



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

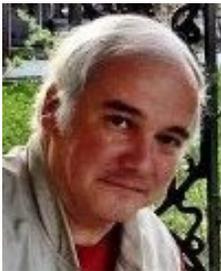
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

January 2019 - VOLUME 31, NUMBER 1

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the Editor – Joe Chapman, NV1W



This will be a short edition of The SPARC thanks to a lack of material and a lack of time on my part over the past few weeks.

As I write this we are looking forward to the Holiday Party on the thirteenth and a calm few months as far as BARC meetings are concerned. I've recently signed up to volunteer at this year's Boston Marathon, so the spring public service season is approaching and there are some contests on the way.

In the past year, BARC had a very successful Field Day, with more QSOs than anyone can remember in recent years. SKYWARN Recognition Day wasn't as jam-packed as it had been in 2017 and propagation wasn't great, but a fun time was still had by all. We gained nine new members. In June, the club began operating "headless" due to a lack of interest in the position of President. We also voted to merge the quarterly Business Meetings with General Meetings and skip the February meeting to reduce the commuting burden for those who have to travel some distance to get to Brookline. In public service, the club successfully served several events, and many will remember the constant downpour and chilly temperatures on Marathon Monday.

In the shack, propagation continues to be a challenge, though several of our members still managed to snag rarer DX than I did. The FT8 digital mode, introduced in the middle of 2017, began to take off. Palm Radio, manufacturers of neat portable CW keys and paddles, closed down. I finally got QRP CW WAC on the wall, but the two states I need for QRP CW WAS remained elusive. This year for sure!

Happy operating and 73!

In this Issue of The SPARC

- David Caswell, AD7VT (SK)
- New members
- Meeting schedule for 2019
- Upcoming events



No General Meetings in January and February

There will be no BARC General Meetings in January or February; the next meeting will be Thursday, March 21st at 7:30 p.m. at a location still to be confirmed.

Repeaters: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5 in/100.0 out

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BARC's Online Discussion Group – Joe Harris, N1QD



BARC has an online forum at Yahoo groups. The Yahoo group serves as a sounding board for members to post their suggestions and comments, and is intended to foster discussion. The group can also be used to share photographs from club events! Come visit us at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/bostonARC>.

David Caswell, AD7VT (SK) – Joe Chapman, NV1W

I've recently learned of the death of one of my Elmers, David Caswell AD7VT of Billings, Montana. Dave was a student at MIT with me in the 1970's and worked for many years in the Boston area; although he wasn't a member of BARC some older local hams may remember him.

The MIT seal features two guys in vaguely medieval garb, one with a hammer resting on an anvil and the other with a book; they're popularly known as "the hacker and the nerd". Dave definitely lived on the hacker side. His advice on taking the Technician exam was practical: if one of the answers was a lot longer than the other and sounded like it was lifted straight from Part 97, it was probably the right one. (Example: What is a beverage antenna? (a) An antenna made from a Coke can, (b) An antenna painted brown, (c) A variant of the Yagi, (d) A long-wire antenna mainly used in the low frequency and medium frequency bands, invented by Harold Beverage in 1921, sometimes used in the amateur service as a receiving antenna and subject to the restrictions set forth in FCC rules §97.15 as amended.)

After I got my ticket Dave continued to be a great help, advising me on converting a Motorola police HT to use on the MIT UHF repeater, where to go to get a newfangled device (!) called "PL", and helping me construct a comical but functional trickle charger. I appreciated his generous heart, good humor and the gleeful way he approached herding electrons. He was also an accomplished photographer.

I always meant to get back in touch, though I don't think he did much HF in recent years. Hail and farewell, Dave.

20 Years Ago in *The SPARC* – Joe Chapman, NV1W

In the January, 1999, issue of *The SPARC*, the January meeting featured Burt Eldridge, W1ZS from the ARRL's W1 QSL Bureau describing how the bureau works — Mike, N1IST, provided a recap of the year's activities — The 145.230 repeater had much work on it, including a new duplexer — An emergency communications workshop was offered in Marlborough — BARC was looking for a Field Day coordinator — Newton formed a "ham team" to assist the city during disasters and with other public needs — *And elsewhere, the Euro was introduced.*

New Members – Joe Chapman, NV1W

Welcome to Joshua Cavallini of Braintree; Richard Downey, KC1GME, of Allston; and Jeffrey Fowler, KA1TMA, of Melrose. Welcome also to Thomas Celuzza, N1TJC, of Sturbridge. Tom is from a ham family including his uncle, longtime BARC member John Connors, KA1BUF.

BARC Meeting Calendar for 2019

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

General Meetings (* Business/General Meetings)

March 21*	2019	Thu	7:30 pm (location to be confirmed)
April 18	2019	Thu	7:30 pm (location to be confirmed)

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May 15	2019	Wed	7:30 pm (note change from 3 rd Thursday)
June 20*	2019	Thu	7:30 pm — Elections
September 19*	2019	Thu	7:30 pm
October 17	2019	Thu	7:30 pm
November 21*	2019	Thu	7:30 pm

VE Sessions

April 8	2019	Mon	7:30 pm
July 8	2019	Mon	7:30 pm
October 14	2019	Mon	7:30 pm

New Business/General Meetings – Bob Salow, WA1IDA, and Joe Chapman, NV1W

The Bylaws require that BARC hold four Business meetings per year. In an attempt to streamline our meeting schedule, BARC Business meetings will now be held concurrently with the General meetings in March, June, September, and November. We will attempt to keep the business portion of these combined Business/General meetings to a half hour. The next such combined meeting will be on **March 21, 2019** at a location that is still to be confirmed. All members are urged to attend and participate in club affairs. This is where club functions are discussed and decided, and your help is needed to guide us.

To provide continuity of club business between meetings we also have a virtual business meeting via an email list. Any member interested in the affairs of the club can ask to be on this virtual meeting list—just give your name, call and your email address to Secretary Joe Chapman, NV1W.

BARC Net Preamble

The control operator for the BARC Net is Joe, W1JJF. He rarely misses a net, but when he does any ham can take up the position and run the net. To assist you in opening and closing the net The BARC Net Preamble is printed below. Do not be afraid to step up and take the challenge.

Is there any further business for the repeater before we begin the Boston Amateur Radio Club Net? This is «YOUR CALL». Calling the Boston Amateur Radio Club Net. This is «YOUR CALL», my name is «YOUR NAME» and I am located in «YOUR TOWN». This net meets each Monday evening at 9 pm Eastern Time on the 145.230 Boston repeater, PL 88.5. This net is an informal round table discussion concerning matters of interest to the members of the Boston Amateur Radio Club and the Boston Amateur Radio community in general. When checking into the net, please say, “this is” and drop your carrier to check on doubling. Then give your call sign, name and location. All amateurs are welcome to join the net. Any check-in’s for the Boston Amateur Radio Club Net please call now.

[Compile the list of the check-ins and proceed with the net.]

Is there any further business for the net before I close? Hearing nothing, this is «YOUR CALL» closing tonight’s session of the Boston Amateur Radio Club Net. I would like to thank everyone who participated in the net and those who stood by while I ran the net. The Boston Amateur Radio Club Net will return next Monday evening at 9 pm Eastern Time. This is «YOUR CALL» returning the repeater to general amateur use. 73.

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I See the Future

19 January	Whitman Amateur Radio Club Winter Fest, Whitman
19–20 January	North American QSO Party, SSB
19–21 January	ARRL January VHF Contest
26–27 January	Winter Field Day
31 January	End of the discount for 2019 membership renewals
9 February	Deadline for articles for the February SPARC
11–15 February	ARRL School Club Roundup
16–17 February	ARRL International DX Context — CW

▲ *Note change from usual date and/or location*

As you might expect, there are many more events (public service, hamfests, flea markets, etc.) taking place—some only peripheral to ham radio. For information on these, covering much of the Northeast, the “Ham - Electronic Flea Market” and the “PSLIST” lists tell the story. Of course, if you know of an event that would be of interest to the readers, please let the Editor know.

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

Businesses Can Advertise Here

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

The rates for display advertising are:

1 col × 2 in. (business card)	\$15 per issue
1 col × 2 in. (business card)	\$75 per 6 consecutive months
1 col × 2 in. (business card)	\$125 per 12 consecutive months
1 col × 4 in. (½ column)	\$30 per issue
1 col × 9.5 in. (full column)	\$60 per issue

Originals of ads must be presented to the Editor in MS Word or .jpg format to print 1:1. Other composition will be at extra cost. We will be glad to quote other ad sizes and durations. Members are urged to seek prospective advertisers who are appropriate to our readers. For additional information, contact Joe Chapman, NV1W, at 617.267.6349 or nv1w@arrl.net.

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

We are always looking for articles for the newsletter. I have reserved this space for your articles, reviews, tips, how-tos, hints, kinks, photos, schematics, or other ham related information. Photos of you operating or your shack are especially welcome. Send your submissions to the Editor, Joe, NV1W, at nv1w@arrl.net. Articles for the February issue must be received by February 9.

Are you a depressed BARC member because you have a treasure you must turn to cash? Cheer up, Bunky! The SPARC will run your (non-business) ad for free. Of course, a 10% donation if you sell it will be cheerfully accepted. Just send your ad to Joe Chapman, NV1W, nv1w@arrl.net.

BARC Volunteer Exam Sessions

The Boston Amateur Radio Club offers license exams quarterly. **The next exam session will be on Monday, April 8, 2019.** Test sessions are held at Brookline Police Headquarters, 350 Washington St. in the Community Room (across from the information desk).

We give all exams (Technician, General, and Extra). *Testing is by reservation only.* Please bring the following with you:

- Your current license and a photocopy for the ARRL, if you are upgrading
- Any CSCEs you are claiming, and a photocopy of them
- Valid picture ID or two valid non-picture IDs
- A pen and a calculator (if you want to)
- **\$15.00** (good for all the tests you take at that session, except for retests)

Note: Written tests can be taken sequentially at the same session for the same \$15 fee. The needed FCC forms will be provided.

To reserve a seat or for further information, contact: Jim Clogher, N1ICN, n1icn@arrl.net, or Linda Blair, NA1I, na1i@arrl.net.



NEW ENGLAND SCI-TECH

New England Sci-Tech Inc is a new 501(c)(3) STEM education center, amateur radio training center, and maker space located at 16 Tech Circle, Natick. It is home to New England Amateur Radio Inc (NE1AR) and the youth radio club Sci-Tech Amateur Radio Society (STARS). NE Sci-Tech welcomes memberships and donations via www.NESciTech.org or www.NE1AR.org.



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BARC Officers and Staff

President: *(position vacant)*

Vice President: Mark Duff, KB1EKN
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Treasurer: Jim Clogher, N1ICN,
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Linda Blair, NA1I, na1i@arrl.net

Public Service Coordinator: Brett Smith, AB1RL
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Membership Services: Linda Blair, NA1I
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Newsletter Editor: Joe Chapman, NV1W
617.267.6349; nv1w@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 club, and is a member of the Council of Eastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Clubs (CEMARC) and the New England Spectrum Management Council (NESMC). The Club is also an associate member of the Courage HandiHams system.

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Greater Boston Net Directory

Daily 7 pm	MARI (Mass/Rhode Island CW Net) (NTS)	3.565
Daily 8 pm	Eastern Mass 2M Traffic Net (NTS)	145.230 (PL 88.5 in/100.0 out)
Daily 8 pm	Slow Speed CW Net	28.160
First Mon 8:30 pm	EMA Section ARES Net	146.610 and all MMRA links
Mon 8 pm	New England DMR Net	DMR New England Talk Group (TG 3181)
Mon 9 pm	BARC Club Net	145.230 (PL 88.5 in/100.0 out)
Sun Mon Wed Fri 10 pm	Heavy Hitters Traffic Net (NTS)	MMRA-linked repeaters: 146.610, 146.670, 146.715, 146.820, and all 222 and 440 repeaters
Tue Thu Sat 6 pm	MA RI Phone Net (NTS)	3.978
Tue 7:30 pm	Clay Center ARC Net	446.325 (PL 146.2)
Tue 8 pm	MMRA Club Net	146.610 and all MMRA links
Wed 8 pm	Wellesley Amateur Radio Society Net	147.030; 444.600 (PL 88.5)
Wed 9 pm	Waltham Wranglers Swap Net	146.640 (PL 136.5)
Sat 9 am	Northeast SATERN Net	7.265
Sun 9:30 am	Yankee SSB Net	50.275
Sun 8 pm	Algonquin Amateur Radio Club Net	446.675 (PL 88.5)
Sun 8:30 pm	NSRA Net (with Newsline)	145.470 (PL 136.5)
Sun 9 pm	CAARAnet	145.130 (PL 107.2)

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