

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
June 2010 - VOLUME 22, NUMBER 6

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



Message from the President

- Tom Bertolino, KB1P, President

June is here. That means BARC is getting ready for Field Day, June 26-27. This year's Field Day will be held at the Bare Cove Fire Museum, Hingham. The plan is to start set up at 0900 on the 26th and hope we have everything ready to go by 1400. We plan to operate three HF stations on the 80 m, 40 m, and 20 m bands. If there is enough interest in operating over the night of 26/27 we will continue to operate into the 27th. Break down will start at 1400 on the 27th.

We will hold the Club's Cook-out and Social on Saturday the 26th from 1700-1900. If we operate over night there will be a pancake breakfast on Sunday morning from 0600-0730. A Party Platter will be offered for Sunday's lunch. If you plan to attend any of the meals please contact Tracy Duff, KB1ISG at tracy.duff@qmail.com or (781) 749-7664. This would give us an idea on how much food to plan for. If you don't call or send an e-mail don't worry come any way.

Our goal for Field Day is to have fun and get everyone who comes on the radio. So, come to Field Day and have some fun. Match faces with call signs, renew old friendships, and start new ones. We will be giving out GOTA pins again this year. The pins will be awarded to hams who make their first HF contact. The pins will be given out on a "first come first awarded" basis When they are gone they are gone.

This year's Field Day Coordinator is Mark Duff, KB1EKN, if you have any questions or want to coordinate bring your own radio, you can contact Mark at 781.749.7664 or emgmat@comcast.net.

A detail briefing of BARC's Field Day will be given at the June 17th General meeting. The address of the Bare Cove Fire Museum and a "T" schedule are published in this SPARC. I am looking forward to seeing you at the General meeting and Field Day. 73's

Hams Needed for Postponed Bike-A-Thon

-- Tom Bertolino, KB1P

Due to the strong weather that moved through the region last weekend and the safety of the riders, the Bikes Not Bombs Bike-A-Thon has been postponed to June 20, 2010. Because of the change in date many of the hams that had volunteered are not available because of prior commitments on the new date. This is short notice, but we have agreed to support this event, so we must ask for more help for the June 20.

The Bike-A-Thon has three rides. All rides start and end at the big park in front of the Stony Brook T station (Orange Line) at Boylston and Amory Streets, in Jamaica Plain. The rides start at between 0800 and 1000 and will end in the early afternoon. Assignments will be at rest stops, sweep vehicles, and shadows at the park. Ham assignments start between 0800 and 1000, and end between 1200 and 1400, depending on the ride. Two rides (25 and 15 mile) go south of Boston. The 25 mile ride Rest Stop is at Houghton's Pond in the Blue Hill Reservation. The 15 mile ride Rest Stop is in the Stony Brook Reservation near Hyde Park. The third route is a 65 mile ride to the northwest to Concord with Rest Stops in Lincoln and Sherborn.

Time is short and your help is needed. Please contact Tom, KB1P, at <kb1p@arrl.net>, or 781.608.6186; or contact Bob, WA1IDA, at <walida@arrl.net> or 617.650.0062.

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Repeaters: 145.230 (-)CTCSS 88.5 Simplex: 147.420

BARC Officers and Staff

President: Tom Bertolino, KB1P; 781-608-6186; kb1p@arrl.net

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781.749.7664; emgmgt@comcast.net

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Tom Bertolino, KB1P;

781-608-6186; kb1p@arrl.net

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Programs & Activities: Phil Temples, K9HI; 617.744.9780; phil@temples.com

I See the Future

12 Jun GBRA Flea (Rochester NH)14 Jun BARC VE Session (by reservation)

17 Jun BARC General Meeting

20 Jun Bikes Not Bombs Bicycle Rides (Rp) Rescheduled

20 Jun MIT Flea (Cambridge)

26-27 Jun Field Day

18 Jul MIT Flea (Cambridge)15 Aug MIT Flea (Cambridge)22 Aug NoBarc Flea (Adams)

27-29 Aug NE Div Convention (Boxboro)

2 Sep BARC Business Meeting

13 Sep BARC VE Session (by reservation)

16 Sep BARC General Meeting
19 Sep MIT Flea (Cambridge)
10 Oct BAA Half Marathon (**Rp**)
15-16 Oct NEAR Fest (Deerfield NH)

(Rp) = 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.

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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Tech Test Gets a Little More Technical

-- Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Ever since the FCC dropped the code requirement and the Novice license exam, the Technician Class license has really been misnamed. Being the first license that most hams obtain, it really should have been called the Novice license. The question pool was arguably at the appropriate level for newcomers to Amateur Radio, being heavy on rules and operating practices, and perhaps a little light on technical topics.

That's about to change. On July 1, 2010, the question pool for the Tech test changes, and this version has noticeably more technical questions than the previous test. You could say that the Tech test is getting, errrr, a little more technical.

For example, the new question pool contains more questions about electronics components and their functions. In addition to that, examinees must also be able to identify the symbols for these components on a schematic diagram. This is a big change from the previous test, which had no diagrams at all. There are also more detailed questions about transistors and how they work.

There are also questions on how to make basic measurements with a multimeter and how to troubleshoot basic problems that Technicians are likely to encounter. One question asks, "What two measurements are commonly made using a multimeter?" Answer: voltage and resistance. A follow up question asks, "What is the correct way to connect a voltmeter to a circuit?" Answer: in parallel with the circuit.

To make room for these questions, the committee dropped questions on operating practices and rules and regulations. In general, these are not big losses, but two questions that I was sorry to see go are the questions on the "basis and purpose" of Amateur Radio. I think these are very important for new hams to learn and keep in mind. (If you don't recall them, go to <www.arrl.org/part-97-amateur-radio> and review them.)

By the time you read this - or shortly thereafter - the new version of my No-Nonsense, Technician Class License Study Guide should be available. You can download it free of charge from my website, <www.kb6nu.com> . Look for the link in the right-hand column. It's currently in the hands of more than two dozen reviewers, who are proofreading it right now.

While it may not be in the initial release, I plan to include a section that contains links to websites that cover topics included in the study guide. That way, students can find more information on a topic, if they choose to do so. If you have any favorite websites that discuss making measurements with voltmeters or how to read schematic diagrams, I'd love to hear from you.

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. Directions are on page 7.

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 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@arrl.net
Tom Bertolino, KB1P, 781.395.5538 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.

Bob Johnson KB1TRE

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: <walida@arrl.net>.

Got a Story? Why not share It!

-- Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ

We are always looking for articles for the newsletter. So I have reserved this space for your articles, tips, how-to's, or other ham related information.

Send your submissions to the Editor, Jim, KB1JKJ, at <james.bradley4@comcast.net>.

If you don't submit information for *The SPARC*, you may get recycled articles from the distant past.

Report NOAA Weather Radio Outages -- ARRL Letter, May 16, 2008

The National Weather Service has

The National Weather Service has announced a Web page for hams and others to report outages of the NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Transmitters (NWR).

At **<www.weather.gov/nwr/outages.html>** is an explanation of how to report a transmitter that may be off the air in a listener's area.



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

Driving Directions to Field Day

The Bare Cove Fire Museum is at 19 Fort Hill St, in Hingham (42.14.14N/70.54.39W). It is 1/3 mile directly west of the West Hingham Commuter Rail Station. Phone 781.749.3535.

From Route 3 North or South: Take the Route 228 Rockland/Hingham Exit 14 into Hingham.

If coming from the North, turn left off the ramp. You will pass a Home Depot on your right.

If coming from the South, turn right off the ramp. You will pass a Not Your Ordinary Joe's Restaurant on the right and a pond on the left.

Take Rt 228 north 4.5 miles to left on High St. Take next right on Cross St which becomes Newbridge St - 1.7 mi. At the end, go right on to Fort Hill St - 1 mi. When you see the Commuter rail station on the right, take a left into the park for 0.3 mi.

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

Submitted by: Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ

Present were:

Tom Bertolino KB1P, President
Mark Duff, KB1EKN, Vice President
Jim Clogher N1ICN, Treasurer
Jim Bradley KB1JKJ, Secretary
Bob Salow, WA1IDA, Executive Officer
Arthur Ashley N1NHZ, Executive Officer
Linda Blair NA1I, Membership Services

Meeting was brought to order by Tom, KB1P at 1915.

Treasurer's Report: Jim N1ICN, Treasurer reported that the club bank balance was \$ 4,069.48.

Secretary's Report: Jim KB1JKJ, Secretary stated that there was no news to report.

Membership Services' Report: Tom KB1P, President reported that we have about 85 members. Linda NA1I Membership Services reported that we will have a PR booth the BNB Bike-A-Thon and at Field Day.

Repeater Report: Mike N1IST, was not in attendance. Tom KB1P reported that he had received an email from John WN9T on May 28th stating "As far as I know the 2M machine is status quo. The 440 is up and running but either being desensed or somewhat deaf. I've been looking for a RX preamp similar to the one in the .175 machine."

Bob WA1IDA started that this was unacceptable. The 440 machine has been unavailable for more than two years and that we need to have a plan to get it fixed. There a long discussion on how to resolve this issue and an action plan was created.

The action plan is to get access to the repeater and have someone who can fix it look at it, either in place or to bring it to a repair shop. Bob WA1IDA will contact those who can accelerate the evaluation and repair of the UHF repeater. Mark KB1EKN, will check into a professional shop that could check the repeater.

Public Service: Tom KB1P reported that we have the BNB Bike-A-Thon and Festival, Sunday June 6, and that we have everyone we need at this time. We discussed what additional equipment was needed for the event. It was also agreed that we should buy another 12 volt battery to support public service events. There was some discussion about purchasing a Honda 1000 watt Super Quiet generator, no decision was made on this.

Future events include the BAA Half Marathon on Oct 10, 2010, more to come on this event as the start/finish location is going to change this year.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business.

New Business:



Field Day 26-27 June 10: This year's Field Day will be held at the Bare Cove Fire Museum at 19 Fort Hill St in Hingham, MA (42.14.14N/70.54.39W). We will operate on both Saturday and Sunday with overnight operations on Saturday.

Field Day Coordinator Mark Duff, KB1EKN presented a draft of the Operational Planning Guidelines for Field Day 2010. The plan is to operate 5 stations in Category 3A; Yaesu FT900 (80-10M), two Yaesu FT897's (All Band), VHF/UHF (Talk-in Skywarn, ARES) and possibly a separate GOTA Station. Linda, NA11 will be setting up a Public Relations table.

On June 19th at 9:30 am there will be a party to tune two of the clubs antennas-at Mark's house in Hingham. Everyone is welcome.

Mark, KB1EKN said he would contact the Hingham UK club about setting up a time to make a contact with them, during our Field Day which is the 375th anniversary of the founding of Hingham, MA. .

The Club needs to purchase two 100 ft antenna cables; to replace two cables that were damaged. Bob, WA1IDA will take care of this purchase.

Field Day Tip: Bring Bug Spray! Check this out <www.off.com>.

OFF! Clip-On™ Mosquito Repellent

Personal mosquito protection you don't spray on!

The Club's cook out will be on Saturday June 26 from 1700 to 1900.

The Meeting Adjourned at 8:25

Commuter Rail to Hingham - Greenbush Line

| GREENBUSH LINE TO SCITUATE : Saturday Effective 01/11/10 | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|-------------------|--|
| Train Number | 1071 AM | 1073 AM | 1075 AM | |
| South Station | 07:48 | 09:20 | 10:33 | |
| JFK/UMASS | 07:55F | 09:27F | 10:40F | |
| Quincy Center | 08:03 | 09:35 | 10:48 | |
| Weymouth Landing/ East Braintree | 08:11 | 09:43 | 10:56 | |
| East Weymouth | 08:17 | 09:49 | 11:02 | |
| West Hingham | 08:21 | 09:53 | 11:06 | |

| GREENBUSH LINE TO SOUTH STATION: Saturday Effective 01/11/10 | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|--|
| Train Number | 1080 PM | 1082 PM | 1084 PM | |
| Greenbush | 04:15 | 06:30 | 09:20 | |
| North Scituate | 04:22 | 06:37 | 09:27 | |
| Cohasset | 04:29 | 06:44 | 09:34 | |
| Nantasket Junction | 04:33 | 06:48 | 09:38 | |
| West Hingham | 04:38 | 06:53 | 09:43 | |

Full schedule is on the MBTA Website, <www.mbta.com/>.

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**>.

- ➤ Bikes-Not-Bombs Bike-A-Thon **20 June 2010**Rescheduled (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.

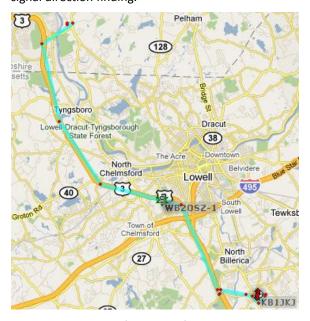
If you are interested in other Public Service Volunteer Opportunities in the New England Division check out the PSLIST at <www.nlnc.org/PSLIST/>.



APRS – What is it?

-- Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ

Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) is an amateur radio-based system for real time tactical digital communications of information of immediate value in the local area. In addition, all such data is ingested into the APRS Internet system (APRS-IS) and distributed globally for immediate access. Along with messages, alerts, announcements and bulletins, the most visible aspect of APRS is its map display. Anyone may place any object or information on his or her map, and it is distributed to all maps of all users in the local RF network or monitoring the area via the Internet. Any station, radio or object that has an attached GPS is automatically tracked. Other prominent map features are weather stations, alerts and objects and other map-related amateur radio volunteer activities including Search and Rescue and signal direction finding.



The above track is from aprs.fi showing my route from work to home. I use the ICOM IC-2720H and have the right side of this dual band radio set up for APRS using Packet capabilities. I have a Byonics TinyTrakIII and GPS connected to the radio using the mini-DIN 6-pin connector.

The second device I use for APRS tracing is Micro-Trak AIO (All In One) a complete, self contained, 10 watt portable tracker with built in GPS.



APRS – What To Do With It?

This summer I plan to experiment using APRS at a number of public service events to keep track of some of vehicles. This will allow net control to know here the last event participant is located. If I can get others using APRS at public service events, net control could track vehicles and when emergencies come up they would know who was the closest and dispatch them without having to ask all stations who is the closest and delaying the dispatching of services.

Additionally the AIO could be used in vehicles without hams to track them or it could be given to the person that was following the last participant.

Stay tuned to future issues of *The SPARC* to hear how these experiments work out this summer.

Garbage Bag as Emergency Asset

-- ARRL E-Letter, 19 May 2010

The garbage bag is the most overlooked yet most practical single item available in an emergency. Not only can it protect you and/or your equipment from a variety of climatic conditions, it facilitates carrying items ranging from your most expensive equipment to trash from an abandoned site.

Further, the typical garbage bag weighs less than an ounce, occupies little more room than a business envelope and costs pennies. From experience in the most inclement weather and most demanding situations, lacking a garbage bag, you realize its value. In an emergency, for protecting and carrying communications equipment, nothing beats a large garbage bag! Bring another bag to protect yourself (holes for eyes?).

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.

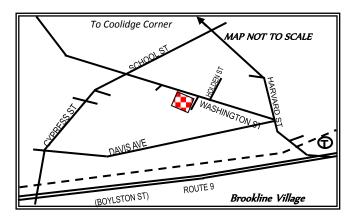
For additional information, contact Tom Bertolino, KB1P, at 781.608.6186 or <**kb1p@arrl.net**>; or Bob Salow, WA1IDA at <**wa1ida@arrl.net**> or 508.650.9440.

June's General Meeting

Our March General meeting will be held on Thursday, 17 June 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.

We will be electing next year's officers at this month's General Meeting.

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.





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.

BARC Elections At the June Meeting

The Club's Nomination Committee presented its slate at the May General meeting. Elections will be held at the June General Meeting. The Committee recommends the following candidates:

President: Tom Bertolino, KB1P
Vice President: Linda Blair, NA1I
Secretary: Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ
Treasurer: Jim Clogher, N1ICN

If you are not happy the way the club in 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 late to be nominated. The qualifications to run for an office in the club are: to be a valid member and have a valid Amateur Radio license.

If you are interested in running for a club office, please let any officer know as soon as you can by email or phone. Contact information is in every *The SPARC*.

Are You a Tech Plus?

The last of the FCC-issued Technician Plus licenses expire this month. Upon renewal the FCC will issue a Technician Class license since the CW requirement has been abandoned and all licensees now have HF privileges according to their license class. This will now reduce the number of ham licenses to three.

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."

Boston Amateur Radio Club PO Box 15585 Boston MA 02215-0011 Forwarding Information Requested

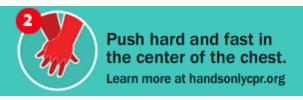
> First Class Mail Time Sensitive Do Not Delay

See Page 7 for Information on June Meeting and Elections





Call 911





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

 Sup 0:30 pm
 Yankoo SSR Net 50.375

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