



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

May 2010 - VOLUME 22, NUMBER 5

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



Message from the President

- Tom Bertolino, KB1P, President

April was a very busy month for BARC. We provided hams for three public service events, MS Boston Walk, BAA 5K and 1 mile Races, and 2010 Run of the Charles Canoe and Kayak Races. The hams who volunteered for these events played an important role in helping to make these events safe and successful. Thank you. I am looking forward to working these and other public service events with you in the future.

Just a reminder there is a public service event in May, The MS Journey of Hope Walk. This year it's being held in Natick on Saturday May 22, 2010. If you are new to public service this is an excellent event to get some experience. We can pair you up with an experienced ham. If you are experienced public service volunteer we need your help too. If you want to volunteer for this event please contact Rick Savage, KB1LYJ, at [<rsavage@comcast.net>](mailto:rsavage@comcast.net).

There are some important items facing the Club this month. We need a Field Day Coordinator, the Nominating Committee has to prepare their slate, and we must decide whether we will sponsor a special event station at the Blue Hill Observatory on October 2, 2010. Each of these decisions will affect how the club will operate for the rest of the year.

The Field Day Coordinator selects a committee of key people who help plan and coordinate Field Day activities. In the past the committee has met after the Business Meeting in June. The Field Day Coordinator will be looking for club members to help set-up and tear down of radios and antennas and to coordinate the club's BBQ. If you can help out with the Field Day planning or the set-up and tear down please contact a club official.

Hank, K1QK, the chairman of the Nomination Committee is recruiting club members to put on the ballot. If you know of someone who you think will make a good club officer and want to recommend him/her to Hank please contact him before the May General meeting at [<hbuccigross@rcn.com>](mailto:hbuccigross@rcn.com).

Before BARC commits to operating a special event station at the Blue Hill Observatory on October 2, 2010, we need a tentative commitment from the membership to support this event. We need members who are willing to help with set-up and tear down, operating and logging.

Because of the lead time needed to get a Special Event call sign and placing notification of the event in QST, we need this commitment before the end of May. The plan for this event is to set up at 0800 with the intent to start operating around 0900. We will operate a maximum of two HF stations until 1600 hrs. Tear down starts at 1600. You do not have to volunteer for the entire day. If you are available for this event please contact Tom, KB1P, at [<kb1p@arrl.net>](mailto:kb1p@arrl.net), net before the end of this month.

I'll see you at the May General meeting.

Membership Services

BARC Membership Services has been an important, if quiet, function for many years. Handling the task is Linda Blair, NA1I. She can be reached at either [<na1i@arrl.net>](mailto:na1i@arrl.net), or at 617.983.4084.

This is where you can go to get club information, technical guidance, or have new hams or other interested parties directed to the club. No, they may not have all the answers immediately, but they are your conduit to the answers.

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I See the Future

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 10 May | BARC VE Session (BrPD) |
| 16 May | MIT Flea (Cambridge) |
| 20 May | BARC General Meeting (BrPD) |
| 22 May | MS Journey of Hope Walk (Rp) |
| 3 June | BARC Business Meeting (BrPD) |
| 4 Jun | HCRA Flea (Feeding Hills) |
| 6 Jun | Bikes Not Bombs Bicycle Rides |
| 12 Jun | GBRA Flea (Rochester NH) |
| 14 June | BARC VE Session (BrPD) |
| 17 June | BARC General Meeting (BrPD) |
| 20 Jun | MIT Flea (Cambridge) |
| 26-27 Jun | Field Day |
| 18 Jul | MIT Flea (Cambridge) |
| 15 Aug | MIT Flea (Cambridge) |
| 27-29 Aug | NE Div Convention (Boxboro) |
| 2 Sept | BARC Business Meeting (BrPD) |
| 13 Sept | BARC VE Session (BrPD) |
| 16 Sept | BARC General Meeting (BrPD) |
| 19 Sep | MIT Flea (Cambridge) |
| 10 Oct | BAA Half Marathon(Rp) |
| 15-16 Oct | NEAR Fest (Deerfield NH) |
| 21 Oct | BARC General Meeting (BrPD) |

(**Rp**) = Repeater(s) may be used
(**BrPD**) 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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Field Day? It's Only Two Months Away

No, no, it is not too early to start planning for Field Day 2010. Start by thinking about how our 2009 Field Day went. We opted for a limited club contribution, but open to all. We provided compact HF stations, antennas and generators. Beyond that, anyone could participate in the club activity by providing their own station facilities – and they did.

The result was a resounding success. We set up, operated, and tore down with ease – and had fun doing it. Again this year the site will be the Bare Cove Fire Museum in Hingham, 26-27 June are the dates.

The fun is yours for the taking. We will be discussing Field Day at our General meetings and at special planning meetings to be announced. Bring your ideas, or just say you want to be there – to see, to learn, to try, or maybe to see how other people have fun.

The point here is that even if you hold a Novice or Technician license, you can operate on the HF bands and get the feel for your upgrade.

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>; or Bob Salow at <wa1ida@arrl.net> or 508.650.9440.

Quarterly Business Meetings

- Tom Bertolino, KB1P, President

To manage our business, we have Business meetings quarterly rather than monthly as in the past. 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 3 June. All members are urged to attend and participate in club affairs. This is where club functions are discussed and decided – 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 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 any officer.

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 the Community Room across from the Information desk.

There is a municipal parking lot across the street behind the Town 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 page 7.

We give all exams (Technician, General, and Extra). Testing is by appointment only, call before 12:00 noon on the day testing. Please bring 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 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@arrl.net>

Tom Bertolino, KB1P, 781.608.6186

<kb1p@arrl.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.

Linda Blair, NA1I (Upgrade to Extra, new call)

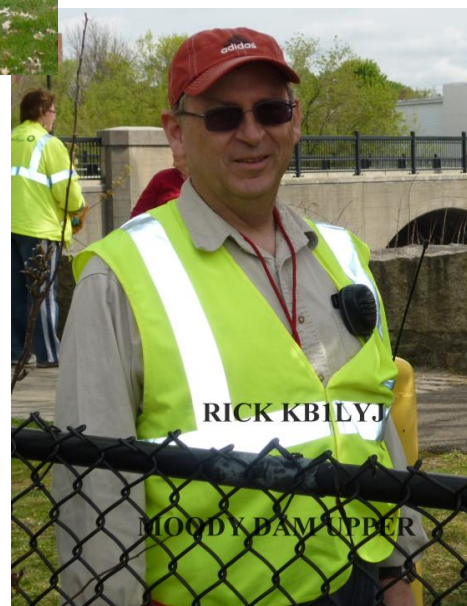
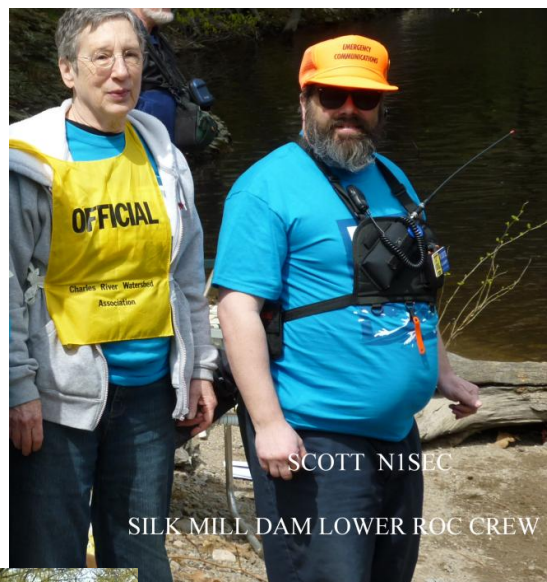
Marianne Brinker, KB1TEO

Bill Collins, W1PL

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@arrl.net>.

The SPARC

The Ham Volunteers of the 28th Run of the Charles Canoe and Kayak Race

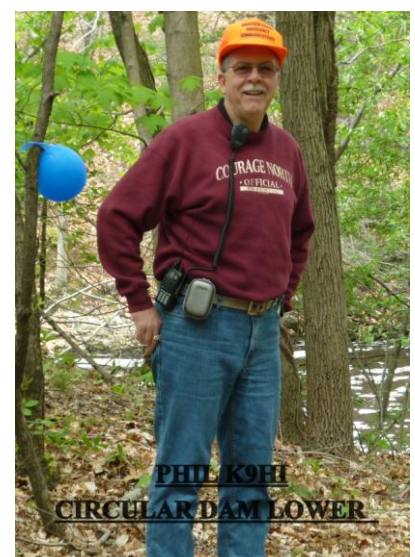
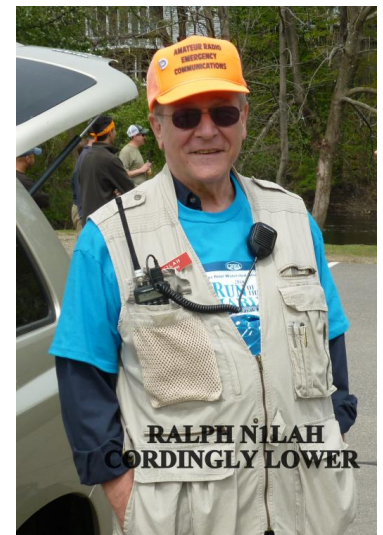
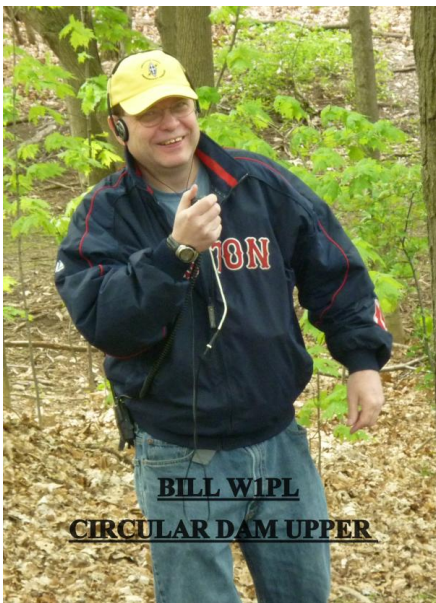
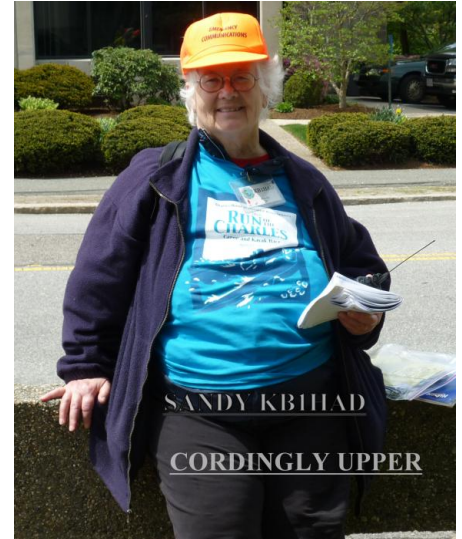


The SPARC



THERE ARE NO PICTURES OF:
RUSS WB1DGS and CHRIS
N1SSN 9 MILE START; BOB
WA1IDA, SHARMAN KB1REG,
and TOM KB1P NET CONTROL.

Thanks for your Help



SKYWARN Spotter Training in Concord

There will be a SKYWARN Storm Spotter training class on 15 May at Concord Academy, in the Ransome Room of the Math and Arts Center, located across from the Gym. Concord Academy is located at 166 Main Street in Concord. Parking at the school is limited; however, there is a municipal parking lot off Main Street on Keyes Road. The training is scheduled to begin at 1000.

The program covers topics such as hurricanes, lightning, tornadoes, down bursts and other summer and winter weather events. This highly informative and timely program will also provide information on identifying cloud formations, identifying hail sizes and estimating wind speed. The presenter will be Rob Macedo, KD1CY.

The training class is free. Excellent handouts (new this spring) and informative reference materials will be available. At the end of the program participants will have the opportunity to join the National Weather Service SKYWARN Spotters Program.

The program is open to all. It will be of particular interest to anyone who enjoys outdoor activities such as sports, camping, boating or is just interested in learning more about the weather. This program will also cover safety tips that are appropriate during severe weather events.

Public Service Spotlights

Bikes Not Bombs

Their mission statement: "Lasting peace and social justice require equitable and sustainable use of resources. BNB provides community-based education and assists development projects with recycled bicycles, related technologies and technical assistance, as concrete alternatives to the militarism, over-consumption & inequality that breed war and environmental destruction. Their organization is part of a worldwide movement for peace and responsible stewardship of the earth."

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@arrl.net>.

- *Multiple Sclerosis Journey of Hope – 22 May – (Natick)*
- *Bikes-Not-Bombs Bike-A-Thon – 6 June – (Boston and suburbs)*
- *BAA Half Marathon – 10 October – (Boston)*

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/>



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

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@arrl.net>.

What is a Julian Date?

You may have noticed that many products, particularly related to scientific studies or the military, have a Julian date or code on them. Julian dates (abbreviated JD) are simply a continuous count of days and fractions since noon Universal Time on January 1, 4713 BCE (on the Julian calendar).


Almost 2.5 million days have transpired since this date. Julian dates are widely used as time variables within astronomical software. The time scale that is the basis for Julian dates is Universal Time. It is assumed that 7-day weeks have formed an uninterrupted sequence since ancient times. Thus, the day of the week can be obtained from the remainder of the division of the Julian date by 7.

Calendar dates — year, month, and day — are more problematic. Various calendar systems have been in use at different times and places around the world. The Gregorian calendar is now used universally for civil purposes, and the Julian calendar is its predecessor in the western world.

The Julian calendar has a leap year every fourth year, while the Gregorian calendar has a leap year every fourth year except century years not exactly divisible by 400. The changeover from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar occurred in October of 1582, according to the scheme instituted by Pope Gregory XIII. This changeover to the Gregorian calendar system occurred only in Roman Catholic countries. Adoption of the Gregorian calendar in the rest of the world progressed slowly. For example, for England and its colonies, the change did not occur until September 1752.

Julian dates are useful for the military because the procurement systems in the military uses the Julian date in the computer programs as a simple standard that doesn't require letters and allows date calculations to be made without additional supporting programs.

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PTT ??

There's more to PTT than "Push To Talk." What's really important is: Pause, Think, Transmit. Consider that when next you grab your microphone.

BARC Elections are Coming Soon

As designated in our bylaws, the election of officers will take place at our June General meeting. On track to that, a Nominating Committee has been appointed at the April meeting.

The function of the Nominating Committee is to seek out a slate of candidates for officers, but this does not limit any member from being nominated (or self-nomination) from the floor in addition to the slate. The slate is only a proposal and there is no restriction on any licensed member who wishes to run for office. In fact, we would recommend a competition for the offices so that each nominee would present qualifications and proposals to the members.

The Nominating Committee will report its slate at the May meeting for publication. Nominations for each office by members are open until balloting at the June meeting.

This is your opportunity to help steer the club where you think it should go. If you are not happy with 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. The qualifications to run for an office in the club are to be a valid club member and have a valid Amateur Radio license. All members are urged to consider making this contribution to the hams of our community. If you are interested, please come forward. Contact any officer to have your name placed on the ballot for a particular office. Contact information is in every issue of *The SPARC*.

Every current officer's term is up this year. Mark Duff, KB1EKN, our Vice President has announced that he will not be running for any office this year. The other club officers have not yet made their intentions known.

What is WIRES

WIRES™ (Wide-Coverage Internet Repeater Enhancement System) is a comprehensive and easy-to-use system for linking repeaters and/or home stations together, using Internet voice technology. Now you can talk to old friends, or make new ones, around the world using your hand-held or mobile radio. By the use of a WIRES-equipped node you can talk to other hams across the country or across an ocean.

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CPR**

1



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2



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the center of the chest.**
Learn more at handsonlycpr.org

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: 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 |