



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

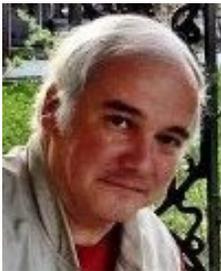
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

February 2019 - VOLUME 31, NUMBER 2

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the Editor – Joe Chapman, NV1W



Thanks to everyone who has already renewed his or her membership for 2019, and extra thanks to those who contributed to the club's repeater fund. Although the repeaters are currently in good shape, things happen (especially in the winter) and it's good to have funds to draw in should we need them.

The period for discounted renewals ended on January 31; the grace period for renewals for 2019 extends through March. As always, you can renew by sending a check through the mail or on the website using PayPal.

At the Holiday Party, Joe, N1QD, shared an interesting piece of information about the club's DMR repeater. While it isn't the most-used machine in the NEDECN network, it is the winner in the category of most unique callsigns served in a typical month. So it's proving to be a valuable resource for people who work in Boston, and for travelers coming through the city.

The winter lull continues through the month of February, and even the contest calendar seems a little sparse. Meetings will start up again in March, and the spring public service season won't be far behind.

Happy operating and 73!

In this Issue of The SPARC

- 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>.

My Radio is Bigger than Your Radio – Harris Pitnof, WA1GXC

Pretty obnoxious, huh? Over the last month of getting on the air on HF, I have descended into mild grumpitude over just where Ham Radio is today. Why is that? We had an articulate speaker several months ago at the club addressing issues of new ham membership. This crisis-in-the-making (and it's real) has been a long time coming. Why don't more technically-minded people, both young and old, find themselves attracted to our pursuit? Because we collectively have made it boring. Because we *are* boring. "Rig here is a TSFT-9000DX-Plus. 100 Watts to a SteppIR Vertical" I could have told you that before you keyed the mike (or smashed your key). "Age here is 89 years old and been a Ham for 58 years." Totally fascinating.

Radio communication, not just ham radio 2-way communication, is inherently fun and amazing. Do you remember the nervousness, apprehension and thrill of linking up with someone through the magic of radio the first 10 times? Endeavor to do this for yourself, and in the process, you'll be helping the hobby to thrive. Buy a technical book, learn something new, do something new. If you're a HF operator, try out 6 meter simplex—it's a blast. If you operate on VHF, go on the Short Waves (HF) and try your hand at DXing. If you operate voice-only, consider the hard but rewarding work of learning CW. Don't buy your next antenna—make it yourself, and replace your commercial unit with what you crafted by hand. It will probably radiate lousy on the first attempt, but it'll still be more fun than getting a coil of wire in a box from Starkville, Mississippi. Go QRP—dial down your transmitter or better yet, put together one of the many semi-kits available for HF SSB and CW. Dammit, do something!

I'm sorry to offend, but your stuff all looks the same, sounds the same, is not repairable even by professional technicians at factory labs. Build something simple and take pleasure in it. Recapture our legacy.

The science of radio astronomy, the usefulness of short-waves for world-wide radio communication, radio engineering that allowed the Allied victory of WW II, the digital techniques for inter-planetary space vehicle telemetry—all were invented and broadened by amateur radio operators who turned their hobby into professional pursuits. There's still fun to be had, but it requires some effort. The follow-up is completely up to you.

And note to myself, too: learn something new. You're a bore, H. P.

[Editor's note: the fact-checking department at The SPARC is unable to find convincing evidence that WA1GXC is boring.]

20 Years Ago in The SPARC – Joe Chapman, NV1W

In the February, 1999, issue of *The SPARC*, public service volunteers were solicited for the Boston Marathon and Multiple Sclerosis Walk — At MEMA's request the repeater was checked for year 2000 vulnerabilities — Meeting minutes were published, VE sessions announced, and new members welcomed — King Hussein, JY1 (SK) was remembered — The FCC's amateur radio enforcement officer, Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH, showed up on 75 meters to discuss enforcement — *And elsewhere, very much so this time, Pluto moved outside the orbit of Neptune.*

New Members – Joe Chapman, NV1W

Welcome to Kate Gilbert, KC1ILF, of Somerville and Chris Shustak, N1AUP, of Holden.

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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)
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 – 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

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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.

I See the Future

11–15 February	ARRL School Club Roundup
16 February	Algonquin Amateur Radio Fleamarket, Marlborough, MA
16–17 February	ARRL International DX Contest — CW
23–24 February	North American QSO Party, RTTY
2–3 March	ARRL International DX Contest — Phone
9 March	Deadline for articles for the March SPARC
10 March	North American Sprint, RTTY
21 March	BARC General Meeting, location to be announced, 7:30 pm
30–31 March	CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB
31 March	End of the grace period for 2019 membership renewals

▲ 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

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especially welcome. Send your submissions to the Editor, Joe, NV1W, at nv1w@arrl.net. Articles for the March issue must be received by March 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 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

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Newsletter Editor: Joe Chapman, NV1W
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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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