



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

May 2016 - VOLUME 28, NUMBER 5

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President – Joe Harris, N1QD



I've been blown away by the unbelievable amount of activity on the club's new DMR repeater. According to the logs at dmrx.net, there have been over 30 active users in the last month! We have even had an international visitor on the machine. A few weeks ago I had a nice QSO with a ham visiting the Boston area from Ontario! One of the comments he made really stuck with me: "Thanks for having UHF DMR here". While the overwhelming majority of DMR activity worldwide is on UHF, New England has been something of a VHF island, making travel problematic for users in other parts of the county. Having the

UHF repeater makes it easier for travelers to call back home while visiting Boston. In any case, thank you all for supporting the project. I look forward to hearing more of you on DMR!

Joe Harris, N1QD

In this Issue of *The SPARC*

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- Public Service
- Congratulations to KO4W and K1KP
- Nominations for BARC officers
- Boxboro!
- 2016 meeting and VE session dates



BARC General Meeting Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 7:30pm

The May General Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room at Brookline Police Headquarters. The May meeting will feature a presentation on public service by Brett Smith, AB1RL.

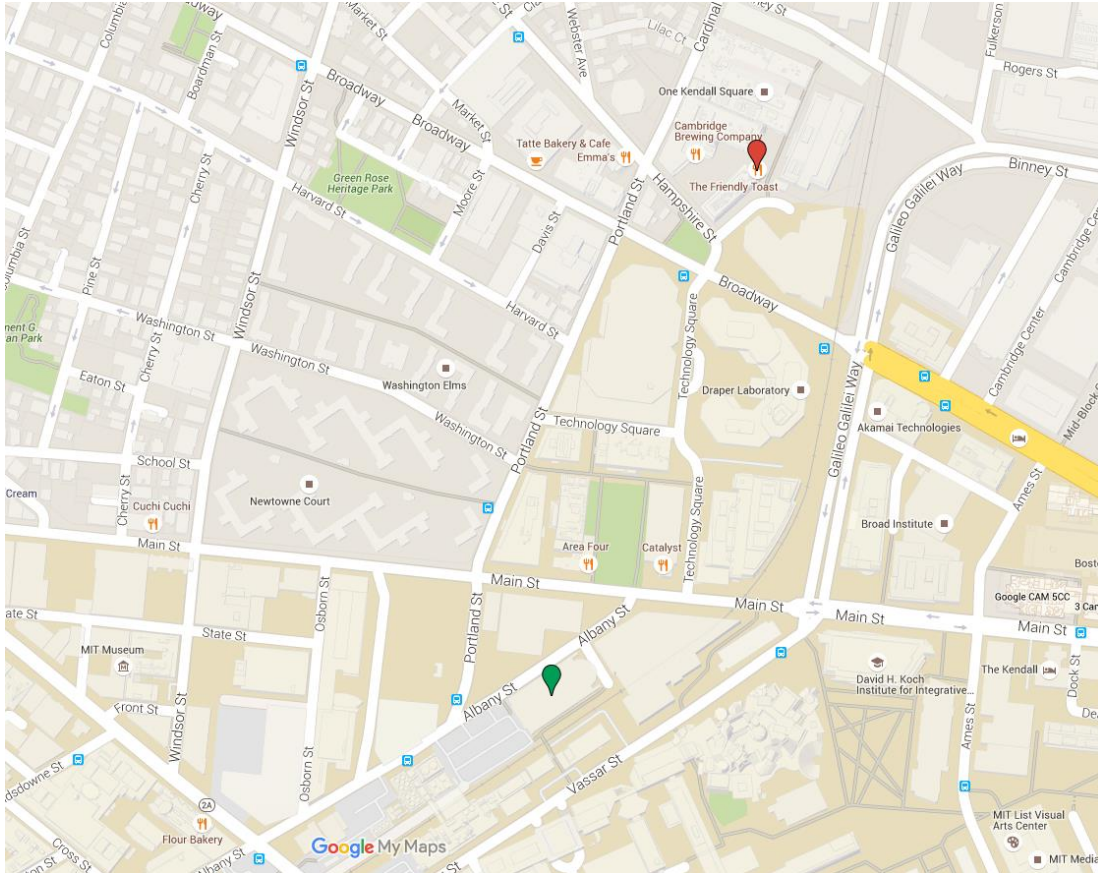
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Simplex: 147.420

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BARC Breakfast – Joe Harris, N1QD

BARC holds its monthly breakfast on the third Sunday of the month, coinciding with the MIT Flea Market. We descend upon The Friendly Toast, located at 1 Kendall Square in Cambridge at 8AM sharp. This month’s breakfast will be held on May 15. 1 Kendall Square is a group of buildings bordered by Hampshire St., Binney St., and Cardinal Medeiros Ave. The restaurant is a short walk from the flea site, and there is plenty of on-street parking. See the area map for details.



Red pin is the Friendly Toast. Green Pin is the Albany Street Garage, home of the MIT Flea Market.

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: <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/bostonARC/info>.

April General Meeting – Joe Harris, N1QD

Brett Smith, AB1RL, will be the guest speaker at the May BARC general meeting. Brett is the club’s Public Service coordinator. In his talk, Brett will describe the different ways amateur radio volunteers help at the BARC-organized events. He’ll discuss some of the changes he’s seen in our involvement in recent years, and share some lessons he’s learned along the way. The meeting will be held at the Community Room of the Brookline Police HQ, 350 Washington St in Brookline on Thursday May 19 at 7:30PM.

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Public Service – Brett Smith, AB1RL

April is always a huge kick-off for BARC's public service season. There are four different events—twice as many as any other month—and their variety really showcases all the different kinds of work we do.

First is the MS Walk Boston. This a fundraising walk for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, where we watch and assist walkers all along the route to make sure they all finish safely. Several volunteers, including a couple recent BARC members, braved the freak cold and snow along the Charles River to help out. Thanks to Rick Savage, KB1LYJ, and Kathy Savage, KB1LPW, for their fantastic work organizing these events year after year. Thanks also to Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ; Brittany Collins, KB1ZPS; Vladimir Giterman, W1VAT; Ross Chapman Jr., KB1MGD; Chris McArdle, KB1REM; Ralph Devlin, N1LAH; Jonathan Traum, KC1CNX; Margie Carnie, KC1DQP; and Mike Simonds, NZ5H, for helping out this year.

Bookending the end of the month is the Run of the Charles, a series of canoe and kayak races to benefit the Charles River Watershed Association. Here we focus more on event logistics, handling on-site registrations and site closures, though of course safety is always on our mind as well. It was a great day to be on the water, and the team handled a couple different logistical hiccups with aplomb. Special thanks to Mark Richards, K1MGY; Ed Curley, KC1CLA; and Jim Hicks, KB1ZJO, who saw things through to the very end of a long day. Thanks also to Alan Lewis, K1ALL; Allan Cox Jr., K1VQ; Henry Brown, K1WCC; Gary Schwartz, N1ZCE; Michael Carroll, KC3MAC; Angela Morley, KC1DAB; Bill Bridgham, N1RYT; Chris Kelly, KC1BZK; Rick Savage, KB1LYJ; Kathy Savage, KB1LPW; Ralph Devlin, N1LAH; Corey Hudson, KB1WIT; Chris Handwerker, KB1WKI; Lyman Smith, W1LKS; and Lela Smith, KC1ACV.

Of course, in between these two events sits Marathon weekend. It starts off with the BAA 5K, a fast road race on a Saturday morning. This is both a prelude for Marathon Monday, and a spearhead for the BAA's Distance Medley series of races. We work primarily with the medical team at this event, and despite good weather we were busier than usual this year. Thanks to James Clogher Jr., N1ICN; Brittany Collins, KB1ZPS; Michael Coles, WB2B; Tom Ryde, KB1KUY; Nora Nagle, KB1OHB; Christine McArdle, KB1REM; Colin McArdle, KB1REL; Douglas Maggs, KK4UHK; Rick Savage, KB1LYJ; Kathy Savage, KB1LPW; William Collins, W1PL; and Timothy Miranda, KC1AJJ.

And then there's the Marathon itself. BARC doesn't run this event exclusively, of course—really, the entire Boston area amateur community puts it on together, this year more than ever with several volunteer subcommittees helping with planning months beforehand. Nor can I thank everyone who helped—I'd have to commandeer the entire SPARC just for the list! But despite several logistical changes around runner transportation, and potentially high temperatures on the day, everything went well, and our communications were a big part of bringing the different pieces together. To date, I've heard nothing but praise from other event organizers. As always, the credit for that is due to everyone who volunteers. The team really makes an impression on the rest of the volunteers, and they thank me for it regularly. I can only pass on that thanks to you.

Member News – Joe Chapman, NV1W

Congratulations to Scott Gaudet, KO4W, on his Extra ticket and shiny new 2x1 call.

K1KP Wins QST Cover Plaque Award – Joe Harris, N1QD

Congratulations to Tony K1KP for winning the April QST cover plaque award. His article "Can Home Solar Power and Amateur Radio Coexist?" is based on the presentation that was given at the November 2015 BARC meeting. Great job, Tony!



Call for Volunteer Examiners – The BARC VE Team

BARC could use some more Volunteer Examiners (VEs) for our exam sessions. Recently we had to scramble to get the required three VEs for an exam session. If any unforeseen situation arises and a VE is not able to make a session we would be forced to cancel the test.

There are some BARC members who are qualified VEs that have not been participating in the testing. We urge these VEs to become active. If you can spare one night every couple of months please come to a session.

We can also surely use additional VEs. The test procedure for qualification is simple. Materials are available from the ARRL and the examination is an open book test. Hams with General and Amateur Extra class licenses are eligible to become VEs, though only Extras can administer tests for General and Amateur Extra licenses. If you would like to become a VE and help with testing please contact Linda, NA1I or Jim, N1ICN.

Nominations for Officers, 2016–2017 – Joe Chapman, NV1W

Officers for 2016–2017 will be elected at the club’s General Meeting in June. The Nominating Committee, chaired by Hank Buccigross, K1QK, proposes the following slate of nominees for club officers: President: Joe Harris, N1QD; Vice President: Mark Duff, KB1EKN; Treasurer: Jim Clogher, N1ICN; Secretary: Joe Chapman, NV1W. Additional nominations will be accepted up until the election, and competition is welcome and encouraged! If you are interested in serving as an officer of the club, contact either Hank or President Joe Harris, N1QD.

Boxboro!, September 9–11, 2016 – Joe Harris, N1QD

Can’t make it to Dayton this year? Don’t fret; Boxboro is now an annual event! The convention has also moved to September. Speakers have already been announced for the two banquets. As in the past, there is a club special for banquets of eight tickets for the price of seven. If there is enough club interest, BARC members planning on attending can take advantage of this savings!

BARC Badges! -- Joe Chapman, NV1W

Rick, NV5A, the Sign Man of Baton Rouge, is now offering BARC badges. They're full-color plastic badges with our logo and your call sign and first name, at a basic price of \$11.50 for a badge with a safety pin fastener. Rick was a great help in designing a badge for us, and he does good work and ships promptly.

See our listing on the Sign Man’s web site: <http://www.thesignman.com/clubs/boston.html> for details and fastener options.



BARC Meeting Calendar for 2015 and 2016

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place at the Brookline Police Headquarters. A map for the new Eastern Bank substitute meeting location can be found below.

General Meetings

May 19	2016	Thu	7:30 pm	— Public Service, Brett Smith, AB1RL
June 16	2016	Thu	7:30 pm	— Elections
September 15	2016	Thu	7:30 pm	
October 20	2016	Thu	7:30 pm	
November 17	2016	Thu	7:30 pm	

VE Sessions

July 11	2016	Mon	7:30 pm
October 10	2016	Mon	7:30 pm

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Business Meetings

June 2	2016	Thu	7:30 pm
September 1	2016	Thu	7:30 pm
December 1	2016	Thu	7:30 pm

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-in’s 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 Breakfast, The Friendly Toast, Cambridge**
- 15 May Flea at MIT, Cambridge
- 15 May National Brain Tumor Society Ride **(Rp)**
- 19 May** **BARC General Meeting**, Brookline Police Headquarters, Brookline
- 20–22 May Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH
- 28–29 May CQ WW WPX Contest, CW
- 11–13 June ARRL June VHF Contest
- 16 June** **BARC General Meeting (Elections)**, Brookline Police Headquarters, Brookline
- 18 June ARRL Kids Day
- 19 June** **BARC Breakfast, The Friendly Toast, Cambridge**
- 19 June Flea at MIT, Cambridge
- 25–26 June** **Field Day**, Bare Cove Fire Museum, Hingham
- 26 June BAA 10K **(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”

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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.

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, even if you aren't Hiram Percy Maxim. Send your submissions to the Editor, Joe, NV1W, at nv1w@arrl.net.

Articles for the June issue must be received by June 4.



**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



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 x 2 in. (business card)	\$15 per issue
1 col x 2 in. (business card)	\$75 per 6 consecutive months
1 col x 2 in. (business card)	\$125 per 12 consecutive months
1 col x 4 in. (½ column)	\$30 per issue
1 col x 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; or Bob Salow, WA1IDA, at wa1ida@arrl.net or 508.650.9440.

Quarterly Business Meetings – Bob Salow, WA1IDA

As the Bylaws require, BARC has Business meetings quarterly. Unless circumstances warrant, BARC Business meetings will be held on the first Thursdays of December, March, June, and September. The next such meeting will be on **2 June 2016** at Brookline Police Headquarters. 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.

A short opening period of each General meeting will continue to be used to bring any immediate business matters to everyone's attention.

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 President Joe Harris, N1QD.

BARC Volunteer Exam Sessions

The Boston Amateur Radio Club schedule has been revised to suit the needs and interests of the applicants and examiners. **The 2016 exam session schedule is shown elsewhere in this newsletter issue.** Generally, 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 CSEs you are claiming, and a photocopy of them
- Valid ID (picture ID preferred)
- A pen and a calculator (if you want to)
- **\$15.00** (good for all the tests you take at that session, except for retests)

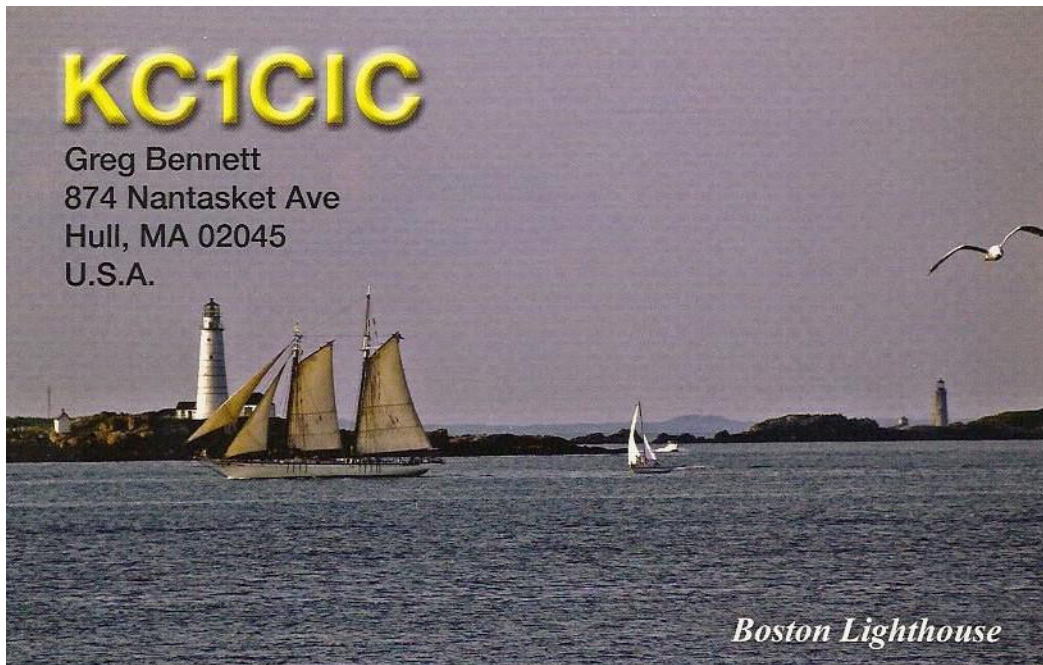
Note: Written tests can be taken sequentially at the same session for the same \$15 fee. The needed FCC forms will be provided.

To reserve a seat or for further information, contact:

Jim Clogher, N1ICN, n1icn@arrl.net, or Linda Blair, NA1I, na1i@arrl.net.

Your Personal Ad Could Have Been Here

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 the Editor, Joe Chapman, at nv1w@arrl.net.



BARC Officers and Staff

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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 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 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)
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 9 pm	BARC Club Net	145.230 (PL 88.5)
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 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)