



# The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

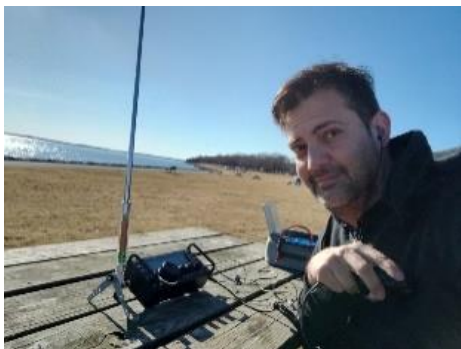
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club  
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

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[www.barc.org](http://www.barc.org) - [w1bos@arrl.net](mailto:w1bos@arrl.net)



## Message From the President – Brendan Baldonado, NW1S



*Happy Summer BARC! Field Day is literally around the corner and I want to thank Scott K1SU for all the hard work he and his committee have put into this year's Field Day planning. We couldn't do it with our you Scott! Something else around the corner is elections. I am running with Joe Harris N1QD, Joe Chapman NV1W, and Mark Duff KB1EKN again. I want to extend a large and heartfelt thank you to my fellow officers for all their support and help in my 4th year as President. They have been absolutely invaluable to me and to the club for many more years than I have been President. I thank you all very much. I look forward to a great turnout at Field Day and many more summer get togethers!*

## In this Issue of The SPARC

- Meet the Ham
- Field Day is This Month
- Upcoming Meetings and Events



## BARC General Meeting, Thursday, June 20, 7:30 pm

The next BARC General Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 7:30 pm, at Artisans Asylum in Allston and on the Zoom teleconferencing platform. As always, the meeting will be preceded with a half hour of social time beginning at 7:00

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

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 ( - ) DMR CC1

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### **Meet the Ham – Samir Parikh, K1SIP**



*This month, we are featuring Lars Kellogg-Stedman, N1LKS, in our latest installment of “Meet the Ham”. Lars is originally from Rochester, NY but currently lives in Belmont where he works as a software developer for Red Hat, focused on products related to cloud computing. He has been actively involved in a variety of open source projects including Git, Ansible and Docker. You can follow his exploits in software development, electronics and radio on his Github page and on his blog. If you’d like to be featured in a future column of “Meet the Ham”, or would like to see someone featured, please send an email to Samir, K1SIP, at [siparikh@gmail.com](mailto:siparikh@gmail.com).*

**The SPARC: What got you interested in amateur radio? How did you get started?**

N1LKS: It's something in which I've always had a passing interest, but when I was younger I didn't really have the disposable income or stable residence to pursue it as a hobby (and I didn't know anybody else who was interested). I can't remember what the specific motivation was, but a few years ago I took a look at what was required to get a technician's license and realized that I already knew all of that, so getting that initial license was a no-brainer.

**The SPARC: How are you involved in the hobby today?**

N1LKS: I lurk around several of the local nets and contribute to MMRA (the Minuteman Repeater Association; I think the relay network is a fantastic service we should all support), but talking to other hams about ham radio while on my radio is too meta-referential for me; I'm much more interested in the software side of ham radio -- digital modes, software defined radio, etc.

Some time last year I hopped into my time machine and started exploring the world of packet radio. My original goal was to set up a small Linux-based packet network using some Raspberry Pis I had hanging around, but that turned into a real rabbit hole: the Linux AX.25 stack is in bad shape (both the kernel and the user-facing components). It's been an adventure learning enough about Linux kernel development to start trying to fix some of the problems I encountered.

I'm hoping to get the kernel fixes upstream so that they can benefit everybody, and then I would like to start making some updates to the user space tools as well.

Dan Cross KZ2X has been real inspiration; he's running a variety of packet-accessible vintage operating systems.

**The SPARC: What is your current rig and antenna system that you use today?**

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N1LKS: My primary system is a Kenwood TM-V71A, connected to an Ed Fong antenna that sits on a painter's pole behind the house. I also have a pair of Yaesu FTM-6000 systems that I picked up last year at a good price; these are connected to some cheap HT antennas and are used for my local AX.25 testing. For connectivity between the Pis and the radios I'm using DigiRigs connected to Raspberry Pis.

**The SPARC: What's your favorite mode of operating?**

N1LKS: I'm particularly interested in digital modes. I'd love to see more local activity on this front.

**The SPARC: What are some things you would like to try that you have never done with amateur radio?**

N1LKS: I'm hoping to get my general license this year and dip my toes into the HF world.

**The SPARC: What advice would you give to new hams or members returning to the hobby?**

N1LKS: Don't be scared to start small and cheap. You can have fun with a \$25 HT.

**The SPARC: Thank you so much for taking the time to answer our questions and good luck in getting your General, Lars!**

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### **Field Day is This Month! – Joe Harris, N1QD**

BARC's 2024 edition of ARRL Field Day will be happening on the fourth full weekend of June. The club has signed the contract to rent the space at the Hale Reservation again, and planning is in full swing! It will be the primary topic of discussion at the club's June meeting.

Are you interested in participating? Got a new mode to try out? Want to try for some of the Bonus Points? Just looking to make some Qs and socialize with the club? Come to the next BARC meeting and get in on the discussion!

### **BARC's Online Discussion Group – Joe Harris, N1QD**

BARC has an online forum at Groups.io. The 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: <https://groups.io/g/BostonARC>. You can join, if you're not already there, by sending an email to [BostonARC+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:BostonARC+subscribe@groups.io).

### **New Course from HamRadioPrep – Joe Chapman, NV1W**

Our friends at HamRadioPrep have just announced a new course: *HF Masterclass*. Unlike their licensing courses, this one aims to lead someone with a General or an Amateur Extra license from the first steps of buying a radio and assembling a station through becoming a competent operator on the HF bands. You can read more about it at <https://hamradioprep.com/hf-masterclass/>.

As with all of HamRadioPrep's courses, you can use the coupon code **bostonarc** to receive a 20% discount. BARC also receives a commission for every sale that uses our coupon code, so you help the club as well.

### **BARC Meeting Calendar for 2024**

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings and VE sessions will take place at Artisans Asylum.

#### **General Meetings**

<del>April 18</del>	<del>2024</del>	<del>Thu</del>	<del>7:30 pm</del>
<del>May 16</del>	<del>2024</del>	<del>Thu</del>	<del>7:30 pm</del>
June 20	2024	Thu	7:30 pm
September 19	2024	Thu	7:30 pm
October 17	2024	Thu	7:30 pm
November 21	2024	Thu	7:30 pm
December 19	2024	Thu	7:30 pm

#### **VE Sessions**

July 8	2024	Mon	7:30 pm
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### **Member News – Joe Harris, N1QD**

This space is reserved for your news! Send it to N1QD at [n1qd@n1qd.org](mailto:n1qd@n1qd.org).

### **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**

<b>20 June</b>	<b>BARC General Meeting, Artisans Asylum, Allston, and Zoom, 7:30 pm</b>
<b>22-23 June</b>	<b>ARRL Field Day, Hale Reservation, Westwood</b>
1-7 July	13 Colonies Special Event
<b>8 July</b>	<b>BARC VE Session, Artisans Asylum</b>
13-14 July	IARU HF World Championship
20-21 July	North American QSO Party, RTTY
20-21 July	CQWW VHF Contest
21 July	Flea at MIT

**▲ Note change from usual date and/or location**  
**(Rp) = BARC Repeaters will be used for these events**

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>.

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### **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](mailto:nv1w@arrl.net).

### **Two Ways to See Yourself in Print! (well, PDF) – Joe Harris, N1QD**

We are always looking for articles for the newsletter. I have reserved this space for your articles, reviews, tips, how-tos, hints ‘n’ 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, N1QD, at [n1qd@n1qd.org](mailto:n1qd@n1qd.org). Articles for the July issue must be received by July 6.

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, N1QD, at [n1qd@n1qd.org](mailto:n1qd@n1qd.org).

### **BARC Volunteer Exam Sessions**

The Boston Amateur Radio Club offers license exams quarterly. The next session will be held on Monday, July 8, at 7:30 pm. Test sessions are held at Artisans Asylum, 96 Holton St., Boston, MA 02135.

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 CSEs 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](mailto:n1icn@arrl.net), or Joe Chapman, NV1W, [nv1w@arrl.net](mailto:nv1w@arrl.net).

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# **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](http://www.NESciTech.org) or [www.NE1AR.org](http://www.NE1AR.org).

## **BARC Officers and Staff**

President: Brendan Baldonado, NW1S

[brendan.baldonado@gmail.com](mailto:brendan.baldonado@gmail.com)

Vice President: Joe Harris, N1QD

[n1qd@n1qd.org](mailto:n1qd@n1qd.org)

Secretary: Joe Chapman, NV1W

[nv1w@arrl.net](mailto:nv1w@arrl.net)

Treasurer: Mark Duff, KB1EKN,

[emgmt@comcast.net](mailto:emgmt@comcast.net)

Newsletter Editor *locum tenens*: Joe Harris, N1QD

[n1qd@n1qd.org](mailto:n1qd@n1qd.org)

Volunteer Exams:

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Joe Chapman, NV1W, [nv1w@arrl.net](mailto:nv1w@arrl.net)

Public Service Coordinator: Ethan Hansen, KC1OIP

[ethan.kc1oip@gmail.com](mailto:ethan.kc1oip@gmail.com)

Public Information Officer: Geri Duff, KB1ISG

[geriduff52@juno.com](mailto:geriduff52@juno.com)

**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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### **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
Sun–Fri 9:45 pm, Sat 10 pm	Heavy Hitters Traffic Net (NTS)	MMRA-linked repeaters: 146.610, 146.670, 146.715, 146.820, and all 222 and 440 repeaters
First Mon 8:30 pm	EMA Section ARES Net	146.610 and all MMRA links
Mon 7 pm	Two Meter SSB Net	144.244 USB
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)
Tue Thu Sat 5 pm	MA RI Phone Net (NTS)	3.978
Tue 8 pm	Sci-Tech Amateur Radio Society (STARS) 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 Newslines)	145.470 (PL 136.5)
Sun 9 pm	CAARAnet	145.130 (PL 107.2)



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