



# The SPARC

**Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century**

*Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club*

**Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area**

**December 2016 - VOLUME 28, NUMBER 12**

**www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net**



## Message from the President – Joe Harris, N1QD



*We've hit the end of 2016, and what a great year it's been for BARC! While there are several activities that have been going on, I want to highlight a few here.*

*At the beginning of the year, the club was just finishing up its fundraiser to purchase a DMR repeater to replace our idle UHF analog machine. The repeater went live in late February and has been on the air since! There is now a regular (and growing!) user base.*

*The 145.23 repeater also underwent much work in 2016, and as of today it appears to be in full health again. On a recent trip to New Hampshire, I was able to hold the repeater mobile from Derry! Look for an article with all the details about the last repeater service trip in a later issue of the SPARC.*

*BARC's annual Field Day was a great success this year! It was great to have the Harvard Wireless Club with us; I look forward to having them again. Together, W1BOS made more QSOs than we had in over a decade, and that was with the high bands in poor shape. Field Day is one of the highlights of my year, and this one did not disappoint.*

*SKYWARN Recognition Day is always a great way to put a bow on the year. The annual special event is a great way for newcomers and seasoned pros alike to get on the air and make some HF (and VHF!) contacts. This year was no different, with several newer hams stopping by and getting on the air.*

*Thanks to all for a great 2016. I look forward to seeing many of you in January at the Holiday Party!*

*Joe Harris, N1QD*

## In this Issue of The SPARC

- Volunteering at the Boston Marathon
- 2017 Meeting and VE Session dates
- Spring 2017 public service dates



## BARC Holiday Party

**Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 1:00 pm**

BARC will hold its annual Holiday Party on Sunday, January 8, 2017 at The Stockyard in Allston. More details can be found later in this issue of *The SPARC*. There will be no General Meetings in December or January.

**Repeaters: 145.230 ( - ) CTCSS 88.5**

**Simplex: 147.420**

**449.175 ( - ) DMR CC1**

## **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>.

## **Member News – Joe Chapman, NV1W**

Welcome to our first new members for 2017. Ted Stocker KC1CLP of Dorchester joined the club at the November General Meeting and was able to make it to SKWYARN Recognition Day. We also welcome new ham Tim Rourke KC1GPD of West Roxbury to the hobby and to BARC.

In other member news, congratulations to Marcia, KW1U, and Greg, KC1CIC, who appear with some regularity on the ARRL's Public Service Honor Roll. Congratulations also to J. P., KB1TIC, on his 100<sup>th</sup> CW QSO. Nice way to finish up the year!

Finally, it was good to see Bob Salow, WA1IDA, bounding about after his surgery earlier this fall. As always, we wish Bob and Elaine, N1GTB, safe travels this winter.

## **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.

## **How to Register as a Boston Marathon Volunteer – Brett Smith, AB1RL**

Mark your calendars! Volunteer registration for the 2017 Boston Marathon will open January 4. Sign up with the BAA on their web site at <http://www.baa.org/utilities/volunteer>. You can even go there and bookmark the site now, so it's easier to find next month.

If you've volunteered at a BAA event before, you'll get an e-mail from them with more information about how to register as a returning volunteer. Otherwise, follow the prompts for a first-time volunteer. When you're asked for an assignment preference, just make sure you select at least one of the "Ham Radios" assignments.</p>

I know a lot of people come back for the same assignment year after year. That's great to see: having that experience of handling the same responsibilities in a variety of situations is invaluable, and contributes a lot to the event. If that's you, please join us again.

But maybe you're looking to tackle completely new challenges. Maybe you even stopped volunteering because it got boring. Or maybe you're just looking for a change of scenery. Fortunately the Marathon is a large event with something for every volunteer. If I just described you, I encourage you to sign up and request an assignment in a different area than you've worked before. We can't guarantee specific placement, but we do our level best to accommodate everyone. It helps if you leave a brief note in the comments when you sign up.

## *The SPARC*

An amateur radio license is a license to learn. A new assignment is an opportunity to learn new operating skills. The amateur radio organizers want to give those opportunities to volunteers who want them. And volunteers who know how multiple parts of the event work, and fit together, contribute valuable expertise and feedback too. Give it a try—I can tell you from experience that a different assignment practically feels like volunteering for a different event.

Sign up with the BAA on January 4, and I'll look forward to seeing you all for another great Boston Marathon.

### **Minutes from the December, 2016 Business Meeting – Joe Chapman, NV1W**

The Boston Amateur Radio Club held a business meeting on Thursday, December 1 at 7:30 pm at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline. The following members were present: K1BTH, KB1EKN, KB1ISG, KO4W, N1ICN, N1QD, NA1I, NV1W, WA1IDA. Following a renewal envelope stuffing project the meeting was called to order by President Joe Harris, N1QD, at 8:30 pm.

Officer reports:

- Joe, N1QD (President) reported that he is setting up a speaker schedule for the spring.
- Jim, N1ICN (Treasurer) reported that we have \$1100.68 in the savings account (repeater fund) and \$1537.74 in the checking account. We have received \$50 from the Harvard Wireless Club for Field Day.
- Joe, NV1W (Secretary) reported that we have one new member and two renewals for 2017.
- Mark, KB1EKN (VP and Repeater Committee) reported that the six-can duplexer for the VHF repeater is tuned and ready to install.
- Bob, WA1IDA, on behalf of the Public Service committee, reported that there are no more events in 2016 and the season will start up again in April.

A discussion was held about moving money from the checking account into the repeater fund. It was decided to table the matter until March, when most renewals and donations will have been received.

The Holiday Party will be on Sunday, January 8, 2017, at The Stockyard in Allston, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. A motion was passed to charge attendees \$25 per person and have the club cover the rest, excluding bar bills.

A discussion was held concerning the website. N1QD and NV1W will investigate and come up with a plan of action.

K1BTH offered to investigate making BARC logo jackets available for purchase and will report back at the March business meeting.

N1QD reported that he has put a spreadsheet up on Google docs to track club assets and their current locations. A lengthy discussion was held on the current status of a 2 meter combiner which the club used for public service events in the past.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

— Respectfully submitted, Joseph Chapman NV1W, Secretary.

### **BARC Meeting Calendar for 2017**

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

#### **General Meetings**

February 16	2017	Thu	7:30 pm (at Eastern Bank, Jamaica Plain)
March 16	2017	Thu	7:30 pm (at Eastern Bank, Jamaica Plain)
April 20	2017	Thu	7:30 pm (at Clay Center, Brookline)
May 18	2017	Thu	7:30 pm
June 15	2017	Thu	7:30 pm — Elections
September 21	2017	Thu	7:30 pm

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October 19	2017	Thu	7:30 pm
November 16	2017	Thu	7:30 pm

#### Business Meetings

March 2	2017	Thu	7:30 pm (at Eastern Bank, Jamaica Plain)
June 1	2017	Thu	7:30 pm
September 7	2017	Thu	7:30 pm
December 7	2017	Thu	7:30 pm

#### VE Sessions

January 11	2017	Wed	7:30 pm
April 10	2017	Mon	7:30 pm
July 10	2017	Mon	7:30 pm
October 9	2017	Mon	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

18 December	ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW
1 January	ARRL Straight Key Night
4 January	Boston Marathon volunteer signup begins (see article above)
7 January	Deadline for articles for the January SPARC
7 January	ARRL Kids Day Contest
7–8 January	ARRL RTTY Roundup
8 January	<b>BARC Holiday Party, The Stockyard, Allston, 1:00 pm</b>
14–15 January	North American QSO Party, CW
21–23 January	ARRL January VHF Contest

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21–23 January      North American QSO Party, SSB

**▲ 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@arrrl.net](mailto:ab1rl@arrrl.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@arrrl.net](mailto:nv1w@arrrl.net). Articles for the January issue must be received by January 7.



**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*



## **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 March 2017** at Eastern Bank in Jamaica Plain. 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.

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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@arrrl.net](mailto:nv1w@arrrl.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 CSEs 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@arrrl.net](mailto:n1icn@arrrl.net), or Linda Blair, NA1I, [na1i@arrrl.net](mailto:na1i@arrrl.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@arrrl.net](mailto:nv1w@arrrl.net).



145.230 ( - ) CTCSS 88.5

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## 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

Volunteer Exams:  
Jim Clogher, N1ICN, n1icn@arrl.net  
Linda Blair, NA1I, na1i@arrl.net

Public Service Coordinator: Brett Smith, AB1RL  
859.466.5915; ab1rl@arrl.net

Public Information Officer:  
Geri Duff, KB1ISG  
781.749.7664; geriduff52@juno.com

Membership Services: Linda Blair, NA1I  
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 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)

145.230 ( - ) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 ( - ) DMR CC1

*It's that time  
of the year !*

*Boston Amateur Radio Club*

# Holiday Party

## *Here's why you must not pass this up:*

1. Past experience has shown that you are guaranteed to have a good time,
2. You will be among the members and friends of the *Boston Amateur Radio Club*.
3. The BARC gourmet and gluttony departments have praised it far and wide.
4. Good food at a reasonable price.
5. You get to vote on the BARC "Ham of the Year," and watch the winner squirm.
6. It's for you, your family and your friends (if any).

## *Here's what's happenin':*

### **Where:**

The Stockyard  
135 Market St.  
Brighton MA 02135

### **When:**

Sunday, 8 January 2017  
1:00 pm  
(*The January club meeting is suspended.*)

*Parking in the restaurant lot*

*Street parking on Guest St & Life St*

Ⓣ buses: #86 and #84 stop nearby

Talk in on 145.230

## *Food ?? Of course !!*

Guests will have a luncheon menu to order from. There will be vegetarian options provided.

© BARC

## *Cost ?? We knew you'd ask !!*

It's a bargain at \$25.00 per person (tax and gratuity included). Reserve seats for yourself, your family and your friends by sending your check, *payable to BARC*, with the coupon below, and get it in the mail quickly.

Nominate your choice for the *2016 BARC Ham of the Year* on the *other* coupon below.

Send *both* coupons below to:

**Joe Chapman, NV1W**  
**4 Charlesgate E APT 608**  
**Boston, MA 02215**

**Send before 31 December 2016**

**Send before 31 December 2016**

**Send before 31 December 2016**

**A party? Of course we'll be there!**

**Menu selections to be made at the table. Body Count: \_\_\_\_\_**

**◀ Cash Bar - You will be responsible for your own bar bills ▶**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**2016 BARC Ham of the Year**

**I nominate: \_\_\_\_\_**

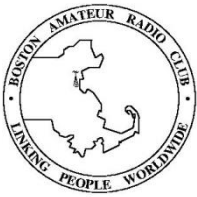
**Because: \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





# Boston Amateur Radio Club

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION - 2017

(Members: if there are **no changes** to the below information from last year, check here and fill in only your name and call sign.



☐ 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

☐ Novice  
☐ Technician  
☐ General  
☐ Advanced  
☐ Extra  
  
☐ Former ham  
☐ Not yet a ham

Are you an  
ARRL certified  
VE?

YES NO

### ARRL MEMBERSHIP

☐ Life  
☐ Annual  
☐ Not a member

### EMCOMM?

1 2 3

Have you taken  
ICS-700?

YES NO

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:



OMIT ADDRESS



OMIT EVENING PHONE

### IMPORTANT:

To save the club significant costs and effort, the club now publishes its newsletter **only** online. You will be notified monthly by email to link to a web page where the earliest posting will be available.

Our newsletter, *The SPARC*, is the source of local and general ham radio news and official club information.

It is therefore essential that for this fast and cost saving plan, that you indicate above **your best email address**.

### Membership Category

REGULAR MEMBER: Not otherwise qualified below

JUNIOR MEMBER: Are you under age 18?

SENIOR MEMBER: Are you over age 64?

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.

Full year 2017 if paid  
between  
1 Nov 16 to 31 July 17

Half year 2017 if paid  
between  
1 Aug 17 to 31 Oct 17

\$25.00

\$12.50

\$12.50

\$ 6.50

\$12.50

\$ 6.50

\$12.50

\$ 6.50

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

Total \$

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

©BARC

- 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

Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Addl \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Recd by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

DB by \_\_\_\_\_ Memb Nr \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Loc \_\_\_\_\_

Gratuitus  
est per





# Winter Fest 2017

Saturday Jan 21<sup>st</sup> 9am to 1pm

vendor setup at 7am

***The First HamFest of the Year***



**Whitman Amateur Radio Club**

K of C Hall Rt. 18 Whitman MA

\$5 entry fee with Raffle Prizes (drawn at noon)

VE testing sessions for Tech/General/Extra

Refreshments

Talk-In on the Whitman club repeater: 147.225Mhz +pl67

Vendors call: 781-523-5010

Or Visit: [www.WA1NPO.org](http://www.WA1NPO.org)

Table cost: \$15

Knights of Columbus Hall  
1195 Bedford St, Rt 18  
Whitman, MA 02382

