



# The SPARC

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

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

March 2010 - VOLUME 22, NUMBER 3

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



## Message from the President

**- Tom Bertolino, KB1P, President**

March is here. This is the month where winter ends and spring starts. It means if it snows just wait awhile and nature will take it away. I won't put my snow shovel away though. I learned my lesson one April 1st when we got about 2 feet of snow. March is also the month before BARC's Public Service events start. BARC sponsors three events in April. The first event is The MS Boston Walk (Sunday 11 April). The start and finish lines are in Harvard University Stadium and the walk is around the Charles River. The second event is BAA 5K and 1 Mile Races (Sunday 18 April). The start and finish line is the finish line for the Boston Marathon. The third event is the Run of the Charles (Sunday 25 April). It is New England's largest canoe and kayak race includes 6, 9, and 19 mile races, a 24-mile, five-leg canoe relay race, and a 26-mile professional marathon. The race has a number of starting points along the river, and ends on Soldiers Field Road across from Channel 4.

These events are excellent opportunities for new hams to gain experience and polish their on air skills. This month's General meeting class (18 March) will cover: the significance of Amateur Radio in Public Service events; the equipment a Ham needs to support an event; and radio procedures used during Public Service events. If you are a new Public Service events please attend. If you are an experienced Public Service Ham, please come and join in the conversation. We could also use your help to stress points during the meeting. This is also an excellent opportunity to show off your to go gear.

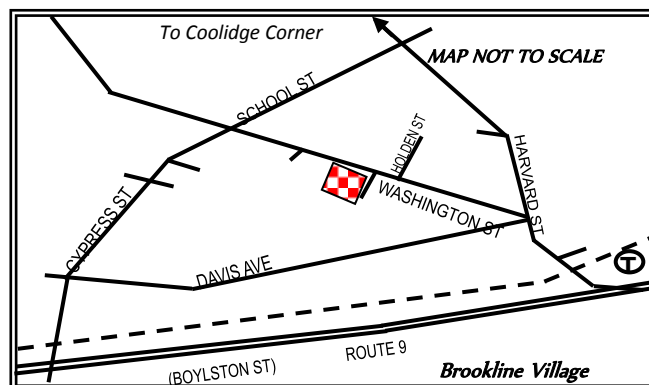
Because of the frequency of these events BARC will need a greater than normal amount of volunteers. I have sent out e-mail requests for volunteers for these events. If you have not received a request to volunteer and want to volunteer please send me an e-mail. My e-mail address is [kb1p@arrl.net](mailto:kb1p@arrl.net).

## March's General meeting

Our March General meeting will be held on Thursday, 18 March at 7:00 pm in the Community Room at Brookline Police Headquarters. The address is 350 Washington Street. There is a municipal parking lot across the street behind the City Hall on Holden Street. Parking is free after 6:00 pm. For those who take the "T", the nearest bus stop is about 1 block away at Washington St & Harvard St (on the 65 bus "Brighton Center via Washington St" out bound from Kenmore Station). There is a map on the last page.

*This month's General meeting will cover: the significance of Amateur Radio in Public Service events; the equipment a Ham needs to support an event; and radio procedures used during Public Service events.*

*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.*



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## I See the Future

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 8 Mar        | BARC VE Session <b>(BPD)</b>  |
| 12-13 Mar    | Mass QRP Convention (Westford)                                      |
| 18 Mar       | BARC General Meeting <b>(BPD)</b>                                   |
| 20 Mar       | CAARA Flea (Rockport)   |
| 11 Apr       | MS Boston Walk <b>(Rp)</b>  |
| 11 Apr       | FARA Flea (Framingham)  |
| 12 Apr       | BARC VE Session <b>(BPD)</b>  |
| 14 Apr       | BARC General Meeting <b>(BPD)</b><br>(Note temporary change of day) |
| 18 Apr       | BAA Boston 5K & 1 Mile Races <b>(Rp)</b>                            |
| 18 Apr       | MIT Flea (Cambridge)  |
| 25 Apr       | Run of the Charles <b>(Rp)</b>                                      |
| 1-2 May      | New England QSO Party   |
| 16 May       | BARC Breakfast  |
| 22 May       | MS Journey of Hope Walk <b>(Rp)</b>                                 |
| 30 Apr-1 May | NEAR-Fest (Deerfield NH)  |
| 16 May       | MIT Flea (Cambridge)  |
| 26-27 Jun    | Field Day   |
| 27-29 Aug    | NE Div Convention (Boxboro)   |

**(Rp)** = Repeater(s) may be used **-(BPD)** Brookline Police Department.

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.

**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 also an associate member of the Courage Handi-Hams system.

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## Hams Needed – Multiple Sclerosis Walk

-- Rick Savage, KB1LYJ

The Multiple Sclerosis Society has again organized two local events this year. The "Boston MS Walk" will be on Sunday, April 11, 2010, organized as it has been for the past several years. The "MS Journey of Hope," has a location and new date, it will start and finish in Natick on Saturday, May 22, 2010.

We have been asked to support communications for both. The "Boston MS Walk" will start and finish at the Harvard athletic facility on North Harvard St near Soldiers Field Rd in Brighton.

The route of the walk will be on both sides of the river in Cambridge and Boston.

The "MS Journey of Hope" is an 8 mile course through Natick. There will be several checkpoints, vehicles and medical coverage for us to support.

Each will be managed by a Net Control station, using both VHF and UHF repeaters. Your help is vital for these worthy causes. If you can lend a hand, contact Rick, KB1LYJ, at [rpsavage@comcast.net](mailto:rpsavage@comcast.net) or 781.289.7364.

## Hams Needed For the Run of the Charles

-- Tom Bertolino, KB1OKP

Ham radio has been part of the Run of the Charles canoe races for more than 27 years. BARC has coordinated the hams for most of that time. This is a well run event which provides wetness for the participants and excitement for the hams (who stay dry). We are looking for more hams to help on Sunday, 25 April.

Our duties include reporting from hazardous portages around the many dams on the Charles River from Needham to Brighton. Various assignments start between 0700 and 1200, with assignment completions from 1230 to 1630. This is an excellent way for those new to public service to get your feet wet (figuratively only) and learn how hams can support the community.

It's an outdoor event, yet safe for hams. Because of the terrain along the river bank, a hand held radio with an antenna better than a "rubber duck" and a full 5 watts is necessary.

If you can help, contact me, Tom Bertolino, at [kb1okp@arrrl.net](mailto:kb1okp@arrrl.net) or 781.395.5538.

## 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 Tom Bertolino, KB1P, at [<kb1p@arrrl.net>](mailto:kb1p@arrrl.net).

## BARC Volunteer Exam Sessions

The Boston Amateur Radio Club holds monthly VE sessions on the second Monday of each month. Sessions are held at 7:00 pm at Brookline Police Headquarters, 350 Washington St in Community Room across from information desk.

There is a municipal parking lot across the street behind the City Hall on Holden Street. Parking is free after 6:00 pm. For those who take the "T", the nearest bus stop is about 1 block away at Washington St & Harvard St (on the 65 bus "Brighton Ctr. via Washington St" out bound from Kenmore Station). Talk in on 145.230 MHz (-), PL 88.5 Hz. There is a map on the last page.

We give all exams (Technician, General, and Extra). Testing is by appointment 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 ID (picture ID preferred)
- A pen and a calculator (if you want to)
- **\$15.00** (good for all the tests you take at that session, except for retests)
- Written tests can be taken sequentially at the same session for the same \$15 fee.

The needed FCC forms will be provided.

For further information, contact:

Jim Clogher, N1ICN, 617.364.4658 [n1icn@arrrl.net](mailto:n1icn@arrrl.net)

Tom Bertolino, KB1P, 781.395.5538 [kb1p@arrrl.net](mailto:kb1p@arrrl.net)

## BARC Growth

It's a rare month when we fail to add or upgrade a few members. Periodically we publish their names so that you can give them a special welcome. There may also be some upgrades and long lost members who rejoin, so greet them, too.

Jim KB1JKJ - Upgrade General

Please welcome new BARC members and congratulate the new upgrades. Make it a point to introduce yourself when you see them at a meeting. In addition, we would like to note here all call sign changes. If you fit any of these categories, please promptly notify the Keeper of the Database, Bob Salow, WA1IDA at: 508.650.9440 or email: [wa1ida@arrrl.net](mailto:wa1ida@arrrl.net).

## What is the BostonARC Yahoo Group?

There has been some confusion about the difference between the BARC List and the Boston ARC Yahoo Group and some questions why the club needs the Boston ARC? The major difference between the two is The BARC List is open to all Boston area Hams, where the Boston ARC Yahoo Group is restricted to club members. I will explain why the Boston Amateur Radio Club needs the Boston ARC group.

First, the purpose of the Boston ARC is to keep members informed about club activities and provides a vehicle where members can find answers to their Ham related questions. It is not designed to replace the BARC List or for that matter the SPARC.

The Boston ARC is a Yahoo group. Unlike the BARC List, which only offers e-mail, the Boston ARC yahoo group offers other services in addition to e-mail. There is a calendar where the club posts events. A club member can post files and photos, where other members can access them at their convenience. It is also a way for the club to pass information to its members between issues of the SPARC. In addition a club member, who missed a General meeting, can go to the files section and view the slides used during the meeting they missed.

The group was formed a little over a year ago. It currently has around 43 members. The file section has six files mostly slides from past general meeting classes. They also include articles on: How to Build a 20 meter Dipole; Introduction to PSK31; and 2 Meter/70 cm Guide for New Hams. The Photo section has photos of club members at different club events. The message section has over 100 e-mails on various club related subjects.

The Boston ARC is limited to club members and you have to ask to join or are invited to join. If you have not joined the group and want too, please send an e-mail to: [bostonARC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:bostonARC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) asking to join.

I hope this explanation ends the confusion over the difference between the BARC List and The Boston ARC Yahoo Group. I think the club needs its own forum and the Boston ARC group is the answer.

Tom, KB1P  
President, BARC

## Minutes of the Boston Amateur Radio Club Business Meeting: March 3, 2010

*Submitted by: Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ*

**Attendee Count: 7**

**Present were:**

Tom Bertolino KB1P President  
Jim Bradley KB1JKJ Secretary  
Hank Buccigross K1QK, Executive Officer  
Jim Clogher N1ICN, Treasurer  
Arthur Ashley N1NHZ, Executive Officer  
Linda Blair NA1I  
Eric Falkof, N1NUN

7:10 PM Meeting was brought to order by Tom, KB1P.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jim N1ICN, Treasurer reported that the club bank balance was \$ 3,456.89.

**Repeater Report:** Mike N1IST, was not in attendance. Tom KB1P reported that 2 meter repeater, 145.230, is working fine and that Monday Night Net has not noticed any problems with the repeater.

On the 444.050 side, Tom KB1P reported that the receiver still has significant saturation and is not usable. Tom is going to check with John to see where we are in trying to find out where the interference is coming from.

**Public Service:** Tom KB1P has sent out an e-mail requesting hams for the following events. The list he used came from Bob, WA1IDA's Public Service List, which is a list of members that have participated in previous BARC supported Public Service Events.

*MS Boston Walk* on Sunday April 11: so far we have 9 hams.

*BAA Boston 5K & 1 Mile Race Walk* on Sunday April 18: so far we have 7 hams.

*Run of the Charles* on Sunday April 25: so far we have 7 hams.

**Old Business:**

**SPARC:** A motion was made and passed approving a Business Letter and the list of non-members who will receive the letter describing our interest in "going green" and asking if them if e-mail delivery would be acceptable. The letter will be sent out before the end of the month.

**New Business:**

**Membership Services:** Discussions about the functions and responsibilities of Membership Services were followed by a motion to appoint Linda Blair NA1I to that position. The motion passed with a note to thank Charlie KB1RCN and Rosie KB1RCO for their service in this position.

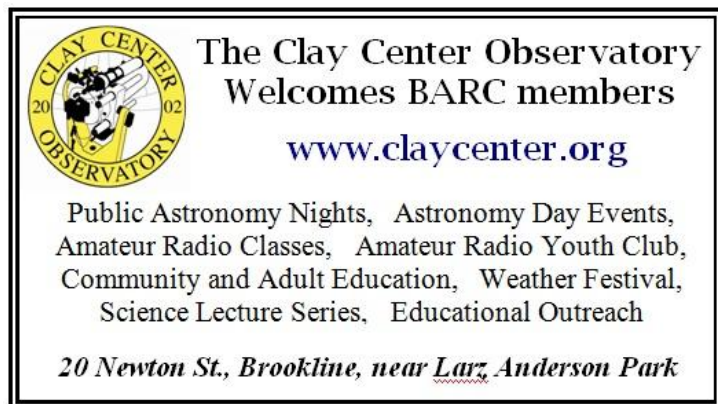


**Field Day 26-27 June 10:** This year's Field Day will be held at the Bare Cove Fire Museum. We will operate on both Saturday and Sunday with the possibility of operating overnight on Saturday. There was a discussion about finding a Field Day Coordinator and committee to oversee the event. Additional discussions were about feeding the masses, scout tours, and other family activities such as a tour of the Train Museum or a Ranger Walk. No decisions were made and discussion was tabled until we can find a coordinator and committee.

**Increasing HF Use:** Discussion was around holding an event designed to get more members on HF. Three events were discussed; the New England QSO Party (1-2 May 10), Special Event Station at the Blue Hill Observatory in September to celebrate their 125th anniversary, and the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) in October. Tom KB1P will check with Joe N1QD about joining the Northeastern Club for the New England QSO Party. Tom KB1P will also check with the Blue Hill Observatory about an event in September.

**BARC Breakfast:** The BARC Breakfast poll was reviewed. At this point 9 people, which is less than 10% of the members polled, have responded. The poll showed that currently there is not much interest in the BARC Breakfast. A motion was made and passed to suspend the BARC Breakfast and to remove mention of it from The SPARC and the BARC Website. We will revisit this at some future date.

The Meeting Adjourned at 8:45



## Internet Sites for Hams

*From 2 meter/70 cm Guide for New Hams, by Tom KB1P*

There are a number of internet sites available for Hams, which offer specialized help. These sites offer information on a variety of subjects relevant to the amateur radio operation. It is impractical to list all the sites out there, but some of the major sites are: <http://www.arrrl.com> ; <http://eham.com> ; <http://www.qrz.com> ; and <http://www.qth.com> . If you cannot find what you want on these sites, all you have to do is Google a subject.

## 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 2010, we have already been tasked with several events, and more are expected. Feel free to contact Tom Bertolino, KB1P, at 781.608.6186 or [kb1p@arrrl.net](mailto:kb1p@arrrl.net).

- *Multiple Sclerosis Boston Walk – 11 April 2010*  
(Boston and Cambridge)
- *BAA Boston 5K Race & 1 Mile Races – 18 April 2010*  
(Boston)
- *Run of the Charles – 25 April 2010*  
(Charles River – Needham to Boston)
- *Multiple Sclerosis Journey of Hope – 22 May 2010*  
(Natick)
- *Bikes-Not-Bombs Bike-A-Thon – 6 June 2010*  
(Boston and suburbs)

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.

Interested in other Public Service Volunteer Opportunities in the New England Division check out the PSLIST at <http://www.n1nc.org/PSLIST/>



### **Winter Projects**

-- Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ

With the winter almost over and our public service events starting next month, I decided to use the time to check out my equipments and put together a go bag for supporting public service events.

My kit starts with a Yeasu VX-7R, with the following accessories: an extra battery, mini speaker/microphone, earpiece/microphone, microphone adapter, DC cable charger and antenna. I keep all these items in a canvas bag that I bought at a local hardware store; there were three bags in the set.



In one of the other canvas bags I keep a pad of paper, some post-it-notes flashlight, a whistle, index cards, pens and pencils.



I carry these bags in a fanny pack, which I purchased from Campmor.com. The bag has two water bottle pockets on either side of the main compartment.

Also, in this pack I carry a personal first aid kit with sunscreen, a multi-purpose tool, and a copy of the

radio manual in a plastic bag, my BARC badge and some snacks for long days.

Just before the event I recharge the batteries, add two water bottles, route maps and event specific details which I keep in plastic document protector sheets.



This is my public service event go kit. Come to the March General Meeting on March 18 where we will be talking more about public service events and where you can see my to go kit. We like to hear about how you plan for events. Can't make the meeting e-mail me ([kb1jkj@arrl.net](mailto:kb1jkj@arrl.net)) your tips or go bag ideas and we will include them in a future issue of *The SPARC*

### **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.

For additional information, contact Tom Bertolino, KB1P, at 781.608.6186 or [kb1p@arrl.net](mailto:kb1p@arrl.net); or Bob Salow at [wa1ida@arrl.net](mailto:wa1ida@arrl.net) or 508.650.9440.


## BARC Elections are Coming Soon

It is time to start to think about BARC's annual Elections. The Boston Amateur Radio Club holds its nominations in May and its elections in June. It is only March why should I think about the BARC elections now? Well! I do not want to rush the year away, but in April (Yah! that next month) the club will appoint a nominating committee whose job will be to find club members to run for each office. In May the Nomination Committee will announce the candidates, and in June the club holds elections.

If you are not happy the way the club is being run or want to be more involved in the decision making, now is your chance to run for an elected office in the club. It is not too early to announce your intentions. The qualifications to run for an office in the club are; be a valid club member and have a valid amateur radio license.

Every current club officer's term is up this year. Mark Duff, KB1EKN our Vice President has announced that he will not be running for any club office this year. The other club officers have not yet made their intentions known. If you are interested in running for a club office, please let me know as soon as you can. You can e-mail or call any club official. Contact information is in every SPARC.

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## NHC to Provide Greater Lead Time for Watches, Warnings-- ARRL Letter, 14 January 14, 2010

Beginning with the 2010 hurricane season, NOAA's National Hurricane Center in Miami will issue watches and warnings for tropical storms and hurricanes along threatened coastal areas 12 hours earlier than in previous years. According to NHC experts, advancements in track forecasts are making it possible for forecasters to provide greater lead time. Tropical storm watches will be issued when tropical storm conditions are possible along the coast within 48 hours. Tropical storm warnings will be issued when those conditions are expected within 36 hours. This is an increase of 12 hours from those issued in previous years. Hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30 for the Atlantic Basin.

Hurricane names for 2010 are Alex, Bonnie, Colin, Danielle, Earl, Fiona, Gaston, Hermine, Igor, Julia, Karl, Lisa, Matthew, Nicole, Otto, Paula, Richard, Shary, Thomas, Virginie and Walter.

## Public Service Spotlights

### The MS Boston Walk



#### What is Multiple Sclerosis?

Multiple sclerosis (or MS) is a chronic, often disabling disease that attacks the central nervous system (CNS), which is made up of the brain, spinal cord, and optic nerves. Symptoms may be mild, such as numbness in the limbs, or severe, such as paralysis

or loss of vision. The progress, severity, and specific symptoms of MS are unpredictable and vary from one person to another. Today, new treatments and advances in research are giving new hope to people affected by the disease.

### The Run of the Charles Canoe and Kayak Race

#### Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA)

mission is to use science, advocacy and the law to protect, preserve and enhance the Charles River and its watershed.



One of the country's oldest watershed organizations, CRWA was formed in 1965 in response to public concern about the declining condition of the Charles. Initiatives over the last four decades have dramatically improved the quality of water in the watershed and fundamentally changed approaches to water resource management.

## Lightship Museum Moving to Boston

Robert Mannino, Jr. [rmmjr2@comcast.net](mailto:rmmjr2@comcast.net)

President, United States Lightship Museum

The United States Lightship Museum is in the process of preparing Nantucket Lightship / LV-112 to be transported from Oyster Bay, Long Island, NY to Boston Harbor sometime in mid April. Boston Harbor is going to be LV-112's new home port and will be reopened as a museum and educational center. Ham radio folks have operated from the ship in the past.

If you are interested in utilizing the lightship please contact Robert Mannino at [rmmjr2@comcast.net](mailto:rmmjr2@comcast.net). For more information about LV-112, see our website link: [www.nantucketlightshiplv-112.org/index.htm](http://www.nantucketlightshiplv-112.org/index.htm).

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**American Heart  
Association**  
*Learn and Live*

### 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:<br>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 Newsline) 145.470  |