



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

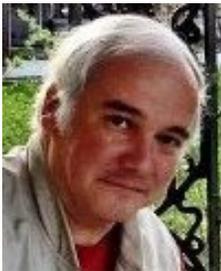
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

March 2019 - VOLUME 31, NUMBER 3

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the Editor – Joe Chapman, NV1W



While assembling this month's "20 Years Ago" column I learned that February, 1999, was BARC's tenth anniversary, which means this month we begin our thirty-first year. Twenty years ago we had 180 members and member numbers were at 500; today we're at about 80 and member numbers are just over 900. Given the general decline of membership organizations in the United States, this isn't terribly surprising.

At the same time, the club is in good shape financially, the repeaters are functioning, public service events are staffed, and our operating events are well attended. Membership renewals are good and we continue to attract new members. We're adapting to not having a President and to a less frequent meeting schedule. If only propagation were better!

You will note that there will be no General Meeting this month. We were unable to find a satisfactory venue and did not have a speaker lined up. We will still be somewhere other than Brookline Village for our April meeting, but it will take place. We're also in the process of lining up speakers for the rest of the spring.

As I write this the temperatures are finally starting to climb and the snow I had to traipse through on my roofdeck when setting up an antenna for the Idaho QSO Party last weekend has finally disappeared. It's still hard to imagine that the Boston Marathon is a little over a month away. Happy operating and 73!

In this Issue of The SPARC

- New members
- Meeting schedule for 2019
- April operating events
- Public service opportunities



No General Meeting in March

Due to difficulties finding an appropriate venue, there will be no BARC General Meeting in March. The next meeting will be Thursday, April 18th at 7:30 p.m. at a location still to be confirmed.

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

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

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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>.

April Operating Events – Harris Pitnof, WA1GXC

Two fun and low-key historic on-the-air events are coming up in April, both with historical connections to radio in Massachusetts.

The first is Maritime Radio Day (MRD) commemorating the legacy of shipboard and land-based marine communications of the last century. Every year, MRD is scheduled around the sinking of RMS Titanic. 2019's event runs from 1200Z April 14 to 2200Z April 15 (No, it's not a weekend). Operation is CW-only. More information along with operating frequencies are available at www.mrd.seefunker.eu. Sponsoring group is a German-based organization of professional maritime radio officers.

Saturday, April 27 (Friday night 0000Z thru Saturday evening 2359Z) is International Marconi Day, sponsored by a British amateur radio club in Cornwall, England. Operations are on both SSB and CW. Contacts with a number of Marconi-related locations nets you a nice certificate. Cape Cod is home to two of the Flagship I.M.D. stations, KM1CC in Eastham at Marconi Beach transmitting site and WA1WCC at Chatham Radio WCC, originally built by Marconi Wireless of America. Lots of info at the International Marconi Day website: www.gx4crc.com.

CW operators from novices to experts are welcomed to join in. Professional radio operators always reply to CW calls no faster than the speed of the sender.

Marconi station "SC" at Siasconset, Nantucket, while not controlling the Titanic radio traffic, did participate peripherally in the rescue; radio operator Matt Tierney on watch. Chatham Radio has long and storied prominence world-wide in marine communication. Visit WA1WCC at QRZ.com or www.wccara.com.

Good Hunting!

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

In the March, 1999, issue of *The SPARC*, President Ed Hennessy, N1PBA, talked about upcoming Y2K worries — Field Day planning began — Volunteers were solicited for the Multiple Sclerosis Walk and the Boston Marathon — Bob Salow, WA1IDA, noted that February had been BARC's tenth anniversary and reflected on the previous decade — BARC had 180 members — *And elsewhere, the Dow closed above 10,000 for the first time.*

Member News – Joe Chapman, NV1W

Welcome to Dick Lindzen, WO1I, of Newton; Garret Kelly, KC1LBA, of Somerville, and Jacob Mariam (not licensed yet) of Roslindale.

Note that the grace period for membership renewals for 2019 ends on March 31. Thank you to everyone who has renewed, and to all those who donated to the repeater fund as well.

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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)

April 18	2019	Thu	7:30 pm (<i>location to be confirmed</i>)
May 15	2019	Wed	7:30 pm (<i>note change from 3rd Thursday</i>)
June 20*	2019	Thu	7:30 pm — <i>Elections</i>
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 **June 20, 2019** at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline. 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, W1JJE. 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.]

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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.

Public Service Events in April – Brett Smith, AB1RL

Two public service events are coming up in April, in addition to the Boston Marathon, for which volunteer registration is already closed. If you have any questions about either event, contact Brett Smith, AB1RL, at ab1rl@brettsmith.org.

The annual *MS Walk Boston* raises funds for multiple sclerosis research and patient advocacy. The event uses amateur radio spotters to track participant progress and ensure their safety. This year's event features a streamlined, more accessible route. The MS Walk Boston is on Sunday, April 7. You'll check in at 8:00 AM and stay until the early afternoon. Lunch is available at the finish for volunteers.

To sign up, register online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/mswalkboston> and then mail Rick Savage, KB1LYJ, at rpsavage@comcast.net to let him know you're on the team.

The annual *Run of the Charles* is a fundraiser for the Charles River Watershed Association to support river cleanup and research efforts. This year the event will have completely new routes. The longest route is 14 miles and begins at the Newton Boathouse. All routes end at Artesani Park in Brighton. There are assignments available at various times throughout the morning into the mid-afternoon along the river between Newton and Brighton.

To sign up, contact Brett Smith, AB1RL, at ab1rl@brettsmith.org, providing your cell phone number, shirt size, and any time or location constraints on your volunteer availability.

Reviving the Boston College Club – Joe Chapman, NV1W

This is just in from the League: Some alumni, faculty, and staff of Boston College are in the process of trying to restart the Boston College Amateur Radio Club. They would appreciate hearing from current BC students and alumni who are interested in participating. Contact Jim Repetti, WJ1R, at wj1r@arrl.net.

FCC Job in Boston! – Joe Chapman, NV1W

The FCC is seeking to fill an opening for the position of Electronics Engineer (Field Agent) in Boston.

The Electronics Engineer (Field Agent) resolves interference, educates users, and enforces regulations. An in-depth knowledge of electronic engineering is required. A full range of skills relating to inspections and monitoring is necessary.

The job posting, including full details on how to apply, can be found at <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/525127900>. The deadline for applications is March 22.



I See the Future

30–31 March CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB
31 March End of the grace period for 2019 membership renewals

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6 April	Deadline for articles for the April SPARC
7 April	MS Walk (Rp)
8 April	BARC VE Session, Brookline Police Headquarters, Brookline, 7:30 pm
14 April	ARRL Rookie Roundup, Phone
15 April	Maritime Radio Day <i>(see article)</i>
15 April	Boston Marathon (Rp)
18 April	BARC General Meeting, location to be announced, 7:30 pm ▲
20 April	Lakes Region Repeater Association Flea and VE Session, Ossipee, NH
21 April	Flea at MIT, Cambridge
27 April	International Marconi Day <i>(see article)</i>
28 April	Run of the Charles (Rp)

▲ **Note change from usual date and/or location**
(Rp) = BARC Repeater likely to 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 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 April issue must be received by April 6.

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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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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
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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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