



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

July 2016 - VOLUME 28, NUMBER 7

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President – Joe Harris, N1QD



Field Day has come and gone, and we're well into summer now. Last weekend I finally caved and dug out the air conditioners.

I was delighted to welcome the Harvard Wireless Club to BARC's 2016 Field Day! Their members brought a lot to the table, as they helped with setup, teardown, and did a great job operating. Thank you to Bill W1PL for organizing the team from W1AF, and to Linda NA1I for orchestrating the collaboration!

I hope you all have been enjoying the summer. BARC may take the summer off, but that certainly doesn't mean you should put ham radio aside until fall! There is daily activity (both local and nationwide!) on the club DMR repeater. There are HF or VHF contests taking place most every weekend. There are tons of special event stations on, too, including daily activations of NPOTA! See <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations> for a special event station lookup.

Joe Harris, N1QD

In this Issue of *The SPARC*

- New DMR Talk Groups
- Field Day Wrap-up
- Election Results
- 2016 meeting and VE session dates



BARC General Meeting

Thursday, September 15, 2016 at 7:30 pm

There are no General Meetings in July and August. The next General Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 15, at 7:30 pm in the Community Room at Brookline Police Headquarters.

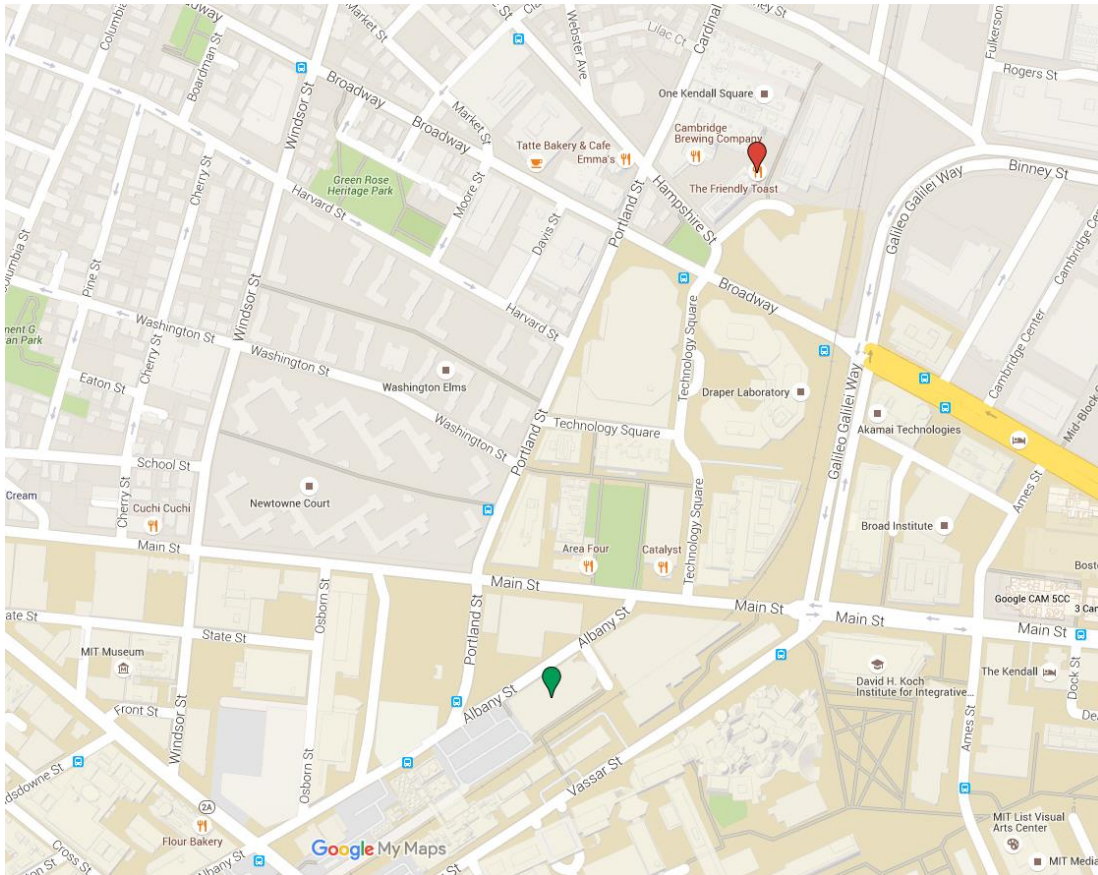
Repeaters: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

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. August's breakfast will be held on the 21st. 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>.

No Summer BARC Meetings – Joe Harris, N1QD

Just a reminder that BARC takes the summer off from meetings. Our next business meeting will be on Thursday, September 1, and our next general meeting will be on Thursday, September 15.

Enjoy your summer!

New DMR Talk Groups Available – Bill Barber, NE1B, via Joe Harris, N1QD

There are two new PTT talk groups available on the Club's UHF DMR repeater! See this note from Bill NE1B for the full details:

Once more, we have listened to requests for more New England only TACs or User Activated talk groups. These are PTT activated for Internal New England only. No competition trying to grab the wide area TAC310 or TAC311 on Time Slot 1. They can be used for individual or group QSOs or special events without tying up unnecessary sites.

This description from Dave, KM3T:

We have two new talkgroups for the New England DMR network:

- NETAC1 (TG 8801 Time Slot 1)
- NETAC2 (TG 8802 Time Slot 2)

These two talkgroups are PTT and are designed to be "TAC" channels internal to the New England DMR community. The talkgroups will not be distributed beyond the Boston and Augusta C-Bridges. The purpose is to have a channel to QSY to that will not compete with other individuals outside New England. The other TAC channels have become very busy and it is a better use of resources to have some internal TAC channels. One is on TS1 and one is on TS2 so the user can determine which one makes more sense to QSY to. For example, on a busy Maine repeater where ME SW is in use a lot, NETAC1 would make more sense. But if TS1 is busy, then perhaps NETAC2 would make more sense. So there is flexibility.

We have also set up holdoff timers on our bridge to implement the following rules:

- NETAC1 blocks North American and Northeast... there is no block for the WW and WWE talkgroups since they are on PTT anyway and not likely to conflict (and it's just too much programming) — 5-minute timer
- NETAC2 blocks Statewide talkgroups, Region North, and New England Wide
- 5-minute timer

Give it a try!

Minutes from the June General Meeting – Joe Chapman, NV1W

The Boston Amateur Radio Club's June General Meeting was held on Thursday, June 16, at Brookline Police Headquarters. Voting members present: KB1EKN, KB1ISG, KB1QHX, KC1FTW, N1ICN, NA1I, NV1W, W1JJF, W1PL, WA1IDA, WB2TXL. Guests: Mike, KB1UGS. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Mark Duff, KB1EKN, at 7:32 p.m.

The following officers for 2016–2017 were elected by acclamation: President: Joe Harris, N1QD; Vice President: Mark Duff, KB1EKN; Treasurer: Jim Clogher, N1ICN; Secretary: Joe Chapman, NV1W.

Officer reports:

- Jim, N1ICN (Treasurer), reported that we have \$1100.18 in the Repeater Fund and \$2443.36 in the checking account.

Other reports and announcements:

- The UHF repeater antenna has been purchased from John Garrett.
- KB1ISG reported that Field Day pins have been purchased.
- WA1IDA noted that the BAA 10K race will occur on the second day of Field Day.
- KB1EKN reported that we have not yet made a trip to work on the VHF repeater, and that the schedule depends on availability of the antenna consultant.
- The club's DMR radio has been received.

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Joseph Chapman, NV1W, Secretary

BARC on Logbook of the World – Joe Chapman, NV1W

After uploading this year's Field Day logs to Logbook of the World, W1BOS has 2,823 QSOs in the system and 691 QSL records. We have confirmations from 47 states (all but CO, ID, and NV) and 12 DXCC entities.

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 again 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.

Field Day Results – Joe Harris, N1QD

The fourth weekend of June brought members from BARC and the Harvard Wireless Club to the Bare Cove Fire Museum in Hingham to participate in ARRL Field Day! Saturday morning was spent stringing dipoles, raising a vertical, and for the first time in several years, raising a beam! Three HF stations, a VHF station, and a talk in station were all set up inside the BCFM. Once 2 pm struck, we were off to the races!

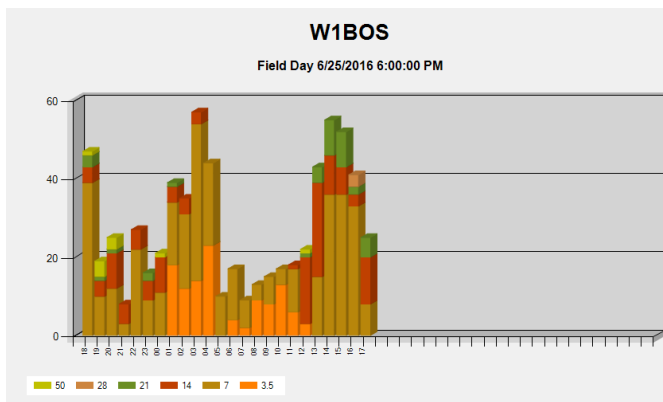
Band conditions were decent on 80 thru 20, but 15 and 10 were not up to their full potential. We had better luck with 15 on Sunday, but there was hardly any activity heard on 10 all weekend. 6 meters was slightly more productive, though there were no major openings like were had during the June VHF contest. HF digital had a big uptick this year, with nearly a hundred QSOs made on PSK31 and RTTY!

Thanks go out to Mark KB1EKN and Geri KB1ISG for all the help with hosting and setup. Also, thanks to Scott KO4W for picking up the cooking duties! And of course, it was great having the HWC gang join BARC this year!

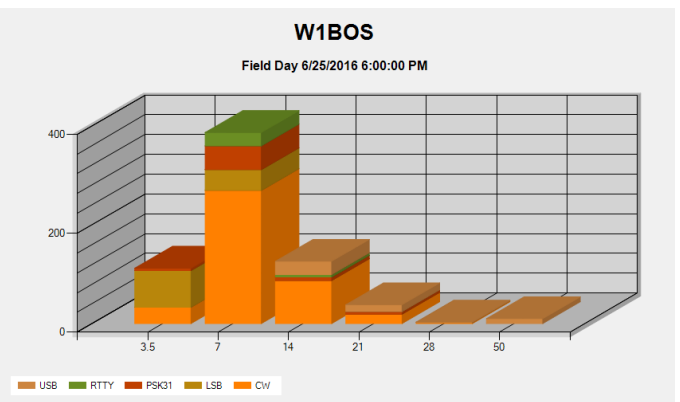


The SPARC

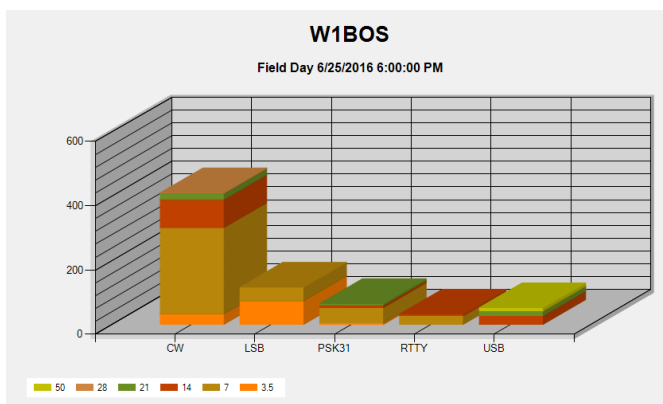
Band	CW	Digital	Phone	Total
160	0	0	0	0
80	33	5	74	112
40	269	75	42	386
20	87	12	27	126
15	19	5	14	38
10	2	0	1	3
6	0	0	10	10
Total	410	97	168	675



QSOs by hour



QSOs by band



QSOs by mode



QSOs by KO4W

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

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449.175 (-) DMR CC1

BARC Meeting Calendar for 2016

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place at the Brookline Police Headquarters. A map for this meeting location can be found below. Note that there are no General Meetings in July and August.

General Meetings

September 15	2016	Thu	7:30 pm
October 20	2016	Thu	7:30 pm
November 17	2016	Thu	7:30 pm

VE Sessions

October 10	2016	Mon	7:30 pm
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Business Meetings

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

17 July	BARC Breakfast, The Friendly Toast, Cambridge
17 July	Flea at MIT, Cambridge
16–17 July	North American QSO Party, RTTY
6–10 August	North American QSO Party, CW
20–21 August	North American QSO Party, SSB
21 August	BARC Breakfast, The Friendly Toast, Cambridge
21 August	ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY

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▲ **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” 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. Send your submissions to the Editor, Joe, NV1W, at nv1w@arrl.net.

Articles for the August issue must be received by August 6.



**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 × 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.

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 **1 September 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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617.267.6349; nv1w@arrl.net

Treasurer: Jim Clogher, N1ICN,

617.908.5019; n1icn@arrl.net

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Linda Blair, NA1I, na1i@arrl.net

Public Service Coordinator: Brett Smith, AB1RL

859.466.5915; ab1rl@arrl.net

Public Information Officer:

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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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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)