



The SPARC

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Volume XIX, Number 12; December 2007
<http://www.barc.org>
w1bos@arrl.net



Ramblings and Rumbings

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA, President

Why is it we express good wishes to everyone mostly at this time of year? Why are mothers honored mostly on Mother's Day? OK, it's probably better horticulture to plant trees on Arbor Day. Hams get around – locally and worldwide, so it makes sense that we should try to express such feelings at every opportunity, not just reserved for certain times.

I will bow to tradition this time but I will try to keep it up throughout the year (except for Arbor Day). Happy Holidays and Good Signals to all!! Work toward peace and be kind to your family, friends and neighbors.

I am hoping you read this issue before the BARC Holiday Party. If you have not signed up, come to the Stockyard Restaurant in Brighton on Wednesday, 12 December, anyway – you can pay at the door. With a long history of BARC Parties, this is assured to be a great occasion – good friends and good food.

We will also be hosts to family members and friends, possibly including some yet-to-be hams. To facilitate introductions and conversation, please wear your name/call badge.

I found a quote from John Andrew Holmes that seems to me to be appropriate now and the rest of the year:

“It is well to remember that the entire population of the universe, with one trifling exception, is composed of others.”

Understand and be good to your neighbors. I wish you well now and for 2008.

A Tight Schedule

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

Because the BARC Holiday Party has been scheduled in the week before the General meeting would have taken place, this newsletter got expedited handling by our crack team of editors and folders. If you are reading this after the party, ignore this.

If there is still time, and you haven't reserved your chair, come to the Stockyard Restaurant in Brighton on Wednesday, 12 December at 7:00 pm. Get in on a great meal (select at the table) and join in the camaraderie. You can pay on entry.

As has become our custom, the Holiday Party is where we award the “**BARC Ham of the Year.**” The winner has been chosen by nomination from the members. We recognize a BARC member for outstanding contribution to the club and to the Amateur Radio hobby.

The December General Meeting is Omitted

BARC's Holiday Party – held on Wednesday, 12 December – replaces it. The next BARC General meeting will be on **Thursday, 17 January 2008**. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm, but the doors open at 7:00 for a social half hour beforehand. Coffee and donuts may be available.

Our meetings are held at the Newton Police Headquarters, 1321 Washington Street, West Newton, MA. There is ample nearby parking and the location is handicap accessible. Talk-in is available on 145.230 MHz [-] 88.5.

If you have any ideas about topics that you would like to see presented, please feel free to contact one of your officers and we will see what we can do to make it happen for you. Remember, this is *your* club and we are here to serve *you*.

Future General Meeting Dates

(Third Thursdays at 7:30 pm)

- 12 December 2007 (*Holiday Party, no General Meeting*)
- 17 January 2008
- 21 February 2008
- 20 March 2008
- 17 April 2008
- 15 May 2008

It's Membership Renewal Time

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

The BARC fiscal year is the calendar year, so our membership renewal process begins again. If you have not yet renewed for 2008, the Membership Information form for 2008 is included with this issue of the newsletter. We need your support to help you get the most out of ham radio. Our club is one of the strongest and best around; your help is needed to keep it growing.

Please help the Treasurer by renewing promptly. Also, please consider receiving the newsletter electronically to save BARC significant money. You can complete the form online (at our website) and use PayPal or your mailed check. Or you can fill out the hard copy and mail it with your check to the address shown, or bring it to the club meeting. Of course, we would love to see you at the meeting(s).

How do we know global warming isn't just Mother Nature having a hot flash?

Out of my mind... back in five minutes.

Looking Ahead to the January Meeting

“Lower” does not describe a lazy ham. In fact these hams are very active – on the low frequencies. Warren Ziegler, K2ORS, a holder of several FCC experimental licenses on LF, will tell us what’s going on around 130 to 500 kHz, and the prospect of an authorized ham band.

SKYWARN Recognition Day 2007

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

On 1 December, for the fifth consecutive year, BARC participated in SKYWARN Recognition Day from the Blue Hill Observatory in Milton MA. The Blue Hill Observatory has the distinction of having the oldest continuous weather records in North America and is known in weather circles as the “Home of the Nation’s Oldest Weather.” The weather was clear, windy and cold with excellent visibility at the summit of Great Blue Hill. There was no emergency, no contest, no great public service provided, but we had fun! That’s what SKYWARN Recognition Day provides - *FUN*. Low stress contacts with other hams, some interested in SKYWARN, some just interested in being hams.

Set up was done early Saturday morning, and we operated as W1BOS/MQE through mid- afternoon. The 700-foot elevation probably gave us a boost, but the HF band conditions were generally poor. A total of 60 HF QSOs were made, including several to official NWS participating stations across the US. 40 VHF contacts were made primarily on simplex.

The call sign “MQE” was assigned to the weather station for its reports in the early part of the 20th century, so it was added to our call for the event. The Observatory is a private organization, not part of the National Weather Service; its records and observations are a valuable part of the meteorological picture for this area.

Operating and visiting on Saturday were: K1QK, KB1EKN, W1OHM, WA1IDA, K1BBM and W1QY.

A special thanks goes out to the staff of the Blue Hill Science Center who welcomed us. Their cooperation and dedication to all phases of weather and weather reporting is second to none! We look forward to continuing our relationship with them.

Have Breakfast With BARC

BARC holds a social breakfast on the second Sunday of each month at the Old Country Buffet in the Watertown Mall. Breakfast is served from 0800 to 1130.

We just get together, socialize and eat, without any formal club events or business. Family and friends are welcome. The extensive buffet breakfast is *very* good. The cost is reasonable (seniors get a discount).

The Old Country Buffet is in the Watertown Mall, 550 Arsenal St. in Watertown. There is plenty of parking. From Memorial Dr, continue on Greenough Blvd to the Watertown exit, turn right on Arsenal St. The #70 **T** bus from Central Square Cambridge to Watertown Square to Waltham stops right at the Watertown Mall. We hope to see all of you there – and bring your appetite!

Repeaters: 145.23 (-) PL 88.5 447.175 (-) PL 110.9

Pay For Your Membership On-Line

BARC accepts PayPal. If you want to fill out your membership on-line, just go to www.barc.org/membership.html or click on the membership link on our home page. You can use this to pay for membership or make donations with a credit card (even if you do not have a PayPal account), from your PayPal funds, or from your linked bank account. Our PayPal address is w1bos@arri.net.

CPSG Folds

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

The Crocker Public Service Group (CPSG) has dissolved due to minimal organizational activity. The group’s assets, which were mostly comprised of a VHF repeater in Belmont, have been transferred to the Minuteman Repeater Association (MMRA).

CPSG was formed several years ago to support public service activities, beginning with the Walk for Hunger (WFH). Through the years other events were supported, but recently only the WFH had been managed. The group’s name honored the late Dave Crocker, W1TMO, who had been ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager and was very active in public service events.

MMRA intends to carry on the ham support for the WFH with a soon to be named coordinator.

Public Service on the Horizon

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

When hams engage in public service as mandated by the FCC Rules, the benefits go well beyond just following the rules. We can enjoy our hobby - have fun! We protect the health and safety of event participants. We support worthy charities. We learn to work within an organized effort. We experience the technical aspects of operating under adverse conditions. We practice communicating under emergency conditions. We can demonstrate these qualities to the communities we serve and thus promote our service for their acceptance.

Throughout the year BARC coordinates numerous public service events. Most of these are open to hams who are new to helping at such events as well as experienced hams. Here is a general look ahead at some of the events in 2008 that we will be asked to support. Formal recruiting will not take place until closer to each event. Feel free to contact Bob Salow, WA1IDA, if you have any questions - w1lida@arri.net or 508.650.9440.

- **Multiple Sclerosis Boston Walk** – 13 April 2008 – Boston and Cambridge
- **Women’s Olympic Trials** – 20 April 2008 – Boston and Cambridge.

Other events may jump in on short notice. Among our skills is the ability to apply our technical, organizational and staffing quickly and proficiently. Join our team and join in the fun and learning.

Christmas is weird. What other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat candy out of your sock?

Simplex: 147.42

BARC Volunteer Exam Sessions

The Boston Amateur Radio Club usually holds monthly VE sessions on the second Monday of each month. Sessions are usually held at 7:00 pm at the Pierce School, 50 School St in Brookline, Room 110, next to the cafeteria. A map is shown on page 7.

If the Brookline Public Schools (or the Pierce School itself) is closed due to inclement weather or other problems, the exam session for that month will be canceled.

There is a free parking garage at the circular driveway. If driving, enter School St from the Washington St side (opposite 394 Washington), rather than from Harvard St. Check: www.barc.org/barc/school_map.gif : for more info.

For those traveling via the T, take the "D" branch of the Green Line to the Brookline Village station. Walk north along Harvard St 0.2 miles to School St, then turn left. The Pierce School is on the left. The #66 bus runs on Harvard St, crossing School St.

Talk in on 145.230 MHz (-), PL 88.5 Hz.

We give all exams (Technician, General, Extra, and CW). You don't need to pre-register. 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 ID (picture ID preferred)
- A pen and a calculator (if you want to)
- **\$14.00** (good for all the tests you take at that session, except for retests)
- Code and written tests can be taken together at the same session for the same \$14 fee.

The needed FCC forms will be provided.

For further information, contact:

Mike Ardai, N1IST, 781.321.7939 n1ist@arrl.net
Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ, 617.527.2968 ka1tuz@arrl.net

Future Exam Dates

(Second Mondays at 7:00 pm)

10 December 2007
14 January 2008
11 February 2008
10 March 2008
14 April 2008
12 May 2008

Winter vs. Meetings

Winter will be here regardless of how many dances you do. This raises the possibility of meeting cancellations due to fierce winter conditions.

Our early warning system: Official announcements will be made – at least by 1700 before scheduled meetings – on the Boston repeater (145.230 MHz) and by a message on barc-list. Someone

will be designated to monitor the repeater for inquiries. Please stay safe by checking before starting out to a meeting in threatening weather.

Got a Question? We May Have an Answer

A new (occasional) entry in this newsletter will be a Q&A for you. We will rely on you to ask the questions and we believe another reader will come to your aid with an answer.

When you pose a question, include a means for a direct answer. If you wish to remain anonymous, any answer will appear on these pages. Anyone with a valid answer is asked to provide the Editor with a copy of the answer, including the question code. Send your questions and answers to the Editor, N1TMF, at n1tmf@pvctronics.com.

BARC Growth

It's a rare month when we fail to add a few new members. Periodically we publish their names so that you can give them a special welcome. There may also be some upgrades and long lost members who rejoin, so greet them, too.

Dan Brown W1DAN
Walter Piescik
Mike Proulx AB1HV, Upgrade to Extra, new call

Please welcome the new BARC members and congratulate the new upgrades. Make it a point to introduce yourself when you see them at a meeting. In addition, we would like to note here all call sign changes. If you fit any of these categories, please promptly notify the Keeper of the Database, Bob Salow, WA1IDA at: 508.650.9440 or email: walida@arrl.net.

Minutes of the BARC Business Meeting

6 December 2007; Recorded by Paul Olivieri, N1ZKR, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 1937. Attending were:

Mike Ardai	N1IST	
Hank Buccigross	K1QK	
Blake Haskell	K1BTH	
Joe Harris	N1QD	
Walter Piescik		
Eric Falkof	K1NUN	Vice President
Paul Olivieri	N1ZKR	Secretary
Bob Salow	WA1IDA	President

Committee Reports -

Repeater Mike reports that a new repeater for 145.230 has been purchased. A survey will be conducted to determine what other VHF/UHF bands members might be interested in using through an additional club repeater.

Public Service SKYWARN Appreciation Day on, 1 December 2007 was a success, despite poor HF band conditions. More contacts were made on VHF simplex. Mark Duff, KB1EKN is to be commended for his efforts in establishing the fine relationship we have with the Blue Hill Observatory and in our participation at the Blue Hill Observatory.

Repeaters: 145.23 (-) PL 88.5 447.175 (-) PL 110.9

Simplex: 147.42

Bob reported the following events with defined dates for 2008:

- MS Walk – 13 April
- US Women's Olympic Marathon Trial – 20 April

Asset Disposition The Icom Receiver, IC-R9000, has been sold on eBay and payment received. The chair recognized the excellent and beneficial work done by the Committee in cataloging and organizing the club's material assets. The Committee is hereby dissolved with our thanks.

Other Business –

Hank moved and Blake seconded that BARC donate \$75 to the Blue Hill Observatory. Passed.

The December newsletter will need help for folding and related operations at the Cambridgeside Galleria Food Court. Because of the proximity to the Holiday Party, volunteers will be notified as soon as a date can be determined.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2140.

The Business meeting is where the real business of BARC is conducted. If you have any suggestions, questions or comments, this is where to bring them. **All members are welcome (and encouraged) to attend these meetings.**

The next Business meeting will be held Thursday, 3 January 2008 (first Thursday of the month), starting at **7:30 pm**. Meetings are held at the **Newton Police Headquarters**, 1321 Washington St, West Newton which is handicap accessible. There is ample parking on-the street and in nearby public lots. Maps appear on page 7 of this newsletter.


Talk-in is available on 145.230 MHz [–], CTCSS 88.5 Hz.

Future Business Meeting Dates

(First Thursday at 7:30 pm)

- 3 Jan 2008
- 7 Feb 2008
- 6 Mar 2008
- 3 Apr 2008
- 1 May 2008
- 5 June 2008

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Repeaters: 145.23 (-) PL 88.5 447.175 (-) PL 110.9



The Clay Center Observatory

welcomes BARC members

www.claycenter.org

Public Astronomy Nights, Astronomy Day Events,
Amateur Radio Classes, Amateur Radio Youth Club,
Community and Adult Education, Weather Festival,
Science Lecture Series, Educational Outreach

20 Newton St., Brookline; near Larz Anderson Park

I See the Future

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 12 Dec | BARC Holiday Party |
| 3 Jan 2008 | BARC Business Meeting |
| 13 Jan 2008 | BARC Breakfast |
| 14 Jan 2008 | BARC VE Session |
| 17 Jan 2008 | BARC General Meeting |
| 16 Feb 2008 | AARC Flea (Marlboro) |
| 17 Feb 2008 | Antique Radio Flea (Westford) |
| 23 Feb 2008 | RANV Flea (Milton VT) |
| 6 Apr 2008 | FARA Flea (Framingham) |
| 20 Apr 2008 | US Women's Olympic Marathon Trials (Rp) |

(Rp) = BARC repeater(s) may 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 New England and some of New York, the "Ham - Electronic Flea Market" and the "PSLIST" lists tell the story. They are posted by e-mail to barc-list and on PBBSSs regularly. If needed, contact any club member who has access to these.

Your Company 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.

Rates for display advertising are:

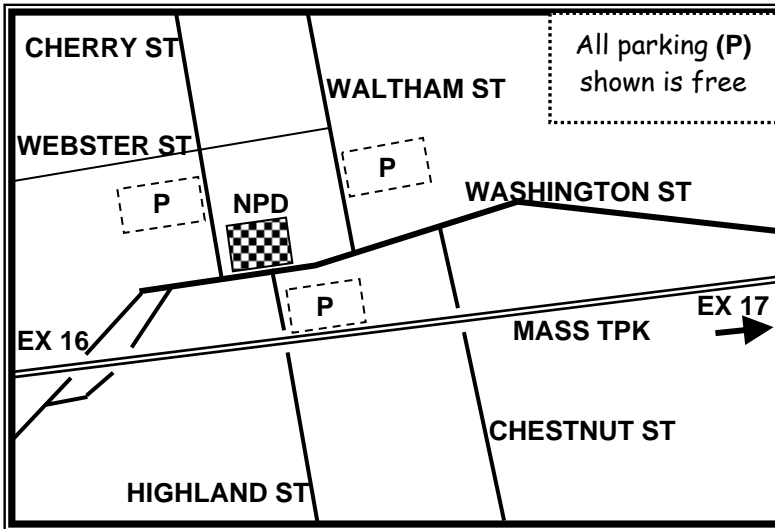
- 1 col x 2 in. (business card) \$10 per issue
- 1 col x 2 in. (business card) \$50 per 6 consecutive months
- 1 col x 2 in. (business card) \$90 per 12 consecutive months
- 1 col x 4 in. (1/2 column) \$20 per issue
- 1 col x 9.5 in. (full column) \$40 per issue

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.

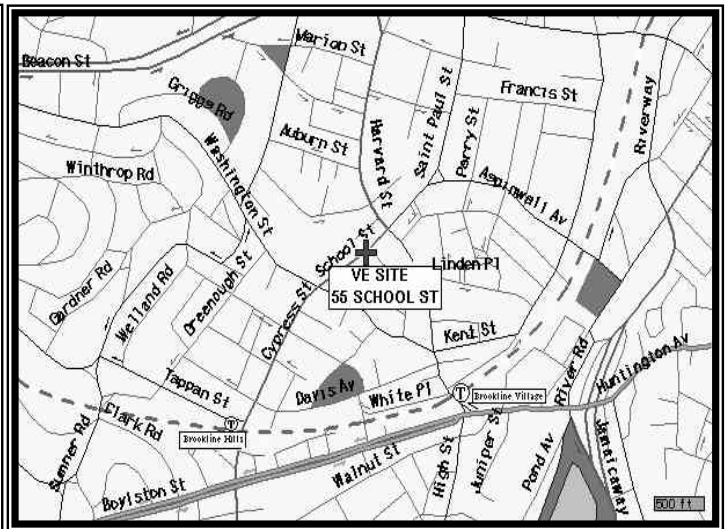
Members are urged to seek prospective advertisers who are appropriate to our readers.

For additional information, contact Paul Carter at n1tmf@pvcronics.com or 617.232.6982; or Bob Salow at walida@arrrl.net or 508.650.9440.

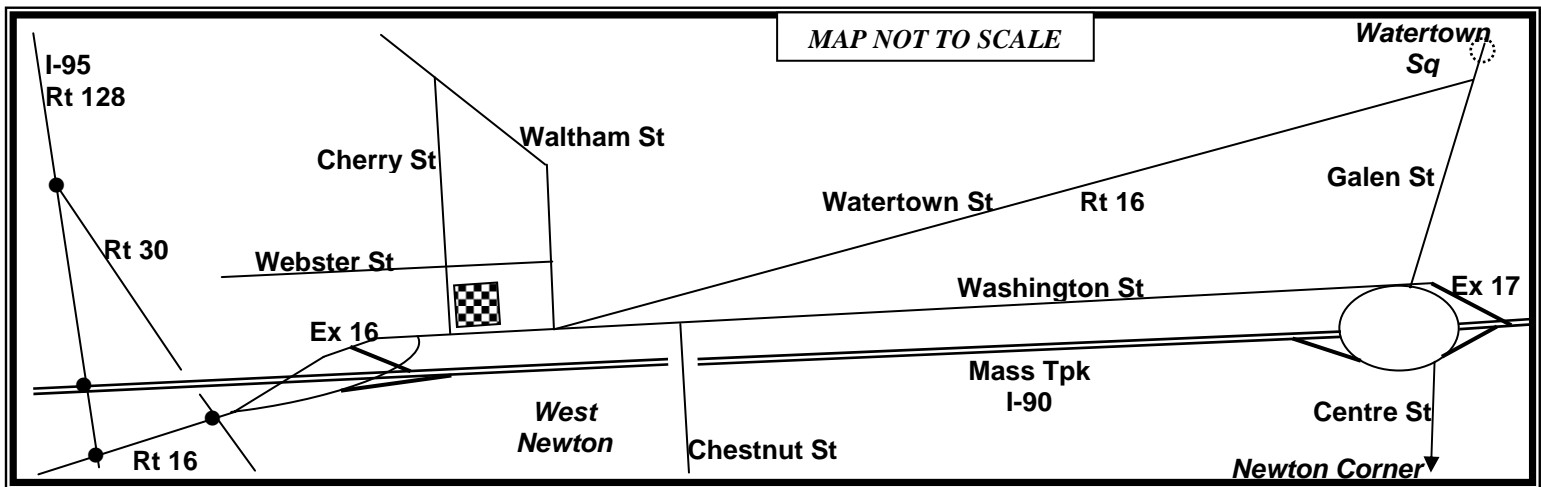
Simplex: 147.42



BARC Meeting Location
 Newton Police Dept., 1321 Washington St., West Newton



VE Session Location – Pierce School
 50 School Street, Brookline, Room 110 next to the cafeteria



BARC Officers and Staff

President	Bob Salow, WA1IDA	508.650.9440	walida@arrl.net
Vice President	Eric Falkof, K1NUN	508.358.4554	k1nun@netscape.net
Secretary	Paul Olivieri, N1ZKR	617.782.4005	n1zkr@juno.com
Treasurer	Jim Clogher, N1ICN	617.364.4658	n1icn@arrl.net
Volunteer Exams	Mike Ar dai, N1IST	781.321.7939	n1ist@arrl.net
	Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ	617.527.2968	ka1tuz@arrl.net
Membership Services	Arthur Ashley, N1NHZ	617.661.2988	n1nhz@arrl.net
Public Service	Bob Salow, WA1IDA	508.650.9440	walida@arrl.net
Newsletter Editor	Paul Carter, N1TMF	617.232.6982	n1tmf@pvctronics.com
Programs & Activities	Eric Falkof, K1NUN	508.358.4554	k1nun@netscape.net
	Phil Temples, K9HI	617.331.0183	phil@temples.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 Special Service 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 a participant in Partnerships Advancing Technical Hobbies Which Attract Youth to Science (PATHWAYS). The Club is also an associate member of the Courage Handi-Hams system.

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THE PARTY'S OVER! JANUARY IS NEXT

The Holiday Party took the place of our December General meeting – hope you had a good time. At our January General meeting Warren Ziegler, K2ORS, will let us in on current experiments on and maybe authorized use of the low frequencies – 130 to 500 kHz. More in next month's issue.

The next General Meeting is:
17 January 2008 at 7:30 pm
at the Newton Police Headquarters
Community Room
1321 Washington Street
West Newton
Parking in nearby lots
Talk-in on 145.230 MHz (CTCSS 88.5 Hz)

Help eradicate blank space!

Get your news, views, stories and other contributions for the January issue of *The SPARC* to Editor, Paul Carter, N1TMF, no later than January 4, 2008.

First Class Mail
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PO Box 15585
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0712



Boston Amateur Radio Club

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION - 2008

Members: if you have already renewed for this year, please use this form to sign up a friend.



Please do not omit any items below New Renewal

Full name _____ Call sign _____

Name used on the air _____ Evening phone(_____) _____

Address _____ Daytime phone(_____) _____

_____ Cell phone (_____) _____

City/Town _____ State _____ ZIP (9 digits) _____

E-mail address _____

LICENSE CLASS <input type="checkbox"/> Novice <input type="checkbox"/> Technician <input type="checkbox"/> Tech Plus <input type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced <input type="checkbox"/> Extra <input type="checkbox"/> Former ham <input type="checkbox"/> Not yet a ham	ARRL MEMBERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> Life <input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Not a member	The BARC membership list is for club use only , including publishing the roster to our members only . Do you wish to restrict such limited distribution: <input type="checkbox"/> OMIT ADDRESS <input type="checkbox"/> OMIT EVENING PHONE	IMPORTANT NOTE: To save the club significant costs, you are encouraged to voluntarily receive (and read) our newsletter, <i>The SPARC</i> , online, rather than by postal mail. You will be notified monthly by email to go to a limited access web page where the earliest posting will be available. If you accept this cost saving plan, be sure to indicate above your best email address . E-MAIL <input type="radio"/> POSTAL MAIL <input type="radio"/>
	EMCOMM? 1 2 3		
Are you an ARRL certified VE? YES NO	Have you taken ICS-700? YES NO		

Membership Category	Full year 2008 if paid between Dec 07 to 31 July 08	Half year 2008 if paid between 1 Aug 08 to 30 Nov 08
REGULAR MEMBER: Not otherwise qualified below <input type="checkbox"/>	\$23.00	\$11.50
JUNIOR MEMBER: Are you under age 18? <input type="checkbox"/>	\$12.00	\$ 6.00
SENIOR MEMBER: Are you over age 64? <input type="checkbox"/>	\$12.00	\$ 6.00
FAMILY MEMBER: [Regular member I live with _____] I am the family member to receive club mailings YES NO Note: Each member in the family must complete a separate form.	\$12.00	\$ 6.00

If you are able, please help support the club's activities and repeaters: ➔ \$

Total \$

Signature _____ Date _____

©BARC

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Welcome to the Boston Amateur Radio Club! Join in the fun of being a ham! ➤ Your cancelled check is your receipt; membership acknowledgement is for the year shown on the newsletter address label. ➤ Make checks payable to: BOSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ➤ Please write your call sign on your check. 	Give to any officer or mail to: BOSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB PO Box 15585 Boston MA 02215-0011
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Dues \$ _____ Addl \$ _____ Recd by _____ Date _____

DB by _____ Memb Nr _____ Date _____ Loc _____

Gratuitus est per