



# The SPARC

*Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century*  
*Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club*  
**Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area**  
November 2016 - VOLUME 28, NUMBER 11  
[www.barc.org](http://www.barc.org) - [w1bos@arrl.net](mailto:w1bos@arrl.net)



## Message from the President – Joe Harris, N1QD



November has arrived, and the start to the fall/winter contesting season has arrived with it! The CQWW DX SSB Contest ran during the final weekend of October, and the ARRL CW Sweepstakes is still going on as I sit down to write this. CQWW CW and ARRL SSB Sweeps both follow later in the month. In recent years, contesting has been the bulk of my HF on-air time. I like the idea of getting on for a few hours, making as many QSOs as I can in a set amount of time, and then getting on with the rest of my weekend! There have been a few times when I've put in more serious efforts in recent years, but the majority of my contesting has been as part of a multi-op team, which fits my schedule a bit better. For more information on upcoming contests, a great resource is WA7BNM's Contest Calendar, available at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>.

Contesting isn't the only thing going on this winter, though. If you are looking for a great on-air experience, look no further than BARC's annual participation in SKYWARN Recognition Day! Always held the first Saturday of December, this event celebrates the contributions of SKYWARN volunteers around the country. National Weather Service offices around the US will be on the air. BARC has participated from the Blue Hill Observatory in Milton since 2003. The Observatory holds the distinction of holding the oldest continuous weather data in North America. See further details in this issue, and expect some planning discussion to be held at the November general meeting. In addition, please be aware that SKYWARN Recognition Day takes the place of the General Meeting in December. **There is no December general meeting!**

Joe Harris, N1QD

## In this Issue of The SPARC

- November General Meeting
- Public service recap
- Spring 2017 public service dates
- SKYWARN Recognition Day



## BARC General Meeting

**Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 7:30 pm**

The next General Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17, at 7:30 pm in the Community Room at Brookline Police Headquarters. Our speaker will be Howard Mintz, WA1CFX. More details can be found later in this issue of *The SPARC*.

Repeaters: 145.230 ( - ) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 ( - ) DMR CC1

**From the Editor – Joe Chapman, NV1W**

This month's issue of *The SPARC* will again be somewhat abbreviated thanks to my having had medical issues over the past month (which I hope to be over soon). Please consider writing an article for an upcoming issue—members do want to hear what you've been doing on the air and what new toys you've spent your hard-earned nickels on.

**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>.

**BARC November General Meeting – Joe Harris, N1QD**

Our guest speaker for the club's November general meeting will be Howard Mintz, WA1CFX. Howard is the retired Police Chief of the City of Newton, and will be giving a talk on the evolution of municipal policing from the early 1980s to the present. Join us at the Brookline Police Headquarters, 350 Washington St Brookline, on Thursday November 17 at 7:30PM.

**Note: Brookline has recently extended parking meter hours to 8pm in the area, so please plan accordingly.**

**New Hams – Joe Chapman, NV1W**

At BARC's October VE session we minted three new Technicians, all of whom have been heard on the Monday night net since getting their tickets! Listen for them on 145.230 and be sure to say hello: Andrew Sclafani, KM4YLN, John Pooley, KC1GLR, and Jimmy Zhao, KC1GLQ.

**A Busy BAA Half Marathon – Brett Smith, AB1RL**

The BAA Half Marathon is a capstone public service event in many different ways. It's the last BAA race of the year, and determines the winner of their three-race Distance Medley. It's the last BARC public service event. And on a personal note, it's the event where I first operated at Net Control with Bob Salow, WA1IDA, making it a sort of public service anniversary for me too. I always look forward to it.

One reason I look forward to it is that it's usually relatively simple. Runner-friendly fall weather and a competitive field usually make medical incidents rare. That wasn't the case this year, though. Cold and rain not only put a literal damper on volunteering, but it also put us to work supporting the participants. We dispatched EMS to assist three different runners at different points on the route, and spent a lot of airtime to ensure that sweep buses and medical tents were prepared to handle the increased need.

An excellent team of thirteen hams rose up to meet the occasion, and I can't think them all enough for their help. They are Brian Mallory, KB1WZU; Ron Franklin, K1RAF; Adrian Conte, KC1BEZ; John Glezen, N0RUN; Ann Glezen, KC1CFG; David Baker, W2CMD; Rick Savage, KB1LYJ; Kathy Savage, KB1LPW; Mark Woodward, KC1BXZ; Timothy Miranda, KC1AJJ; Mark Richards, K1MGY; and David Gilman, KC1DDH. The BAA medical coordinator made a point to thank us personally for all the help during a difficult day, and that wouldn't have happened without everyone's support.

**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 to Participate in SKYWARN Recognition Day 2016 – Mark Duff, KB1EKN**

On December 3rd, 2016, and for the 14th consecutive year, BARC will once again participate in SKYWARN Recognition Day. SRD is a joint event support by the ARRL and the National Weather Service where weather stations and weather buffs from across the country contact each other for fun and to promote the SKYWARN Program. Our station, WX1BHO, will be located at the summit of Great Blue Hill in Milton MA.

For several decades, hams have assisted the National Weather Service by providing real-time reports of severe weather and storm conditions. Although the NWS operates a network of 120 Doppler radars to track severe storms, at greater ranges weather radar has a difficult time sampling conditions close to the ground. The information radio operators located near a storm provide plays a key role in aiding forecasters. Stations will exchange signal reports, location and a brief description of the current weather at their respective locations (“sunny,” “partly cloudy,” “windy,” etc.). BARC will be on the air from approximately 0900 to 1500 local time.

The event itself is a great way in a low-key environment to make HF contacts and get your feet wet in the HF Spectrum.



In past years we have endured all kinds of weather including warm and cold days, clear and cloudy days, and yes, even a blizzard. Access to the summit is gained by a 20 minute hike from the base of Great Blue Hill located on Route 138 next to the DCR Trailside Museum or (if you arrive early in the day) by car. Further information is available by contacting Mark Duff, KB1EKN, at [emgmt@comcast.com](mailto:emgmt@comcast.com).

### **Another Successful Jimmy Fund Walk – Brett Smith, AB1RL**

The Jimmy Fund Walk is always a great, upbeat event on our public service calendar. Everyone comes out dedicated to support a tremendous fundraiser for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute’s Jimmy Fund. All the participants to volunteers alike carry a positive, supportive mood all through a long day.

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Thirteen hams came out to support thousands of walkers on a clear and blustery day in late September. Fortunately, we had no emergencies this year, which meant we could keep our efforts focused on keeping tabs on transport buses and other medical logistics. It was a great day for everyone.

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered at the event: Glenn Skinner, KC1BCR; Keilin Bickar, KB1PSC; David Gilman, KC1DDH; Scott Gaudet, KO4W; Gary Schwartz, N1ZCE; Mike Hussey, KB1WWC; Mary-Ellen Hussey, KB1WWE; Wayne Lindgren, W1WBL; Brian O'Halloran, KB1ZYL; and Jim Hicks, KB1ZJO. Special thanks to Mark Richards, K1MGY, and George Peabody, KC1GAT, who ran our Net Control Operations Center for the western half of the course.

### Minutes from the October, 2016 General Meeting – Joe Chapman, NV1W

The Boston Amateur Radio Club held a general meeting on Thursday, October 20 at 7:30 pm at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline. The following members and guests were present: AB1RL, K1BTH, KB1EKN, KB1ISG, KB1TIC, KB5VP, KC1BZK, KC1EKJ, KC1GKY, KO4W, N1ICN, N1QD, NV1W, W1BP, WD4ASW, WD4ASX. A brief business portion of the meeting was called to order by President Joe Harris, N1QD, at 7:32 pm.

Officer reports:

- Joe, N1QD (President) reported that Howard Mintz, WA1CFX, will speak at the November general meeting on “A Lifetime in Law Enforcement.”
- Jim, N1ICN (Treasurer) reported that we have \$1100.65 in the savings account (repeater fund) and \$1782.74 in the checking account.
- Mark, KB1EKN (Vice President/Repeater committee) reported that six-can duplexer for the VHF repeater is in the radio shop.

Announcements:

- SKYWARN Recognition Day is on December 3.
- The Holiday Party is on January 8 at noon at the Stockyard in Allston.
- N1QD mentioned the new DMR nets described in the October issue of *The SPARC*.
- Envelope stuffing for the 2017 renewal mailing will happen at the December 1 Business Meeting.

### BARC Meeting Calendar for 2016

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place at the Brookline Police Headquarters.

#### General Meetings

November 17 2016 Thu 7:30 pm

#### Business Meetings

December 1 2016 Thu 7:30 pm

### BARC Net Preamble

The control operator for the BARC Net is Joe, W1JF. 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*

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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.



The banner features a teal background with white and red text and graphics. On the left is the Ad Council logo. In the center, a red smartphone is shown with a white '1' in a red circle above it, and the text 'Call 911'. To the right, a pair of red hands is shown with a white '2' in a red circle above it, and the text 'Push hard and fast in the center of the chest. Learn more at [handsonlycpr.org](http://handsonlycpr.org)'. On the far right is the American Heart Association logo with the tagline 'Learn and Live'.

## I See the Future

<b>17 November</b>	<b>BARC General Meeting, Brookline Police Headquarters, Brookline, 7:30 pm</b>
19–21 November	ARRL November Sweepstakes, Phone
25–27 November	Plimoth Plantation Special Event, Plymouth
26–27 November	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW
2–4 December	ARRL 160 Meter Contest
<b>3 December</b>	<b>SKYWARN Recognition Day, Great Blue Hill Observatory, Milton</b>
10–11 December	ARRL 10 Meter Contest
18 December	ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW

▲ **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.

## I See Farther into the Future — Spring 2017 Public Service Dates

Here is a list of planned public service events for next spring. For more information on public service, contact Brett Smith, AB1RL, at [ab1rl@arrl.net](mailto:ab1rl@arrl.net).

2 April	MS Walk Boston
15 April	BAA 5K
17 April	Boston Marathon
23 April	Run of the Charles
18 June	BAA 10K

## 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](mailto:nv1w@arrl.net). Articles for the December issue must be received by December 3.

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**The Clay Center Observatory  
Welcomes BARC members**

[www.claycenter.org](http://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*

**CQ WW DX CONTEST  
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES**

**PJ1B**

**BELNEM, BONAIRE, SOUTH AMERICA, ZONE 9**

CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DATE	UTC	MM	NET	Q-RAW
SAT	MONTH	YEAR			
93YWX			1.8	599 / 89	CW SSB
			3.5	599 / 89	CW SSB
QSO VERIFIED BY			7.0	599 / 89	CW SSB
STEVE K2SR	26	11	14	599 / 89	CW SSB
			21	599 / 89	CW SSB
			28	599 / 89	CW SSB

A WAFPY GDL

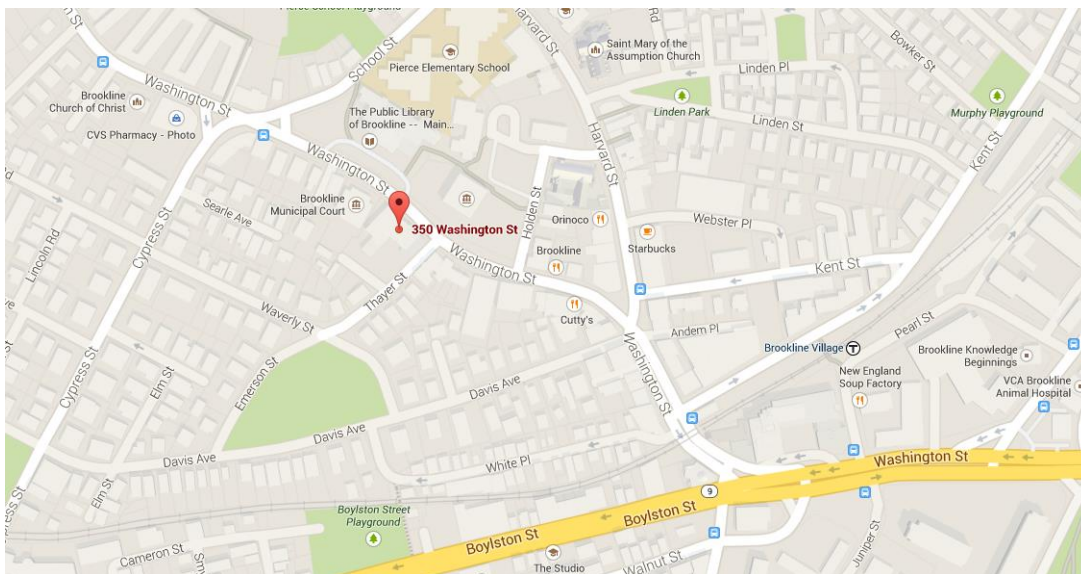
**Quarterly Business Meetings – Bob Salow, WA1DA**

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 December 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.

**Area Map for the Brookline Police Headquarters,  
350 Washington Street, Brookline MA**



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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).

## 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 next exam session will be in early 2017.** 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:

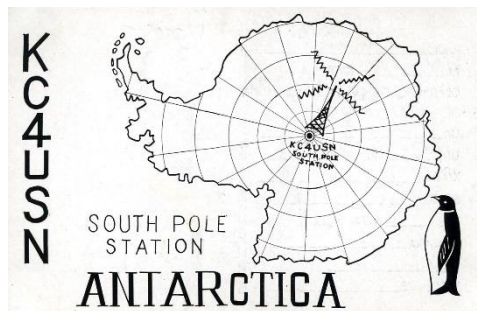
- Your current license and a photocopy for the ARRL, if you are upgrading
- Any CSCEs you are claiming, and a photocopy of them
- Valid picture ID or two valid non-picture IDs
- A pen and a calculator (if you want to)
- **\$15.00** (good for all the tests you take at that session, except for retests)

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 Linda Blair, NA1I, [na1i@arrl.net](mailto: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 Joe Chapman, NV1W, [nv1w@arrl.net](mailto:nv1w@arrl.net).



**BARC Officers and Staff**

President: Joe Harris, N1QD  
 781.844.8684; n1qd@n1qd.org  
 Vice President: Mark Duff, KB1EKN  
 781.749.7664; emgmt@comcast.net  
 Secretary: Joe Chapman, NV1W  
 617.267.6349; nv1w@arrl.net  
 Treasurer: Jim Clogher, N1ICN,  
 617.908.5019; n1icn@arrl.net  
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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 8 pm	New England DMR Net	DMR New England Talk Group (TG 3181)
Mon 9 pm	BARC Club Net	145.230 (PL 88.5)
Sun 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)