

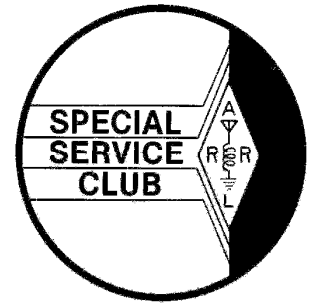
The SPARC

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Volume XXI, Number 8; August 2009

<http://www.barcl.org>

w1bos@arrl.net



The President's Corner

-- Tom Bertolino, KB1P, President

We are now in the middle of summer, and our thoughts are focused on vacations, outside tasks, and family get-togethers. Before we know it, summer will be over and we will be attending the club meetings. But before we meet in September some items need to be addressed and then discussed at the Business meeting on September 3. The solutions of these items will influence the way the club functions and the manner in which it supports the membership. These options need to be explored and discussed during this summer, and possible solutions brought to the club's membership as soon as possible for approval.

Among these items are: Should the club continue to hold VE sessions, where will they be held; and the transfer of the tasks that Bob, WA1IDA, is currently managing.

With the retiring of Ed, KA1KHK, from the Brookline school system, the club has lost its fee-free status for the use of a Brookline school. Future use of a classroom in the Pierce School would incur a cost that is unacceptable to the club. Therefore the club is forced to look at our overall policy of VE testing. Do we still want to hold VE exams? If so, where do we hold them?

My gut feeling is that VE testing is a valuable service which the club offers to the community. As long as the club has members who are volunteer examiners; and they are willing to donate their time, the club should continue testing. We need to find a place suitable to administer the exams. Site requirements are: accessibility by the T, parking, a central location, and at no cost to the club.

If you are not aware, The Salvation Army has sold its headquarters building in Boston. This of course raises some questions. How long would the club be able to hold its meetings at the TSA? Where would we meet after this TSA building is no longer available to us? What are the criteria for another meeting location? How would this affect the clubs relationship with The Salvation Army?

The Salvation Army here in Boston has recently reassigned its General Secretary with whom we have had an excellent relationship. That position holds the authority for the use of their buildings. Bob, WA1IDA, and I are scheduling a meeting with the new General Secretary to discuss matters which affect BARC. I hope we will then have favorable answers to these questions which we can share with you.

As mentioned in my address to the club published in the July *The SPARC*, we are looking for members to take over the various tasks

that Bob, WA1IDA, has supported for many years. The failure to assign these critical tasks in a timely manner could seriously affect the way the club operates and presents itself.

We, the members of the club, have some important decisions to make. Discussion of options and possible solutions of these problems now take on added importance. The Boston Amateur Radio Club is *your* club, and is here to serve *your* needs. Decisions will be made by the officers and the Executive Committee based on your input. These decisions will shape the type of the club we will have in the future. Now is the time to let the officers know your thoughts. If you any comments, recommendations, or possible solutions (including volunteering) for any of these problems, please contact me. My email address is: kb1p@arrl.net. You may also contact any club officer or staff member as shown on page 7 of *The SPARC*.

Regular Business Meetings

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

BARC has Business meetings quarterly. Unless circumstances warrant, BARC Business meetings are held on the first Thursdays of December, March, June, and September. The next such meeting will be on **3 September 2009** at the Salvation Arm HQ building. 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.

To provide continuity of club business between meetings we have an online business meeting via a group list. Any member interested in the affairs of the club can ask to be on this meeting list – just give your name, call and your email address to any officer.

Terry Koen, N1IWF, SK

-- Mark Duff, KB1EKN, and John Garrett, WN9T

Terry was one of the earliest members of BARC, and had received the club's "Ham Radio Operator of the Year" award in 1997. He was a retired Boston Fire Captain, serving a considerable amount of time at Engine 33 in the Back Bay.

Terry had been in the military with Elvis Presley. Being a drummer, he played with Elvis a few times. Terry was a generous, kind-hearted man, a friendly and insightful ham, and a good friend to all who knew him.

BARC's New Repeaters

As you should now know, both BARC repeaters have been replaced. On VHF, we have a Kenwood TKR 750, using our original frequency assignment of 145.230 MHz, CTCSS 88.5 Hz. On UHF, a Kenwood TKR 850 is on its newly assigned frequency, 444.050 MHz (+), CTCSS 110.9 Hz. The change in the UHF frequency is to accommodate Department of Defense restrictions. Both transmitters run about 35 W.

The VHF repeater is operational, but still under study. The UHF repeater has a difficult receiver sensitivity problem, but it is being worked on. Your signal reports and other comments are valuable. Please let the club officers know your observations.

Are You New – Or Not So New?

The most common question asked by new radio amateurs is, "Now that I have my license, what kind of radio should I get?" The ARRL, in an attempt to help newcomers to Amateur Radio answer that very question, has added a bonus supplement to the *ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, Choosing a Ham Radio: "Your Guide to Selecting the Right Equipment."* This publication is aimed at the new Technician licensee ready to acquire a first radio, a licensee recently upgraded to General class and wanting to explore HF, or someone getting back into Amateur Radio after a period of inactivity.

The guide features two main sections - one covering gear for the VHF and UHF bands, and one for HF band equipment, including a VHF/UHF and an HF glossary of terms you will encounter. The guide also urges you to discover just what you want to do with Amateur Radio and where you want to do it from. Do you want to be a "big gun" HF contester? Do you want to ragchew on your local repeater system? Maybe you want to join your local ARES unit and help provide communications support in times of emergency. This guide will help you select the right rig for what you want to do.

Choosing a Ham Radio: Your Guide to Selecting the Right Equipment isn't a traditional "buyer's guide" with feature lists and prices for many radios. The manufacturers' Web sites and catalogs from radio stores have plenty of information on the latest models and features. As such, you won't find operating instructions or technical specifications here. Many manufacturers' Web sites will let you download brochures and manuals directly.

Second only to, "What kind of radio should I get?" is the next most common question, "What kind of antenna do I need?" Don't worry! *Choosing a Ham Radio: Your Guide to Selecting the Right Equipment* also talks about all kinds of antennas - from "rubber ducks" to verticals to dipoles to Yagis; it even explains rotators and antenna gain.

ARRL members who are logged on to the ARRL Web site can view (and download) the guide online at:

<www.arrl.org/members-only/choosingaradio/>. Otherwise, go to www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9639 to order a copy.

Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?

Repeaters: 145.23 (-) PL 88.5 444.050 MHz (+) 110.9 Hz

W1AW Adds Digital Modes to Schedule

-- The ARRL Letter, July 17, 2009

Effective August 17, W1AW, will replace its AMTOR and ASCII transmissions with PSK31 and MFSK16, respectively. RTTY (Baudot) will continue to be the first digital mode used in the transmission schedule. The frequencies used by W1AW for all its digital transmissions will remain the same. All regular 1800 and 2100 (Eastern Time) digital transmissions will begin with RTTY. PSK31 and MFSK16 will be sent as time allows. The Tuesday and Friday Keplerian data bulletins will be sent using RTTY and PSK31.

The W1AW operating schedule, complete with times and frequencies, can be found on the ARRL Web site <www.arrl.org/w1aw.html#w1awsked>

How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for email delivery:

ARRL members first must register on the *Members Only* website www.arrl.org/members/. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for email delivery of *The ARRL Letter*, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections - including delivery of *The ARRL Letter* - registered members should click on the *Member Data Page* link (in the *Members Only* box). Click on *Modify membership data*, check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your email address if necessary. Check *Temporarily disable all automatically sent email* to temporarily stop all email deliveries. Then, click on *Submit Modification* to make your selections effective. **NOTE:** HQ staff members cannot change your email delivery address. You must do this yourself via the *Members Only* website.

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from:

- ARRLWeb.<www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. *The ARRL Letter* will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via email.
- The QTH.net listserv, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.net: at <<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>>. **NOTE:** The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive *The ARRL Letter* via this listserv.

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Simplex: 147.42

What! No August BARC Meeting?

BARC is taking our traditional summer meeting break. But we will be back in September with one meeting a month on the third Thursdays! Then we will continue our usual meeting structure with the first 30 to 45 minutes for any pending business, followed by the main topic of the month. Both portions of the meeting are important.

The BARC General meeting will be held on 17 September.

Our General meetings start at 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month at the Salvation Army third floor auditorium. The address is 147 Berkeley St, but the entrance is on Columbus Ave. The nearest **T** stations are Back Bay on the Orange line or Commuter Rail (exit the rear of the station); and Arlington on the Green line. Free parking is available in the adjacent lot. The entrance to the parking lot is from Columbus Ave. (across the street from the firehouse). A map appears on page 7 of this newsletter.

We usually take the first few minutes for any pending business, followed by the main topic of the month. Both portions of the meeting are important.

If you have any ideas about topics that you would like to see presented at future meetings, please feel free to contact one of your officers. Remember – this is *your* club and we are here to help *you* have fun and get the most out of ham radio.

Future BARC Meeting Dates

(Third Thursdays at 7:00 pm)

(No General Meeting in August)

- 3 Sept 2009 – Business Meeting
- 17 Sept 2009 – General Meeting
- 15 October 2009 – General Meeting
- 19 November 2009 – General Meeting

Salvation Army Disaster Field Exercise

-- Frank Murphy, N1DHW

The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services has planned a Field Exercise on **Saturday, 26 September** at Camp Wonderland in Sharon, MA. This event will focus on disaster operations training for key members of the Command staff and Volunteers. Ham radio support has been and continues to be a vital part of this exercise. The drill will simulate a larger scale disaster response, and work on building response capacity in a number of different areas.

The drill will begin with registration at 0830, followed by a Disaster Services Organization role-specific training from 0930 to 1030, with the live exercise beginning at 1030. Lunch will be served from canteen kitchens as part of the drill. A brief time for assessment is planned before the event is completed at 1545pm. If you are interested in participating, or have any questions, please contact me at n1dhw@arrl.net.

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?

Looking Ahead At Public Service

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

When hams engage in public service as mandated by the FCC Rules, the benefits go well beyond just following the rules. We can enjoy our hobby - have fun! We protect the health and safety of event participants. We support worthy charities. We learn to work within an organized effort. We experience the technical aspects of operating under adverse conditions. We practice communicating under emergency conditions. We can demonstrate these qualities to the communities we serve and thus promote our service for their acceptance.

Throughout the year BARC coordinates numerous public service events. Most of these are open to hams who are new to helping at such events as well as experienced hams. For 2009, we have already been tasked with several events, and more are expected. Feel free to contact Bob Salow, WA1IDA, if you have any questions - walida@arrl.net or 508.650.9440.

- *BAA Half Marathon* – **11 October 2009** – Boston
- *Salvation Army Field Exercise* – **26 September 2009** – Camp Wonderland, Sharon
- *SKYWARN Recognition Day* – **5 December 2009** – Blue Hill Observatory – Milton

Other events may jump in on short notice. Among our skills is the ability to apply our technical, organizational and staffing quickly and proficiently. Join our team and join in the fun and learning.

For Sale

I have been asked to liquidate some of the radio estate of our late member, Jim Bloom, KB1MZE. While this equipment is used, he apparently kept it in good condition. However, it is sold "as is."

- Astron power supply, Model RS20A - \$50.
- Heathkit multiband shortwave receiver, Model GR-78 - \$150.
- APC UPS power supply, Model SU700NET - \$80.

More items will be available later. Contact Bob Salow, WA1IDA, at walida@arrl.net or call 508.650.9440.

Have Breakfast With BARC

BARC holds a social breakfast on the **third** Sunday of each month at the Old Country Buffet in the Watertown Mall. Breakfast is served from 0800 to 1030 (although we rarely stay beyond 1000).

We just get together, socialize and eat, without any formal club events or business. Family and friends are welcome. The extensive buffet breakfast is *very* good. The cost is reasonable (seniors get a discount).

The Old Country Buffet is in the Watertown Mall, 550 Arsenal St. in Watertown. There is plenty of parking. The #70 **T** bus from Central Square Cambridge to Watertown Square to Waltham stops right at the Watertown Mall. We hope to see all of you there – and bring your appetite!

Repeaters: 145.23 (-) PL 88.5 444.050 MHz (+) 110.9 Hz

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Join ARRL and BARC Gets Benefits

The ARRL club commission program allows ARRL Affiliated Clubs (that's us) to retain a portion of the ARRL dues from each new member or renewal that the club submits.

Under the ARRL Club Commission Membership Recruitment Program, clubs retain \$15 for each *new* membership and \$2 for each *renewal* submitted (regular and senior memberships only). A *new member* is defined as any individual who has never been a member of ARRL or any individual who has not retained a membership for two or more calendar years prior to the application submission.

The details and forms can be found on the web at the ARRL Club Companion page at:

<www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/benefits.html#commission>.

BARC Volunteer Exam Sessions

The Boston Amateur Radio Club holds monthly VE sessions on the second Monday of each month, except during July and August. **When we resume in September, the location is likely to change. Adequate notice will be provided.** Generally, sessions begin at 7:00 pm.

For further information, contact:

Tom Bertolino, KB1P, 781.608.6186 kb1p@arrl.net

Future Exam Dates

(Second Mondays at 7:00 pm)

(no Exams in August)

14 September 2009

19 October 2009 (Note temporary change)

9 November 2009

Who Said You Are Never Lost With A Compass?

Magnetic north is the direction a compass needle points to, while true north is the direction to the Earth's northerly rotational axis point. They are indeed different in most places, and the difference is different for each spot on Earth. It also changes over time. The difference is referred to as magnetic variation on nautical charts, and as magnetic declination in some other venues.

NOAA's National Geophysical Data Center provides information on the nature of this phenomenon as well as maps showing the correction: <www.ngdc.noaa.gov/geomag/declination.shtml>.

For example, at a station in Connecticut, in 1981 the magnetic variation was 13 degrees west with an annual increase of 4 minutes. That means in 2009, it should be a bit less than 16 degrees. If you look at the US map on the above Web site you will see that it is now near the -15 degree line.

Your compass needs help. Make sure you know where you are and where you are going.

Indecision may or may not be my problem.

Repeaters: 145.23 (-) PL 88.5 444.050 MHz (+) 110.9 Hz



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

I See the Future

16 Aug	BARC Breakfast
16 Aug	MIT Flea
16 Aug	NoBARC Hamfest (Adams MA)
22 Aug	Granite State Flea (Salem NH)
3 Sep	BARC Business Meeting
13 Sep	SEMARA Flea (Dartmouth)
14 Sep	BARC VE Session
17 Sep	BARC General Meeting
19 Sep	RIFMRS Flea (Forestdale RI)
20 Sep	BARC Breakfast
20 Sep	MIT Flea
11 Oct	BAA Half Marathon (Rp)
15 Oct	BARC General Meeting
16-17 Oct	NEAR Fest Flea (Deerfield NH)
17 Oct	NE Antique RC Flea (Manchester NH)
18 Oct	BARC Breakfast
18 Oct	MIT Flea
19 Oct	BARC VE Session
2 Nov	HCRA Auction (Feeding Hills)
7 Nov	IRS Flea (Londonderry NH)
7 Nov	FARA Flea (Bourne)

(Rp) = BARC repeater(s) may be used

There are many more events (public service, hamfests, flea markets, etc.) taking place - some only peripheral to ham radio. For information on these, covering New England and some of New York, the "Ham - Electronic Flea Market" and the "PSLIST" lists tell the story. If needed, contact any club member who has access to these sources.

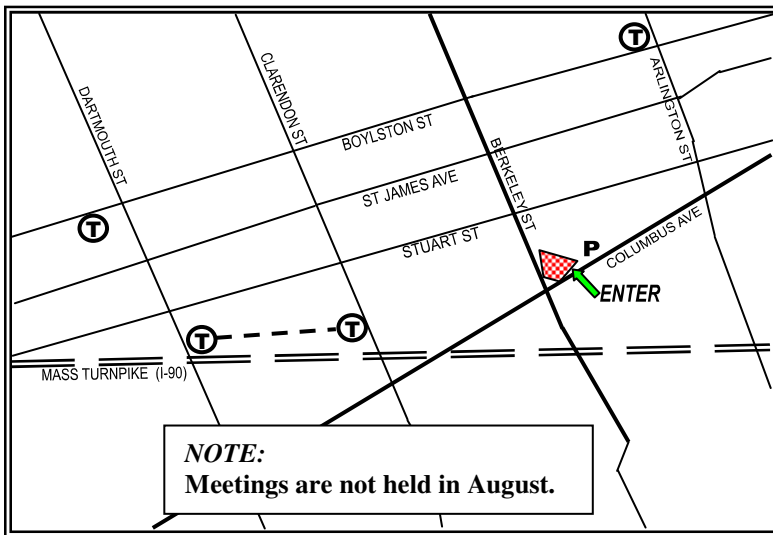
FCC Increases Vanity Call Fee

On 10 September, The FCC will increase the fee for Vanity calls from \$12.30 to \$13.40 - good for ten years.

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 Editor Paul Carter, N1TMF.

Simplex: 147.42



NOTE:
BARC VE sessions are not held in August.
A new location will be announced soon.

General and Business Meetings – Boston Salvation Army HQ
 Corner of Berkeley St. and Columbus Ave.

BARC Officers and Staff

President	Tom Bertolino, KB1P	781.608.6186	kb1p@arrl.net
Vice President	Mark Duff, KB1EKN	781.749.7664	emgmt@comcast.net
Secretary	Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ	978.663.7114	james.bradley4@comcast.net
Treasurer	Jim Clogher, N1ICN	617.364.4658	n1icn@arrl.net
Volunteer Exams	Jim Clogher, N1ICN	617.364.4658	n1icn@arrl.net
	Tom Bertolino, KB1P	781.608.6186	kb1p@arrl.net
Public Service	Bob Salow, WA1IDA	508.650.9440	wa1ida@arrl.net
Membership Services	Charlie Goumas, KB1RCN	617.776.6249	coasterrider@rcn.com
	Rosie Goumas, KB1RCO	617.776.6249	ronamoss@rcn.com
Newsletter Editor	Paul Carter, N1TMF	617.232.6982	n1tmf@pvctronics.com
Programs & Activities	Phil Temples, K9HI	617.744.9780	phil@temples.com

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 Special Service 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 a participant in Partnerships Advancing Technical Hobbies Which Attract Youth to Science (PATHWAYS). The Club is also an associate member of the Courage Handi-Hams system.

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Greater Boston Net Directory

Daily 5:30 pm	Eastern Mass/Rhode Island Phone Net (NTS)	3.915
Daily 7 and 10 pm	Eastern Mass/Rhode Island CW Net (NTS)	3.658
Daily 8 pm	Eastern Mass 2M Traffic Net (NTS)	145.230 (PL 88.5)
Daily 8 pm	Slow Speed CW Net	28.160
Daily 10:00 pm	Heavy Hitters Traffic Net (NTS)	MMRA-linked repeaters: 146.610, 146.670, 146.715, 146.820, and all 222 and 440 repeaters
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)
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	HHTN Swap Net	146.640
Thu 8:30 pm	AMSAT Net	146.640
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 Newline)	145.470

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