



THE SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century



Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.barc.org> - w1bos@arrl.net

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The President's Corner

- Tom Bertolino, KB1P, President

Boy! Where has the year gone? It's October, and it seems as if it was only last month we were at field day. Before you know it we will be toasting the New Year. Well back to reality. We are now planning for events that are scheduled in December. The events are: the holiday party and Skywarn Recognition Day.

The target date for the holiday party is 3 December at the Stockyard Restaurant. We will get the exact date out as soon as possible. Since this year's party may be held earlier than we usual it is important that we receive your vote for Ham of the Year as soon possible so we can have the award ready for the holiday party.

Because the Holiday Party is schedule when we normally have our quarterly Business Meeting the plan is that we move the Business Meeting to the 10th of December. Of course everything depends on the date of the Holiday Party. Hopefully, we should know all the details by October's General Meeting.

The Skywarn date is 5 December. As we have in the past we'll be setting up our station on Great Blue Hill in Milton. This year, in addition to our HF and VHF phone stations we'll be setting up a digital [PSK31] station. So if you want to know how PSK31 works or want to operate a PSK 31 station come on by. The POC for Skywarn is Mark, KB1EKN. If you want to help set-up or just come by, contact Mark at emgmgt@comcast.net for more information.

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BARC has started a Yahoo group called Boston ARC. The purpose of the group is to keep members informed about club actives and to offer a vehicle where members can find answers to their Ham related questions. The Boston ARC group is not intended to replace the SPARC or the BARC List. We have posted some pictures on the group's photo's section, and you can also find the slides used in the Introduction to PSK 31 class and directions to make a 20 meter dipole in the file section. If you want to join the group and have not received an invitation you can join by sending me an email at: bostonARC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com asking to join.

I hope to see you at one of our meetings or at one of the public service events.

Thanks

As in live there is always change, so must the newsletter change, so must the newsletter, as Bob moves on to bigger and better things.

First both the organization and I would like to thank both Bob WA1IDA and Paul N1TMF for their service and for a great new letter, I hope that I can keep up the great work that they have started.

2M Boston Repeater: 145.230 MHz, 88.5 Hz
70 cm Boston Repeater: 444.050 MHz, 110.9 Hz
BARC 2M simplex: 147.420 MHz

Calendar

Future BARC Meeting Dates

(Third Thursdays at 7:00 pm)

- 15 October 2009 – General Meeting
- 19 November 2009 – General Meeting
- 10 December – Holiday Party
Stockyard Restaurant, Brighton, MA

Future VE Exam Dates

(Second Mondays at 7:00 pm)

Location has changed to the Salvation Army building

- 12 October 2009
- 9 November 2009
- 14 December 2009

I See the Future

- 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)

Status of the 70 cm BARC Repeater

The new 70 cm repeater has been having a severe problem with receiving. A likely culprit is a nearby saturating signal which gets through the input filters. Earlier tests at an offsite location indicated excellent performance from the repeater. Our crack team is working on the solution.

Monthly VE Sessions Relocated

After a fallow July and August, our VE sessions will now be held at the same location as our meetings – in the Salvation Army HQ building in Boston. The sessions have been moved from the Pierce School in Brookline because economic conditions led Brookline to require a fee beyond our means.

The sessions will continue to begin at 7:00 pm. Parking is free in the adjacent lot accessed from Columbus Ave.

I See the Future (cont.)

- 18 Oct BARC Breakfast
- 18 Oct MIT Flea
- 19 Oct BARC VE Session
- 2 Nov HCRA Auction (Feeding Hills)
- 4 Nov Cape Ann ARA Flea (Rockport)
- 7 Nov IRS Flea (Londonderry NH)
- 7 Nov FARA Flea (Bourne)

(Rp) = BARC repeater(s) may 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 New England and some of New York, 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.

Holiday Party

Just in the holiday party is now scheduled for the 10 Dec at the Stockyard Restaurant, 135 Market Street, Brighton, MA time 1900 hrs. The restaurant was booked for the 3 Dec. So we had to go to the alternate date. The November SPARC will have an insert with all the information along with meal section if you decide to attend; Ham of the year Award nomination; and were to find parking spaces if the parking lot is full.

Look Up Before You Rake

-- Arthur Ashley, N1NHZ

Fall means color in the trees. If you are going to rake up the leaves, first take some time to enjoy the New England displays of color – expected to be spectacular this year. Before you look and before you rake, know what you are seeing. Visit the following website to find the types of trees that produce the colors:

http://landscaping.about.com/cs/fallfoliagetrees/a/fall_foliage7.htm .

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 that 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 – w1ida@arrl.net or 508.650.9440.

- *BAA Half Marathon* – **11 October 2009** – Boston
- *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.

The other side of Public Service

-- Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ

We all know that Public Service events give us a chance to enjoy our hobby, play with our radios and get on the air, but there is also a human side to these events and the organizations they represent.

Recently my wife, Donna and I supported the MS Challenge Walk, a three-day, fifty mile walk on Cape Cod. The walk uses the Cape Code Rail Trail, which is for the use of walkers and cyclists. To support the walkers the MS Society recruits cyclist to ride up and down the trail and keep an eye on the safety of the participants.

During this year's event Donna, who is a CNA, and I rode our tandem bike. We carry a medical kit and supplies for the walkers (water and extra food). I use a ham radio to keep in touch with Net Control.

This year's walk started out the same as previous years and day one was uneventful. On day two while we were checking in with net control at rest stop two, we were asked to return to the start line to shadow one of the special one-day walkers.

We headed back to the start to begin our new assignment, not knowing exactly what to expect. When we arrived, the bike crew captain said that they had a one-day walker who has MS. They wanted us to follow the walker and Todd, who was with MS to provide communions and medical support.

As we waited at the start line, the first group of walkers came over the hill and headed out for the rail trail. Then over the top of the hill came our walker, Barbara with Todd. She was walking very slowly and using two canes to assist her. As she came down the hill and passed us to head up the road to the rail trail, you could see she was unsteady.

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Business 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 x 2 in. (business card)	\$15 per issue
1 col x 2 in. (business card)	\$75 per 6 consecutive months
1 col x 2 in. (business card)	\$125 per 12 consecutive months
1 col x 4 in. (1/2 column)	\$30 per issue
1 col x 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 Jim Bradley at james.bradley4@comcast.net or 978-663-7114; or Bob Salow at walida@arrl.net or 508.650.9440.

ARES Field Resource Manual

The ARRL - ARES Field Resource Manual is available online. This is a comprehensive place to find information and guidance on all matters related to ham radio emergency response (actual, drill and other public service). It is an easy to read reference in .pdf format. Bookmark or download for quick access:

www.arrl.org/fandes/field/aresman.pdf .

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We mounted the tandem and headed up the road. We quickly caught up to them and passed them. The only way we were going to keep up with them was to walk the bike. We got off and walked in front of them to get cars to move over, while passing us.

Once we made it to the rail trail Donna move up to assist Todd in providing soft touch support, to make sure Barbara did not fall. As I followed behind them I thought about the quote "walk a mile in my shoes", I could not imagine the strength and determination required for Barbara to walk. Even walking behind her in biking shoes and pushing the tandem, I did not even get close to walking in her shoes.

At one point she stumbled and fell slowly to the ground catching all of us of guard. She said it was her legs way of telling her to take a break. She apologized for falling and holding us back from helping others. We assured her that we were here for her; to make sure she was safe and to allow her to walk as far as she wanted.

After resting for a few minutes Barbara was ready to continue so, Donna assisted her as she got back on her feet. Once she was ready we all continued walking to the first rest stop.

Shortly after that Todd dropped back to talk to me. He was observably moved by the motivation and determination of Barbara. He asked me to contact Net Control to make sure there would be a group to cheer for Barbara as we got to the rest stop. I contacted Net Control but had to regain my composure as the emotions of the experience hit me, while trying to express our request for a cheering squad.

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As soon as we got within sight to the rest stop you could hear them cheering and it got louder the closer we got. As we entered the rest stop the cheering got even louder and they all gathered around Barbara. She had made it, she walked three miles.

Donna and I both cherished this experience and many others from this walk. They always remind us of the challenges that others face every day and that we are all on our own journey.

To quote one of the walker's signs...

"Why do we do it; for those who can't."

Have Breakfast With BARC

We hold 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 1130 (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

Still For Sale

-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

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 to be sold "as is."

- Astron power supply, Model RS20A – \$20.
- Heathkit multiband shortwave receiver, Model GR-78 – \$50.
- APC UPS power supply, Model SU700NET \$20.

More items will be available later. Contact Bob Salow, WA1IDA, at wa1ida@arrl.net or call 508.650.9440.

get a discount).

The Old Country Buffet is in the Watertown Mall, 550 Arsenal St. in Watertown. There is plenty of parking. From Memorial Dr, continue on Greenough Blvd to the Watertown exit, turn right on Arsenal St. By T, the #70 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!

BARC Officers and Staff

President:	Tom Bertolino, KB1P;	
Vice President:	Mark Duff, KB1EKN;	
Secretary:	Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ;	978-663-7114; kb1jkj@arrl.net
Treasurer:	Jim Clogher, N1ICN,	617.364.4658; n1icn@rcn.com
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Public Service:	Bob Salow, WA1IDA;	508.650.9440; wa1ida@arrl.net
Newsletter Editor:	Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ;	

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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General Meeting & VE Session - Boston Salvation Army
Corner of Berkeley St. and Columbus Ave.

Boston Amateur Radio Club
14 Meridien Way
Billerica, MA 01821



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