is available in the lot adjacent to the Salvation Army building. The entrance to the lot is from Columbus Ave (across the street from the firehouse). A map appears on page 7 of this newsletter.

If you arrive after 7:15 pm, ring the bell at the door to be admitted, as the door is locked at that time.

Future General Meeting Dates

(Third Thursdays at 7:00 pm)

21 October 2004 (**Note location change for this meeting only**)
18 November 2004
16 December 2004 (**Holiday Party**)
20 January 2005
17 February 2005
17 March 2005

EMA To Get New Section Manager

Mike Neilsen, W1MPN, will take over on January 1 as ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager. He will succeed current SM Phil Temples, K9HI, who decided not to run for another term. Neilsen, who lives in Hudson, has served as Eastern Massachusetts Section Emergency Coordinator for three years. He was the sole nominee for the position.

Orange Caps for Emergency and Public Service Events

BARC has a supply of the bright orange caps for use at emergency or public service events. They are adjustable to fit all but the very largest heads, and proclaim, "Emergency Communications."

The price is \$5.00, and they are available at club meetings, or contact Dick, KA1TUZ or Bob, WA1IDA.

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

Simplex: 147.42

Minutes of the Boston Amateur Radio Club Business Meeting

October 7, 2004

Recorded by Paul Olivieri, N1ZKR, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 1830 hours

Those attending:

Mike Ardai	N1IST	
Arthur Ashley	N1NHZ	Membership Services
Hank Buccigross	K1QK	
Eric Falkoff	K1NUN	President
Joe Harris	KB1IXK	
Blake Haskell	K1BTH	Vice President
Dan Malloy	KA1RDZ	
Paul Olivieri	N1ZKR	Secretary
Bob Salow	WA1IDA	Public Service
Joe Scully	K1SQT	

Mike Ardai will purchase the books to be donated to the Parlin Library (as voted on at the last meeting.) We will try to get coverage in the local newspaper and possibly local dignitary attendance at a ceremony when the books are actually given to the library.

Because of a procedure change at ARRL, Bob Salow will be assigned as the Club contact with ARRL so he can get the listings of new hams and new League members in this area to be sent to him for inclusion in the mailing and contact lists.

The October General meeting on Thursday October 21 will be held at Boston Emergency Management instead of at the Salvation Army building.

Mike Ardai will investigate the possibility of internet linking the 447.175 MHz repeater.

The BARC-List may become a moderated list to make it easier to block spam. A set of guidelines will be developed and published regarding the use of BARC-List.

A motion was passed for Blake to try to make reservations for the Holiday Party to be held at the Dockside Restaurant in Malden. If he is successful, the party will be held there on Thursday, December 16, 2004 at a cost of \$20 per person. Information about the Holiday Party will be published in the November *The SPARC*.

The search continues for alternate meeting locations.

The meeting adjourned at 2043 hours.

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, November 4 (First Thursday of the month), starting at 6:30 pm. We meet at the Parlin 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 Thursdays at 6:30 pm)

4 November 2004

2 December 2004

6 January 2005

3 February 2005

3 March 2005

7 April 2005

BARC VE Session

The Boston Amateur Radio Club holds its monthly VE session on the second Monday of each month. Sessions are held at 7:00 pm at the Pierce School, 50 School St in Brookline, Room 110, next to the cafeteria. Future exam dates are listed below. A map is shown on page 7 of this newsletter.

If the Brookline public schools (or the Pierce School itself) is closed due to inclement weather or other problems, the exam session for that month will be cancelled. Otherwise, the exams will be on the second Monday of each month.

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: 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 145.230 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, N1IST, 781.321.7939 n1ist@arrl.net

Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ, 617.969.4880 ka1tuz@arrl.net

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Future Exam Dates

(Second Mondays at 7:00 pm)

8 November 2004
13 December 2004
10 January 2005
14 February 2005
14 March 2005
11 April 2005

If Brookline schools are closed, the VE exams will be canceled.

Hunting all VEs

Mike Ardai NIIST

We are looking for VEs to help out with the BARC VE sessions. Most of the time we have at least the required 3 for them, but sometimes we may need some more, especially if one of the regulars can't make it. If you are an ARRL-accredited VE, please drop a note to Dick, KA1TUZ (ka1tuz@arrrl.net) and let him know when you might be available to help out.

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.

Chuck Counselman III W1HIS

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.

BARC Monthly Breakfast

BARC holds a social breakfast on the second Sunday of each month; the next is November 14. We meet at the Old Country Buffet at the Watertown Mall at 8:30 am.

We just get together, socialize and eat, without any formal club events or business. Family and friends are welcome. The extensive buffet breakfast is *very* good. The cost is reasonable at \$7.23; less for seniors. If you are not a BARC member, you 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. There is plenty of parking. From Memorial Dr, continue on Greenough Blvd to the Watertown exit, turn right on Arsenal St. 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 – and bring your appetite!

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@pvtronics.com or 617.232.6982; or Bob Salow at walida@arrrl.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.

Federal Employees Can Donate To ARRL Through Combined Federal Campaign

-- ARRL Letter, October 1, 2004

Employees of the US government can designate their Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) pledges to the ARRL. (The League is CFC No 9872.) Federal employees who participate in the CFC can donate all or part of their CFC contribution to the League to support ARRL's efforts on behalf of Amateur Radio. Some private-sector employers also match donations their employees make to ARRL, while others will donate to the League if you volunteer your time - as an Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteer, for example.

ARRL is a qualifying §501(c)(3) organization, and contributions may be tax deductible for both employer and employee.

To learn how to donate to various ARRL funds, visit the Support Amateur Radio and ARRL Web page www.arrrl.org/development/#top. For additional information, contact ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, mhobart@arrrl.org, 860.594.0397; fax 860.594.0259.

PowerPoles Revisited

-- Eric Falkof, K1NUN

Anderson ® PowerPole® connectors are a powerful (ouch!) adjunct to our accessories. They allow a rapidly interchangeable power connector to mate with various devices without regard to the male-female matching and they offer high reliability at home and in the field. The Boston Amateur Radio Club has acquired a special tool to use with these connectors, and we have sufficient connectors to allow each member to have and install two pair free, as a membership benefit. Additional connector pairs can be purchased for only \$1/pair.

Our September General meeting presented a workshop in which members could install the connectors to their radios and cables. Take a look -

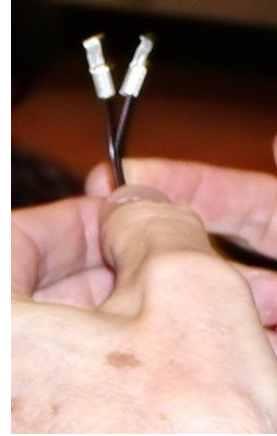
The first picture shows how easy it is. Simple visual aids provide guidance of how the finished product should look.



First, you strip the wires (3/8 inch)



Then, you put the little contact pins on the wire:



And then you crimp them tight. The tool makes it simple, consistent and strong. (Those are my hands!)



You insert the crimped contacts into their shells and, as they say, "Voila!"



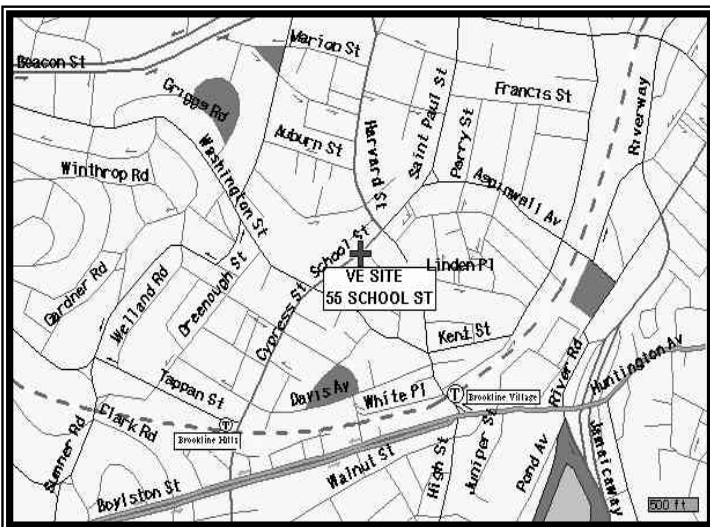
Tools and connectors will be available at each meeting for installation, instruction, and assistance.

Many thanks to Bill Ricker, N1VUX, for these fine, professional grade photos and images.

(Anderson and PowerPole are registered trademarks of the Anderson Power Corporation.)



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	Eric Falkof, K1NUN	508.358.4554	k1nun@netscape.net
Vice President:	Blake Haskell, K1BTH	781.925.9900	k1bth@arrl.net
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Volunteer Exams	Mike Ar dai, 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
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Newsletter Editor	Paul Carter, N1TMF	617.232.6982	n1tmf@pvctronics.com
Programs & Activities	Blake Haskell, K1BTH	781.925.9900	k1bth@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 5:30 pm	Eastern Mass/Rhode Island Phone Net (NTS)	3.915
daily 7 and 10 pm	Eastern Mass/Rhode Island CW Net (NTS)	3.658
daily 8 pm	Eastern Mass 2M Traffic Net (NTS)	145.230 (PL 88.5)
daily 8 pm	Slow Speed CW Net	28.160
daily 10:30 pm	Heavy Hitters Traffic Net (NTS)	146.640
Mon 9 pm	BARC Club Net	145.230 (PL 88.5)
Tue 8 pm	MMRA Club Net	146.610 and all MMRA links
Tue 9 pm	EMA Public Safety Net	145.230 (PL 88.5)
Tue 9 pm	NETARC Satellite Net WIME, NCS	446.575 (PL 88.5)
Wed 8 pm	Wellesley Amateur Radio Society Net	147.030
Wed 9 pm	HHTN Swap Net	146.640
Thu 8:30 pm	Amsat Net N1OHJ, NCS	146.640
Fri 9 pm	SWAT Net and Net Control 101	145.230 (PL 88.5)
Sat 9 am	Northeast SATERN Net	7.265
Sun 9:30 am	Yankee SSB Net (6M)	50.275
Sun 7 pm	Youth Net	146.610 and all MMRA links
Sun 7 pm	Algonquin Amateur Radio Club Net	53.470 (PL 100.0/71.9), 223.860 (PL 241.8), 446.675 (PL 88.5)
Sun 8:30 pm	NSRA Net (with Newsline)	145.470
4th Sundays 9:30 pm	EMA Section ARES Net	146.610 and all MMRA links

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

Simplex: 147.42

THE OCTOBER MEETING LOCATION IS CHANGED, BUT THE SUBJECT IS EXCITING

The Boston Emergency Management Agency has invited us into their Emergency Operations Center to see what they have and learn what they do. We will also hear from the head of a special project and possibly determine the role of ham radio support.

The next General Meeting is:
21 October 2004 at 7:00 pm
at the Boston EOC
85 Bragdon Street (between Amory St. and Columbus Ave.)
Boston
(parking in the adjacent lot)
Talk-in on 145.230 MHz (PL 88.5 Hz)

Help eradicate blank space!

Get your news, views, stories and other contributions for the next issue of *The SPARC* to Editor, Paul Carter, N1TMF, by November 6, 2004.

First CLASS Mail
Dated Material - Do Not Delay

Boston Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 15585
Boston MA 02215-0011
0410
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Forwarding Service Requested