



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

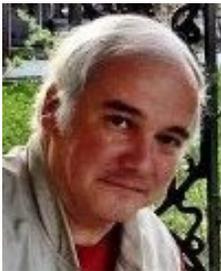
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

November 2019 - VOLUME 31, NUMBER 11

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the Editor – Joe Chapman, NV1W



I am told by friends in the know that the key to contesting success is B. I. C., or “butt in chair.” If you want to make points, you have to be sitting in front of your rig, and that’s good advice for most ham activities, not just contests. I have the good fortune to have a snazzy Aeron chair at my operating position, scored from a high-tech startup closing its office, but will-power proves most elusive at times.

Following the advice of VOACAP, I spent a few hours B. I. C. before sunrise in this year’s November Sweepstakes, which I wrote about last month. Dreaming of Alaska: boreal forests coated in fresh snow, lunches of salmon and pemmican, the Northern Lights, memories of an anxious experience involving a large bear about eight feet and one thin tent-wall away, and KL7, a needed state and DXCC entity. Nothing. Nada. Zilch..

I remember hiking on SKYWARN Recognition Day with W1RJF a few years back through a Hallmark Christmas Card trail of snow-coated pine trees, and maybe we’ll enjoy a similar taste of Alaska this year, even if I doubt we have much of a chance of putting it in the log ourselves. Or having to deal with bears. See you on Saturday. December 7!

73 and good radio!

In this Issue of The SPARC

- SKYWARN Recognition Day
- Meetings and Events
- W4BQK’s shack



BARC General Meeting, Thursday, November 21, 7:30 p.m.

The next BARC General Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Bookline Police Headquarters in Brookline. Directions can be found at <http://barc.org/directions-to-brookline-police-headquarters-brookline/>.

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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>.

BARC to Participate in SKYWARN Recognition Day 2019 – Mark Duff, KB1EKN

On December 7, 2019, and for the 17th consecutive year, BARC will once again participate in SKYWARN Recognition Day. SRD is a joint event supported by the ARRL and the National Weather Service where weather stations and weather buffs from across the country contact each other for fun and to promote the SKYWARN Program. Our station, WX1BHO, will be located at the summit of Great Blue Hill in Milton, MA. For several decades, hams have assisted the National Weather Service by providing real-time reports of severe weather and storm conditions. Although the NWS operates a network of 120 Doppler radars to track severe storms, at greater ranges weather radar has a difficult time sampling conditions close to the ground. The information radio operators located near a storm provide plays a key role in aiding forecasters.



Stations will exchange signal reports, location and a brief description of the current weather at their respective locations (“sunny,” “partly cloudy,” “windy,” etc.). BARC will be on the air from approximately 0900 to 1500 local time. The event itself is a great way in a low-key environment to make HF contacts and get your feet wet in the HF Spectrum. In past years we have endured all kinds of weather including warm and cold days, clear and cloudy days, and yes, even a blizzard.

Currently, we expect to be operating on 2, 20, and 40 meters. We may add other bands and modes including CW on 15 meters.

Access to the summit is gained by a 20 minute hike from the base of Great Blue Hill located on Route 138 next to the DCR Trailside Museum or (if you arrive early in the day) by car. Further information is available by contacting Mark Duff, KB1EKN, at emgmt@comcast.net. Joe Chapman, NV1W, will be unable to hike up this year, but will coordinate those who wish to walk up. Contact him at nv1w@arrl.net.

BARC Meeting Calendar for 2020

This month's General Meeting will be the last one of the year, and there are no remaining VE sessions. Watch this space for the 2020 meeting schedule.

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 **November 21, 2019** at Brookline Police

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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.

Member News – Joe Chapman, NV1W

We are happy to welcome Josiah Goodwin, AB1JG, of Brighton, and Steven Provost (no call yet) of Dorchester. We have several members who are not yet licensed, who should note that the club is happy to help people study for, take, and pass the Technician exam. Contact Joe Chapman, NV1W, at nv1w@arrl.net if you're interested.

And now for a treat: some photos from his MA shack from George Kehler, W4BQK. George writes: “Included is the table that I listened to my first SW broadcasts and later ham transmitting. It is cherry and built from cherry trees that were on my grandfather’s farm in Nashville. My mother inherited all this family furniture and I, in kind, have it. I had the side table made to fit a space in our house in TN so I brought it up too. So, I brought up the DX-160 and my first ham rig, a Swann 500CX transceiver. Please note the Radio Shack log and owners manual bought with rig in 1975, with my childish doodling... The Swan was refurbished by my Elmer seven years ago with new 6LQ6 tubes. I will never forget the day that my mom, dad, Mr May (K4SE) and I went to buy it. Weather was cool and the house reeked of smoke. The owner must have smoked 2 packs a day into it and the nicotine was caked into those tubes. My mother would not let it into the house for weeks, it had to “air out” on the front porch!! Please note Wouff Hong from 1938 ARRL convention Chicago. Bought at ARRL 100th anniversary in Hartford.”

[Note: there was space, so I included a picture from Prospect Hill that George sent earlier this fall. —NV1W]



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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.]

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

16–17 November	ARRL EME — 50 to 1296 MHz
16–18 November	ARRL November Sweepstakes, Phone
21 November	BARC General Meeting, Brookline Police Headquarters, Brookline, 7:30 pm
29 Nov–1 Dec	Plimoth Plantation Special Event, Whitman ARC
6–8 December	ARRL 160 Meter Contest
7 December	SKYWARN Recognition Day, Blue Hill Observatory, Milton
7 December	Deadline for articles for the December SPARC
14–15 December	ARRL 10 Meter Contest
22 December	ARRL Rookie Roundup, 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

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especially welcome. Send your submissions to the Editor, Joe, NV1W, at nv1w@arrl.net. Articles for the December issue must be received by December 7.

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 in early 2020.** 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*)

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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 New England Spectrum Management Council (NESMC). The Club is also an associate member of the Courage HandiHams system.

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A banner for Hands-Only CPR. It features a teal background with white and red text and graphics. On the left, it says "Hands-Only™ CPR" with the Ad Council logo. In the center, there are two circular icons: one with a red number '1' and a red smartphone, and another with a red number '2' and a pair of red hands. To the right of the first icon is the text "Call 911". To the right of the second icon is the text "Push hard and fast in the center of the chest." and "Learn more at handsonlycpr.org". On the far right is the American Heart Association logo with the tagline "Learn and Live".

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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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