



# *The SPARC*

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

*Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club*

**Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area**

January 2017 - VOLUME 29, NUMBER 1

[www.barc.org](http://www.barc.org) - [w1bos@arrl.net](mailto:w1bos@arrl.net)



## **Message from the President – Joe Harris, N1QD**



*Happy New Year! I hope that 2017 is a great year for BARC and its members!*

*Now that the holidays are behind us, it's time to start focusing on ham radio events for 2017! The flea market season kicks off early this year, when the Whitman Amateur Radio Club hosts their first ever Winterfest! The flea will be held on Saturday January 21 from 9AM–1PM at the Whitman K of C hall. Marlboro and Framingham follow later in the winter, and then the MIT flea will start up again in April.*

*The BARC Monday night net has found new life and a big pickup in activity now that the 145.23 repeater has been restored to full health. Join Joe, W1JJF, and the gang of regulars at 9 p.m. on Mondays!*

*Let's kick off 2017 with a spark! I hope to see many of you at the February club meeting!*

*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
- Repeater update
- Decoding the BARC membership form



## **BARC General Meeting**

**Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 7:30 pm**

There will be no BARC General Meeting in January. The next one will be on Thursday, February 16, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. at Eastern Bank in Jamaica Plain. More exciting information will appear in next month's issue of *The SPARC*.

**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>.

## **Joe Flaherty, W1JJF, is the 2016 BARC Ham of the Year – Joe Chapman, NV1W**



The Boston Amateur Radio Club's 2016 Ham of the Year is Joe Flaherty, W1JJF. Joe, a resident of Brighton and a longtime club member, frequent presence at club events, and Net Control of the club's Monday night net, will need no introduction to most readers of The SPARC.

Joe was first licensed in 2001, and began running the club net with Jim, AA1XS, in 2005. He and his wife, Linda, have been together 50 years and married for 43, and have three children and four grandchildren. Joe retired in 2010 after 43 years with the phone company in its various incarnations (New England Telephone, NYNEX, Bell Atlantic, and Verizon). Formerly a switch rated repairman, he is now a professional hockey-watching grandfather.

You can congratulate Joe on the air by checking into the Monday night net at 9:00 p.m., and as always, *Quando omni flunkus moritati*.

## **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.

## **January 2017 Repeater Update – Joe Harris, N1QD**

I am pleased to report that the 145.23 repeater has now been restored to full health! In early December Joe, N1QD, and Mark, KB1EKN, restored the club's 6-cavity VHF duplexer and added an additional bandpass filter on the repeater's receiver input.

The results have been impressive! Users have been checking in to the repeater from southern New Hampshire, southeastern Massachusetts, and other far-off locations! The activity on the repeater has seen a dramatic uptick in the past few weeks. Check-ins on the Monday night net are increasing, and the Eastern MA 2 Meter Traffic Net has returned to 145.23 for their daily 8 p.m. traffic net.

As of now, BARC has two fully-functioning repeaters in good health. 145.23 remains the club's flagship repeater, with a massive footprint in eastern Massachusetts. 449.175 is the club's UHF DMR repeater, which has now been on the air for almost a year now.

Repeater signal reports are always appreciated, in order to get a better idea of real-world performance. Send them to Joe, N1QD, at [n1qd@n1qd.org](mailto:n1qd@n1qd.org).

## **It's Time to Sign Up to Volunteer at the Boston Marathon – Brett Smith, AB1RL**

Volunteer registration is now open for the Boston Marathon and BAA 5K! You can sign up on the BAA web site at <http://www.baa.org/utilities/volunteer>.

Occasionally I hear an operator say something like, “Everybody signs up to work the Marathon. Surely you don’t need me?” The first part is a myth. Yes, it’s a big event with almost 300 volunteers—but it takes a lot of work to build the team each year.

I understand why. It’s not a trivial commitment: a whole day of volunteering, plus some training and preparation beforehand. Not everybody can do it. Because of that, the second part of what I hear is absolutely true: if you can do it, we definitely need you. If you can join us, please sign up today. The sooner we have a full roster, the sooner we can shift our focus to the rest of the planning and organization that goes into the event. That will make a better event for everyone: the runners, the medical teams, and ourselves as volunteers too.

Thanks to all of our volunteers, past and present. I’m looking forward to a great 2017 Boston Marathon.

## **What do Those Questions on the Membership Application Mean? – Joe Chapman, NV1W**

Sometimes membership applications come back with question marks or confused scribbles around some of the questions and checkboxes, so here is a handy guide.

**ARRL Membership.** I assume everyone knows what this means, but to be complete: we want to know whether you’re a member of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL, or “The League”), and if so, whether you have a regular (annual) membership or a life membership. More information can be found at <http://www.arrl.org>.

**Are you an ARRL certified VE?** Check “yes” if you’re a Volunteer Examiner (VE) certified by the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC). See the article elsewhere in this issue of the SPARC for details. Note that there are several VECs; apart from the ARRL, the most common non-ARRL one is run by the W5YI group. All BARC VE sessions are run under the auspices of the ARRL.

**Emcomm?** These are the emergency communications classes offered by the ARRL. In the old days, there were three, hence the choice of 1, 2, and 3. They have recently been replaced by two: the introductory course (EC-001) and the emergency management course (EC-016). If you’ve taken EC-001, circle 1, if you’ve taken EC-016, circle 3.

EC-001 costs \$50. It’s a combination of online learning and projects done under the supervision of a mentor. You have to complete the work in 9 weeks, and in my experience you have to keep at it so as not to fall behind—it’s fairly common for people to drop out. More information can be found on the ARRL website.

EC-016 is more advanced and requires EC-001 as a prerequisite.

**Have you taken ICS-700?** This is a FEMA course, *IS-00700.a National Incident Management System (NIMS): An Introduction*. You can take it for free on-line, and there’s a multiple-choice final exam at the end. My impression is that pretty much everyone in the post-Katrina world who wants to do emergency work has to take this course (it’s a prerequisite for EC-001). For more information, see <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-700.a>.

Although the membership application doesn’t ask about *IS-00100.b Introduction to the Incident Command System ICS-100*, it is the other essential FEMA course, also available for free on-line with a multiple-choice final exam at the end. See <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.b>.

## 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
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.*



145.230 ( - ) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 ( - ) DMR CC1

## I See the Future

21 January	Whitman ARC Winterfest
21–23 January	ARRL January VHF Contest
21–23 January	North American QSO Party, SSB
4 February	Deadline for articles for the February SPARC
4–5 February	Vermont QSO Party
5 February	North American Sprint, CW
11–12 February	CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest
<b>16 February</b>	<b>BARC General Meeting, Eastern Bank, Jamaica Plain, 7:30 pm</b>
18–19 February	ARRL International DX Contest, CW
25–26 February	North American QSO Party, 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.


## 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 February issue must be received by February 4.



**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.

## 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 on April 10, 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).



## 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

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617.908.5019; n1icn@arrl.net

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Jim Clogher, N1ICN, n1icn@arrl.net

Linda Blair, NA1I, na1i@arrl.net

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859.466.5915; ab1rl@arrl.net

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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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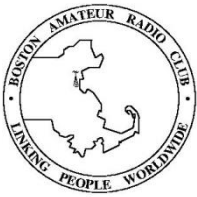
## Greater Boston Net Directory

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



# 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

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

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.


\$25.00

\$12.50

\$12.50

\$12.50

\$12.50

\$ 6.50

\$ 6.50

\$ 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

