



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

May 2011 - VOLUME 23, NUMBER 5

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President - Tom Bertolino, KB1P

What a change from a couple of months ago. Now when I look out my kitchen window instead of seeing an ocean of white, I see an array of colors. The tulips are out, the cherry tree is in full blossom, Forsythias are yellow, and the grass needs to be cut. I think I can safely say spring has sprung.

April was a busy month for public service. We provided emergency communications for three events; The MS Boston Walk, The BAA 5K and 1 mile Races, and The Run of the Charles Canoe and Kayak Races. I would like to thank all the Hams who volunteered for these public service events. Your help ensured the safety of the walkers and racers in these events.

Our public service support continues in May when we will support two events; The MS Journey of Hope, May 7, in Natick; and The Brain Tumor Ride, May 15 which starts and ends in Waltham. We still need ham volunteers for the Brain Tumor Ride. Assignments start around 7:00 am and finish around noon. For more information on this event see the recruitment article below. If you can help with the Brain Tumor Ride, please contact me at kb1p@arrl.net.

The April General meeting was a great success mainly due to the excellent presentation on Contesting by Ed Parish, K1EP. If you missed Ed's talk, you missed a very informative and well thought out presentation. Thank you Ed for an outstanding job. At this month's General Meeting on May 19th, Bill Collins, W1PL, will give a presentation on "Communication with the Space Shuttle." I have seen part of his presentation and can't wait for the rest. Bill, who has contacted the space shuttle several times, is going to tell us how he did it. Don't miss this one. I hope to see you there.

Nomination Committee Report - Hank, K1QK

Hooray, we have candidates for all offices. Linda, NA1I, Jim KB1JKJ, and Jim, N1ICN, have agreed to run again for their respective offices of Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Believe us when we say the Nomination Committee breathed a huge sigh of relief when Tom, KB1P, ultimately reconsidered and agreed to run for re-election as BARC President. Tom's decision to run again came as a result of the committee presenting him with the findings of its work in polling BARC members while searching for candidates for president. The members who were polled overwhelmingly endorsed the work Tom has done over the past 2 years as president and urged him to run again. [Thanks to all of you with whom we spoke.] What's more, candidates for the other three offices agreed to run again only if Tom were also to run again. So it would have been either zero or four candidates for the four offices. So you can see why we on the committee were so relieved.

But our job is not necessarily over. Note that we have only one candidate for each office. So how about it BARC members? Let's see some nominations. Do you want to run for an office? Can you convince someone whom you feel is qualified to run? Merely let Joe, N1QD, or Hank, K1QK, know.

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Hams Needed for Brain Tumor Ride on Sunday, May 15, 2011 - Tom, KB1P

Hams are needed to provide communications support for the Boston Brain Tumor Ride on **Sunday May 15, 2011**. Your participation in this event will help to ensure the safety of the riders and make this event a success. The Brain Tumor Ride has three routes: a 10 mile, a 25 mile, and a 50 mile ride. All three rides start and finish in the front parking lot of Reservoir Woods, Waltham, MA. The rides start ~~at~~ between 0800 and 1000 hrs and will end in the early afternoon. The rides follow basically the same route with variations. All three rides will travel through Waltham and Lincoln. The turnaround point for the ten mile ride is in Lincoln and it will return to Waltham through Weston. The 25 and 50 mile routes continue to Concord. The turnaround point for the 25 mile ride is in Concord. It will return to Waltham through Lincoln and Weston. The 50 mile ride continues to Carlisle, with a turnaround point in Westford. It will return to Waltham by way of Acton, Carlisle, Concord, Lincoln, and Weston.

Assignments will be at water stops, in sweep and recovery vehicles, and shadows at Reservoir Woods. Assignments start between 0730 and end between 1200 to 1400 hrs depending on the assignment. There will food and entertainment provided after the ride in the start and finish area.

Time is short – your assistance is needed. If you can help with this event contact Tom Bertolino, KB1P at kb1p@arrl.net.

Ham Radio Volunteer Opportunity in Southern Massachusetts – Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ

The Best Buddies International is looking to recruit Ham radio operators to volunteer for the Twelfth Annual Audi Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port on Saturday, June 4, 2011.

Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port consist of three bicycle rides; 100, 50, or 20-mile which wind through the New England countryside. The 100 mile ride goes from Boston to Hyannis Port, MA. The 50 and 20-mile routes are contained within the 100 route.

Assignments will be at five rest stops, in six sweep and recovery vans, and at Craigville Beach finish area in Hyannis Port. This is an all-day event; the 100 mile ride starts at 0730 and the route closes at 1630. Some assignments will start at 0630 depending on the assignment.

Due to the length of the route a mobile radio is preferred. Hams assigned to sweep and recovery vans should also have a mag mount antenna. Rest Stop may use handheld radios, but should have access to a mobile radio, along with sufficient batteries for your radio.

There will food available after the ride at finish area. Transportation back to the start will be provided for hams assigned to sweep and recovery vans

This will be the first time Hams will be used for this event. Your participation in this event will help to ensure the safety of the riders and make this event a success.

If you can help with this event contact Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ at kb1jkj@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.

Rohit Chaki	KC2UQC
Lee Durrwachter	KA5NHU
Ed Parish	K1EP

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

PowerPole Connectors and Tool Available

Anderson® PowerPole® connectors are the standard for ARES and most other ham uses. They allow reliable, interchangeable power connections. BARC has the special tool to make the crimped connections. We have a supply of the connector bodies and contacts to enable each member to have two full sets free. Additional connector pairs are \$1/pair.

Tools and connectors can be available at any meeting for installation, instruction, and assistance. Contact Tom, KB1P so he can have them brought to the meeting.

SKYWARN Spotter Training Schedule - Rob Macedo, KD1CY

Two SKYWARN Storm Spotter training classes are scheduled and a third is planned in our area. 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 training class is free. Excellent handouts 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.

Monday, 16 May - from 1900 to 2200

Morton Hospital and Medical Center, Margaret Stone Conference Room
88 Washington St
Taunton MA

Pre-registration is required. Contact Rob Macedo, KD1CY, at <rmacedo@rcn.com>.

Saturday, 4 June - from 1300 to 1600

Brockton VA Medical Center - Building 22, Training Rooms 2 and 3
940 Belmont St
Brockton, MA

Registration - none required

A session in Marlborough MA is in the planning stage for late June or July.

ARRL Changes Insurance for Equipment Protection, Liability-- ARRL Letter, 7 April 2011

The ARRL has begun a new partnership to provide its ARRL-sponsored Equipment Insurance and Club Liability Insurance plans. The League has signed an agreement with Hays Affinity Group to serve as the program administrator to provide equipment insurance to its members who choose to elect coverage. In addition, Hays will also provide club liability insurance to ARRL Affiliated Clubs for those clubs that wish to take advantage of that program. Hays will be replacing Marsh Affinity Group Services as the program's administrator and will be introducing new policies for both plans, underwritten by the Hanover Insurance Company. Read more at <www.arrl.org/news/arrl-to-change-providers-for-equipment-protection-club-liability-insurance-plans>.

Spread Spectrum Rules Revised-- ARRL Bulletin 12, March 31, 2011

Revisions to the FCC rules affecting Spread Spectrum transmissions are in effect. The Report and Order eliminates the requirement that amateur stations transmitting Spread Spectrum use Automatic Power Control (APC) to reduce transmitter power. The Commission also reduced the maximum power of a Spread Spectrum emission from 100 W to 10 W PEP.

The Question Pool Committee of the National Council of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has removed a related question, **E1F13**, from the Amateur Extra Class Question Pool.

Details on the revisions can be found on the web at, <www.arrl.org/news/fcc-adopts-spread-spectrum-rules-changes>.

Repeaters: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

443.550 (-) CTCSS 110.9

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Public Service Photos -- Tom Bertolino, KB1P

April was a busy month for public service. We provided emergency communications for three events; The MS Boston Walk, The BAA 5k and 1 mile Races, and The Run of the Charles Canoe and Kayak Races.



Hank, K1QK at net control before start of MS Boston Walk



Jim, KB1JKJ, at net control MS Boston Walk



Rohit, KC2UQC at Anderson Bridge MS Boston Walk



Chris, K1HU at 24 Start Run of the Charles



Allen, K1VQ with portage chief at
19 Mile Start Run of the Charles



Nora, KB1OHB, at Watertown Dam Run of the Charles

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I See the Future

9 May	BARC VE Session (by reservation)
14 May	Cape Ann ARA Flea (Gloucester)
15 May	Brain Tumor Assn Rides (Rp)
15 May	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
19 May	BARC General Meeting
20-22 May	Dayton Hamvention (Trotwood OH)
2 Jun	BARC Business Meeting
13 Jun	BARC VE Session (by reservation)
16 Jun	BARC General Meeting
19 Jun	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
25 Jun	Field Day
26 Jun	BAA 10K Race (Rp)
17 Jul	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
21 Aug	MIT Flea (Cambridge)

(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.

See the Thrilling 2011 Boston Marathon Again - Bob Salow, WA1IDA

The 2011 Boston Marathon can be seen again on Universal Sports (Channel 288, if you have Comcast) in a two hour show. Set your DVR if you don't like the time. The schedule is:

05/14	1300
05/15	1700
05/19	1700
05/24	0100
05/27	0300
05/31	0100
06/06	1200
06/08	0100
06/09	1300
06/11	0300

National Terrorism Advisory System

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has announced the National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) - a robust terrorism advisory system that provides timely information to the public about credible terrorist threats and replaces the former color-coded alert system.

The new system has only 2 levels and replaces the previous 5 color levels

- **"Elevated Threat"** - Warns of a credible terrorist threat against the United States
- **"Imminent Threat"** - Warns of a credible, specific, and impending terrorist threat against the United States

An NTAS Alert would be issued to the public if the government were to receive information about a specific or credible terrorist threat. Under NTAS, DHS will coordinate with other federal entities to issue detailed alerts to the public when the federal government receives information about a credible terrorist threat.

Depending on the nature of the threat, alerts may be sent to law enforcement, distributed to affected areas of the private sector, or issued more broadly to the public through both official and social media channels.

DHS encourages citizens to follow NTAS Alerts for information about threats and take an active role in security by reporting suspicious activity to local law enforcement authorities through the **If You See Something, Say Something** public awareness campaign.


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>](mailto:james.bradley4@comcast.net).

Articles for the May issue need to be received by 30 May.




**Hands-Only™
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1




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2



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the center of the chest.**

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**American Heart
Association**
Learn and Live

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A Continuing Need for Our 70cm Repeater-- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

Your help is needed to verify the coverage and signal quality of our 70cm repeater. At several times of the day, please try to make contacts and get signal reports. Make notes of your location, the type of radio, the power used, and the reported signal quality. Send this information to Tom Bertolino, KB1P, at kb1p@arrl.net or call him at 781.608.6186.

The frequency is: 443.550 MHz (+), CTCSS 110.9 Hz. Check it out.

Based on these reports and other measurements, further tuning and other improvements are in progress. Please continue checking and reporting to help make this repeater fully operational.

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 2011, 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>](mailto:kb1p@arrl.net).

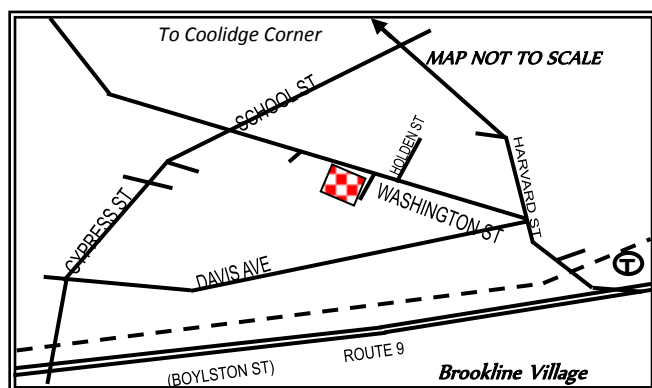
- *MS Journey of Hope* – **7 May** – (Natick)
- *Brain Tumor Rides* – **15 May** – (Waltham to Acton)
- *BAA 10K Race* – **26 June** – (Boston)
- *BAA Half Marathon* – **9 October** – (Boston)


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.

Want to Wave at the Space Station?

The International Space Station (ISS) is above you. Find out when and where (and a lot of other stuff) at www.heavens-above.com/. Wave vigorously! If you want to talk to it instead of just waving at it, attend the Club's General meeting May 19th when Bill Collins, W1PL, will give a presentation on "Communication with the Space Shuttle". The presentation starts at 7:00 pm in the community room, Brookline Police Headquarters, Direction below.

Directions to the Brookline Police Headquarters, 350 Washington Street, Brookline MA





**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

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BARC Volunteer Exam Sessions

The Boston Amateur Radio Club holds monthly VE sessions on the second Monday of each month. ***The July, August and October exams are omitted.*** Sessions are held at 7:00 pm at Brookline Police Headquarters, 350 Washington St in the Community Room across from information desk. A map is shown below

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 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)

Note: 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
Tom Bertolino, KB1P, 781.395.5538 kb1p@arrrl.net

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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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 Tom Bertolino, KB1P, at 781.608.6186 or [<kb1p@arrrl.net>](mailto:kb1p@arrrl.net); or Bob Salow at [<wa1ida@arrrl.net>](mailto:wa1ida@arrrl.net) or 508.650.9440.

Public Service Spotlight -- The Boston Brain Tumor Ride, May 15, 2011

National Brain Tumor Society (NBTS) is a leader in the brain tumor research community, bringing together the best of research and patient services to be a comprehensive resource for patients, families, caregivers, researchers, and medical professionals. They have a national presence, and activities and influence across the United States.

The NBTS is a nonprofit organization inspiring hope and providing leadership within the brain tumor community. NBTS exists to find a cure and improve the quality of life for those affected by brain tumors. NBTS funds strategic research, delivers support services, and promotes collaboration.

In 1995, a group led by the family of Russ Corkin (SK), united in Boston's western suburbs for the 1st Annual Ride for Research. That dedicated group raised \$30,000 for the Brain Tumor Society and, 15 years later, both the event and the organization have grown exponentially. In 2008, the Brain Tumor Society became the NBTS and the Ride had its most successful year to date. In the past two years, the Ride has raised more than \$2 million to support the programs of NBTS.

On Sunday, 15 May, BARC will coordinate hams for safety communications for the 16th annual Boston Brain Tumor Ride. Because of added requests for support, more hams are needed; contact Tom, KB1P, if you can assist this exciting event.

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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>.

BARC Officers and Staff

President: Tom Bertolino, KB1P;
781.608.6186; kb1p@arrrl.net

Vice President: Linda Blair, NA1I
617.500.4406; na1i@arrrl.net

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978.663.7114; kb1jkj@arrrl.net

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 also an associate member of the Courage HandiHams 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 Newsline)	145.470

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