



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

August 2016 - VOLUME 28, NUMBER 8

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President – Joe Harris, N1QD



I want to take this month's president's column to remind the club that Boxboro, the ARRL New England Division Convention, will be held the second weekend of September. This is now an annual event!

Boxboro has a well-deserved reputation for offering top-quality content, and this year is no different. There are two days of forums, two banquets, a flea market and exhibit hall, and even a movie showing!

Boxboro will be held on September 9, 10, and 11 at the Holiday inn at Boxborough Woods, 242 Adams Pl, Boxborough MA. For more information, including a preliminary forum schedule, visit www.boxboro.org.

Joe Harris, N1QD

In this Issue of The SPARC

- KC1CIC on the LNR Trail-Friendly Antenna
- NV1W on the Amp-3 Gear Corral
- New England DMR Picnic
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- 2016 meeting and VE session dates



BARC General Meeting

Thursday, September 15, 2016 at 7:45 pm

There are no General Meetings in July and August. The next General Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 15, at 7:45 pm (*note time change*) in the Community Room at Brookline Police Headquarters.

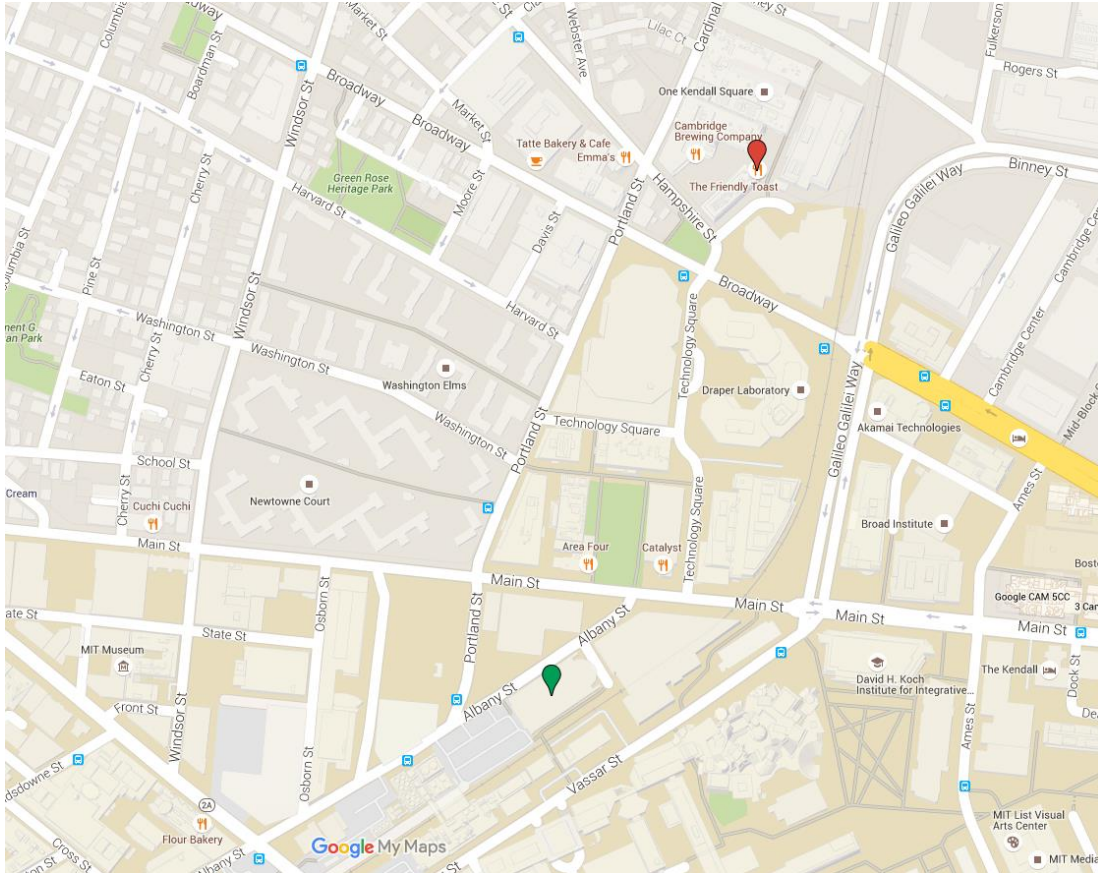
Repeaters: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

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>.

New England DMR Picnic – Joe Harris, N1QD

On September 17, Jim AE1C and Jim KX1M will be hosting the 3rd annual DMR picnic at the Hopkinton State Park. For the past two years, DMR enthusiasts have traveled from across New England to this picnic for an eyeball QSO, or for some hands-on assistance with codeplug programming. KX1M has been gathering a food list. Contact him at kx1m@arrl.net for more details.

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!

Seen at Field Day: LNR Trail-Friendly Antenna – Greg Bennett, KC1CIC



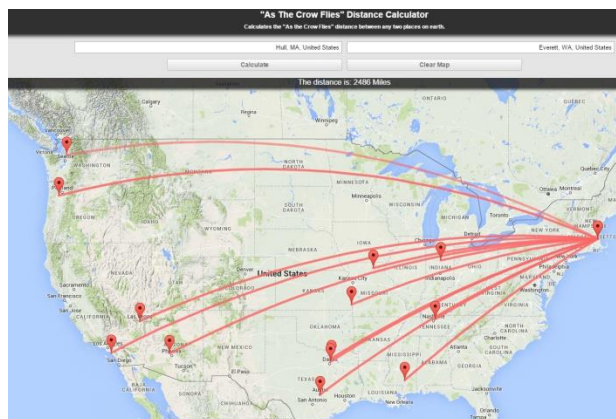
One of the things I enjoy about Field Day is meeting other hams and seeing the equipment they use. One club member, Scott Gaudet KO4W, was using something called an LNR Trail Friendly Antenna with his Yaesu FT-817 QRP rig. As its name implies it is a small and very light. This end fed antenna can handle a maximum of 25 watts on the 40/20/10 meter bands. It uses a BNC connector on its match box. Being impressed with the antenna I purchased one not for trail use but to use outside the apartment as something quick and easy to set up. With its black #26 wire it is actually a very stealthy antenna!

To complete the kit I purchased a 25 foot section of coax with BNC connectors, a BNC to PL-259 adapter for the radio, and some line and a weight to throw one end over a tree branch. As you can see from the picture, the entire kit is very small.

I use the antenna as a sloper, which is one end is elevated on a tree branch and the other end is held by a plastic tent stake on the ground. The antenna is 41 feet long. It takes up less space than that as a sloper which works quite well for the postage stamp of yard that is outside the apartment.

You don't need a tuner with this antenna. You simply trim some wire while on 40 meters observing the SWR until you get the best possible match. Once you have properly tuned the antenna at 40 meters, it is also tuned for 20 and 10 meters.

I use the antenna with my Yaesu FT-991 typically set to 15–20 watts. The performance is pretty impressive for such a little antenna. I use it for JT-65 (see map) and PSK-31 quite successfully. It is excellent for CW as well. During Field Day we had Scott's antenna connected to my 991 and we had a solid voice contact with a North Carolina station.



So, if you are looking for a great little HF antenna to work with in a small space or on the trail as Scott does, I can highly recommend this.

EFT-10/20/40 Trail Friendly Antenna, sold by LNR Precision. <http://www.lnrprecision.com/endfedz/trail-friendly/>. \$75.00.

Member News – Joe Chapman, NV1W

Welcome to Dan Riti, KC1FTW, of Somerville. Dan joined BARC at the beginning of the summer and was there for Field Day. He's recently upgraded to General and is in the process of learning to use his shiny new KX3.

Welcome to Sebastian Musielak, KC1GAA, who passed his Technician at the July BARC VE session and joined the club at the same time.

Congratulations to J.P., KB1TIC, who recently had his first overseas CW QSO with a station in Denmark and who made his first CW Field Day QSO this year.

Seen at Field Day: Gear Corral – Joe Chapman, NV1W



One of the great things about Field Day is getting to see all the great stuff other BARC members have. I swear both Greg and I began our reviews that way independently. My six-pocket nylon cable case got some admiring comments, so here's a quick review. Looking at the website, the product might have undergone a minor redesign and/or be made by a new manufacturer, so your mileage may vary.

The Gear Corral is a long black nylon case, 32½ in. by 6¼ in., consisting six 6 × 5 inch nylon pockets with a flap that folds over the top. The whole thing folds into thirds lengthwise, becoming the size of a hardcover book. The pockets aren't huge, but they're large enough to hold the charger for my MacBook Air. Six pockets was perfect for the stuff I brought for Field Day.

It's well-made in the US out of what looks to be 500 denier Cordura. The Amp-3 web store does seem to be run by slightly spooky prepper types, but I haven't been disappointed with the design or construction of anything I've bought from them. As an urbanite, my plans for World War III are to be blown to bits before I have time to pack a toothbrush, but your mileage may vary there as well.

Gear Corral, sold by Amp-3, <http://stores.amp-3.net>. \$65.00.

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.

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	7:45 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

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

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

20–21 August	North American QSO Party, SSB
21 August	BARC Breakfast, The Friendly Toast, Cambridge
21 August	Flea at MIT, Cambridge
21 August	ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY
1 September	BARC Business Meeting, Brookline Police Headquarters, Brookline, 7:30 pm
9–11 September	ARRL New England Convention, Boxboro
10–12 September	ARRL September VHF Contest
11 September	North American Sprint, CW
15 September	BARC General Meeting, Brookline Police Headquarters, Brookline, 7:45 pm ▲
18 September	North American Sprint, RTTY

▲ **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@arri.net.

Articles for the September issue must be received by September 3.



**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@arri.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.



When snacking on an FT-817ND, always drink plenty of water.



KB1EKN shows the R7 Team which direction is "up".

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 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)