



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

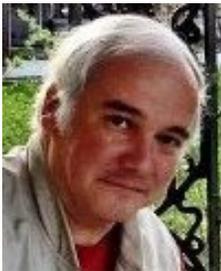
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

May 2019 - VOLUME 31, NUMBER 5

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the Editor – Joe Chapman, NV1W



Fun times at NV1W. I had abysmal luck last weekend in the New England QSO Party. Rick, N1DC, in Braintree, a contact I make reliably in almost every contest, failed to copy my signal on 20 meters on Saturday afternoon. Then on Saturday night 40 meters was hissing like a skillet of rattlesnakes. No luck running on Sunday afternoon despite being in a desirable county. Congratulations to George, W4BQK, who made about 50 Qs from Arlington on a tough weekend.

I had slightly better luck in the Seventh Call Area QSO Party, finally bagging Idaho, number 49 in my quest for QRP CW WAS. Alaska is all that remains.

I'm getting ready for the satellite contact at Field Day next month, which Greg, KC1CIC, and I will use as an early test for our planned ISS contact next year. This Spring I splurged on a portable Az/El rotor (that I've named "Nathaniel") that makes tracking a breeze.

Just this week I've empirically determined that if you connect the antenna to the transceiver reception is greatly enhanced. Important operating tip! Inspired by Atul Gawande's book The Checklist Manifesto I've started using more lists myself, so at least making dumb mistakes now is an opportunity to make fewer ones on Field Day.

Good health and good radio to all!

In this Issue of The SPARC

- Member news
- A chance to work the ISS
- Meetings and events



BARC General Meeting, Wednesday, May 15, 7:30 p.m.

The next BARC General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15th at 7:30 p.m. at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline Village. Directions can be found at <http://barc.org/directions-to-brookline-police-headquarters-brookline/>. We will have some preliminary conversations about plans for Field Day and some social time.

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The SPARC

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>.

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

In the May, 1999, issue of *The SPARC*, the upcoming Field Day was the topic of the month — Bob, WA1IDA, provided a recap of the Boston Marathon — A letter of thanks from the organizers of the MS Walk was printed — Mike Murphy, WB2UID, was to speak at the May meeting on VLF operations — The editor recounted a saga of getting a DSP module installed and running in his new ICOM 706 Mark II — New members were welcomed, including a guy named Mark Duff — *And elsewhere, the Space Shuttle Discovery performed the first docking with the International Space Station.*

Member News – Joe Chapman, NV1W

John Lee of Allston, who passed his Technician exam at BARC's April VE session as noted in last month's issue of *The SPARC*, is now KC1LHM.

Working the International Space Station – Joe Chapman, NV1W

BARC has received a query from the Ryan Seacrest Foundation asking whether we'd be interested in doing the radio side of a contact with the International Space Station from Children's Hospital in Boston under the ARISS (Amateur Radio on the ISS) program. The event would take place sometime in the first half of 2020.

We've assembled a core team and the Foundation will be submitting their application this month, but it would be great to involve more people. If you're interested in participating, please contact Joe Chapman, NV1W, at nv1w@arrl.net.

BARC Meeting Calendar for 2019

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

General Meetings (* Business/General Meetings)

| | | | |
|---------------|------|-----|---|
| 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

| | | | |
|------------|------|-----|---------|
| 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,

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The SPARC

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, 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.

I See the Future

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 15 May | BARC General Meeting, Brookline Police Headquarters, Brookline, 7:30 pm ▲ |
| 17–19 May | Hamvention, Dayton, OH |
| 19 May | Flea at MIT, Cambridge |
| 23 May | SKYWARN Training, Milford, MA, 7:00 pm |
| 25–26 May | CQ WW WPX Contest, CW |
| 8 June | Deadline for articles for the June SPARC |
| 8 June | SKYWARN Training, Salisbury, MA, 10:00 am |
| 8–10 June | ARRL June VHF Contest |
| 15 June | ARRL Kids Day |
| 16 June | Flea at MIT, Cambridge |
| 20 June | BARC General Meeting, Brookline Police Headquarters, Brookline, 7:30 pm |
| 22–23 June | Field Day, Bare Cove Fire Museum, Hingham |

▲ Note change from usual date and/or location
(Rp) = BARC Repeater likely to be used

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449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC

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>.

For Sale: Yaesu FT-736R – Joe Chapman, NV1W



For sale: a Yaesu FT-736R all-mode VHF/UHF base transceiver with full duplex/satellite capability in good operating condition. In addition to the stock 144 and 440 MHz modules it includes the optional FEX-736-220 module for 222 MHz and the somewhat rare FEX-736-1.2 module for 1.2 GHz. The optional FTS-8 (PL) tone module and the optional Keyer B module are also installed.

Accessories include a worn user’s manual (I have a pdf also if you want that), the MH-1B hand mic, and a power cord. In the interest of full disclosure the picture above is a stock photo but the one I have is in good cosmetic shape.

The AC power supply could probably use a new set of capacitors but the rig is in good working order. I hate to get rid of it but I am out of space in my shack. \$1000/\$950 for BARC members plus shipping as needed. Weight is probably around 25 lbs. Contact Joe Chapman, NV1W, at joechapman@alum.mit.edu.

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 June issue must be received by June 8.

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The SPARC

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, July 7, 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.



George, W4BQK's shack ready for the NEQP

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BARC Officers and Staff

President: (*position vacant*)

Vice President: Mark Duff, KB1EKN
781.749.7664; emgmt@comcast.net

Secretary: Joe Chapman, NV1W
617.267.6349; nv1w@arrl.net

Treasurer: Jim Clogher, N1ICN,
781.901.3545; n1icn@arrl.net

Volunteer Exams:

Jim Clogher, N1ICN, n1icn@arrl.net

Linda Blair, NA1I, na1i@arrl.net

Public Service Coordinator: Brett Smith, AB1RL
859.466.5915; ab1rl@arrl.net

Public Information Officer: Geri Duff, KB1ISG
781.749.7664; geriduff52@juno.com

Membership Services: Linda Blair, NA1I
617.500.4406; na1i@arrl.net

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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The SPARC

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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