



# The SPARC

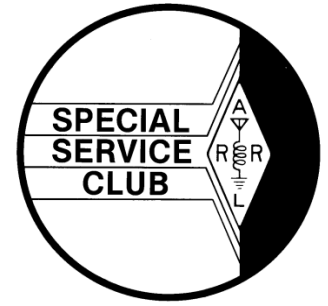
*Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century*

*Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club*

**Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area**

July 2012 - VOLUME 24, NUMBER 7

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



## Message from the President – *Joseph Chapman, NV1W*

*I have the pleasant task of starting my first message as President with thanks. First to our outgoing Vice President, Secretary, and The SPARC editor Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ, for his devoted service to the club, wearing of many hats, and teaching us all about APRS last fall; and to my predecessor, current Vice President, and Tough Act to Follow, Linda Blair, NA1I. Thanks also to the many people who have offered their support and suggestions as I begin my term.*

*Field Day at the Bare Cove Fire Museum in Hingham was a smashing success. Mark Duff, KB1EKN, and Geri Duff, KB1ISG, were both efficient organizers and gracious hosts. I learned a lot about contest operating from Hank Buccigross, K1QK, and was inspired by Joe Harris, N1QD, who quietly sat at his Elecraft and made contact after contact on CW for a juicy two points each. Thanks to the Duffs and everyone who participated.*

*Field Day brings home an important point about club membership. The FCC will make sure you know a resistor from a car crash before you key a mike. But it's your fellow hams who can tell you which radios are worth your money, how to deal with contest pileups on 40m, or which antennas are really practical for your sixth-floor downtown apartment. A club is a great way to meet those hams and learn the art that goes with the science of being a ham.*

*On to business. In recent years our membership numbers have been trending downwards, and this is probably the greatest risk to the continued health of the club. Membership has been a discussion topic during recent business meetings and informally among our active members. I believe that we could do a better job of recruiting, and intend to make it a personal priority for the coming year.*

*Retaining the members we have is the other factor in the equation (Little's Law in this case) and that comes down to something we all have an interest in: the value BARC provides to its members. We're still in the planning stages for the meetings in 2012-2013, but I think we'll have a good selection of speakers and interesting topics. The coming year will also feature the holiday party, another Field Day, the weekly club net, VE sessions, and plenty of opportunities to do public service. Your comments, suggestions, outlandish ideas, and criticisms are always welcome.*

*There's plenty of cause for optimism: licensing is up, ARRL membership is gradually increasing, we live in one of the nation's premier regions for science and engineering, and we're at a sweet point in the current sunspot cycle. I'm looking forward to the coming year and 73,*

*Joe Chapman, NV1W*

## The 10K Was More Than Just A Race – *Bob Salow, WA1IDA*

The second running of the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) 10K Race went together in the usual superb style. The safety, comfort and other needs of 6000 runners were met. Included was a field of world class men and women led by the winner of the 2011 Boston Marathon, Geoffrey Mutai who also won this 10K.

The date of Sunday, 24 June was not under our control since, for us, it was the second day of Field Day. Our ham team had to be extracted from those not at a Field Day. The public service team met the obligation. Our performance was well recognized and commended. Here are the hams who participated:

Eric	K1NUN	Russ	WB1DGS
Steve	KC1SJ	Brett	AB1RL
Blake	K1BTH	Bob	WA1IDA

## ***The SPARC***

### **Field Day! – Joe Harris, N1QD**

For the fourth consecutive year, BARC's Field Day was held at the Bare Cove Fire Museum in Hingham. The location provides plenty of room for antennas as well as shelter and facilities for participants. Being a short walk from public transportation further solidifies BCFM as an excellent site for BARC's Field Day.

To streamline setup, the decision was made to operate as 3A instead of our normal 4A. It paid off! Instead of fighting to keep all four stations staffed we were able to have three stations operated almost continuously. Also, adding HF bandpass filters for 20 meters and 40 meters (the two most active and productive bands this year) helped us to overcome co-site interference from the other stations.

No amount of preparations can overcome poor propagation, unfortunately. It was difficult to find much activity on the high bands, and for the first time in several years, not a single contact was made on 10 meters. This made the action on 20 and 40 all the more intense, and those bands were packed wall-to-wall for the entire duration of the event.

Of course, it wouldn't be a Field Day without Mother Nature having her say, and thunderstorms forced us off the air for 90 minutes on Saturday afternoon. Winds were strong enough that antennas had to be lowered or risk getting torn down by swaying branches. Finally, the storm passed and our Field Day operations resumed.

While our QSO numbers were somewhat down this year, the fun certainly wasn't! Thanks go out to Mark Duff, KB1EKN and Geri Duff, KB1ISG, for their continued hospitality!

Here are our overall QSO totals for Field Day 2012:

Band	CW Q's	Phone Q's	Total
80	0	15	15
40	131	43	174
20	103	49	152
15	2	10	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>353</b>

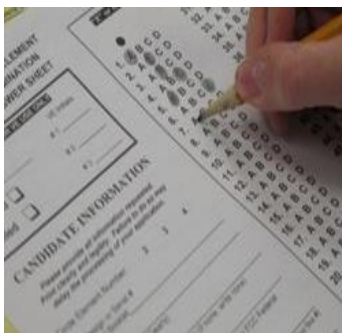
### **Boxboro is the Place to Be!**

*August 24, 25, and 26 is the 2012 ARRL New England Convention in Boxboro!* There is so much to do at the convention, starting with the DX Dinner on Friday night which features Don Greenbaum, N1DG, telling about the VP8ORK South Orkney Island DXpedition. Saturday night is the Grand Banquet featuring Fox 61 Meteorologist Geoff Foxx, K1GF.

The forums and talk schedule are second to none. VE exams and DXCC card checking are available, and, of course, there's the outdoor flea market and indoor exhibit area with all the major manufacturers and many others. Don't forget the Wouff Hong ceremony at midnight on Saturday.

There are hourly prizes, and some big prizes at the end. Visit <[www.boxboro.org](http://www.boxboro.org)> to purchase tickets in advance.

### **Getting Licensed: New Amateur Extra Class Question Pool**



The new Amateur Extra class (Element 4) question pool - released by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) in January 2012 - became effective on Sunday, July 1. The current Amateur Extra class pool expires on June 30, 2012 and cannot be used after that date. This new question pool - including graphics and diagrams - will remain valid until June 30, 2016. The new Amateur Extra pool contains 702 questions, from which 50 are selected for an Element 4 examination. As of June 13, three questions - E1D09, E2A14 and E6E10 - have been removed from the new pool.

The current Technician class question pool that became effective July 1, 2010 is valid through June 30, 2014. The current General class pool that became effective July 1, 2011 is valid until June 30, 2015.

## ***The SPARC***

### **It was Us, Not the Patriots – Bob Salow, WA1IDA**

It was Tuesday, 3 July – the day before the holiday. Harvard-Pilgrim Health was sponsoring 5K and 10K races held in Gillette Stadium and surrounding Foxboro in the early evening. Because of sticky bureaucracies and tight security, the ham communications planning and recruiting could not even begin until a few weeks before the event. Here was a new venue made of steel and concrete – up, down, and all around, and into downtown.

The air of pessimism saturated the May BARC General meeting, but skill, experience and determination moved the project forward. Only a few BARC members volunteered, but several other clubs and teams to the south responded with hands, heads and equipment.

The courses and supports of the races had to be complex in and around this venue, but details worked out for the more than 6300 runners. While we were prepared with complete alternate radio systems, our event communications could be tested only on the day before. Fortunately, all went well, and no radio problems were encountered. Fireworks followed in the evening outside the stadium.

The Supporting hams were:

John	KA1EWN	Scott	KB1SMU
Bruce	KA1IG	Jay	KB1OZP
Dave	KB1YHC	Paul	KB1MTW
Jim	KB1JKJ	Joe	KB1QWE
Elaine	N1GTB	Bob	WA1IDA
Barry	K1BFD	Bob	KB1WWV
Russ	WB1DGS	Brett	AB1RL
Lou	N1UEC	Basil	KB1YCW
Art	KA1PES	Mike	KB1YII
Pete	N1NVE		

### **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 2012, we have already been tasked with several events, and more may be expected. Feel free to contact Bob Salow, WA1IDA, at 508.650.9440 or <[wa1ida@arrl.net](mailto:wa1ida@arrl.net)>.

- *BAA Half Marathon – 7 October* – (Boston)
- *SKYWARN Recognition Day - 1 December* - (Blue Hill, Milton)

Other events may jump in on short notice. Among our skills is the ability to apply our technical, organizational and staffing quickly and proficiently. Join our team and join in the fun and learning.

### **ARRL Offers Online Public Service Training -- The ARRL Letter, June 28, 2012**

The former Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC) series of three levels of emergency communications courses has been reconfigured into two new courses: An introductory course for radio amateurs who want to volunteer to provide services for public service and emergency communications, and a course for leaders and managers who are responsible for training and coordinating response efforts. The course descriptions for both of these courses that make up the ARRL's ARES® training program can be found in the ARRL Online Course Catalog. Links to register for each course are included in the course descriptions. More information at: <[www.arrl.org/news/arrl-offers-online-public-service-training](http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-offers-online-public-service-training)>.

## ***The SPARC***

### **Zola Center Radio Get-Together-- *Eric Falkof, K1NUN***

It is summer and the ham bands have been good. The sunspots are increasing and DX is for the asking. So, what does this mean?

The Zola Center Ham Radio Group is also active! We will have a fun, informal, get-together to operate our station on Saturday afternoon, July 28, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm, during which time we will talk on the air to see if we can get some of that DX for ourselves. We will also get on local repeaters to meet nearby hams, too. Interested members of the Boston Amateur Radio Club are also invited to lend support and mentor the Zola members.

Most of the Group members have not yet been on the air or perhaps only infrequently. Therefore this session! We will have more such sessions in the future, too - just to get together, swap stories, and get on the air.

We will have the building to ourselves, so we can get right to the radios and begin. And, lunch will be provided shortly after we arrive so we'll have to be careful if we speak with our mouths full!

Please let me know at [k1nun@netscape.net](mailto:k1nun@netscape.net), if you can come so we can arrange for food and a bit of planning if we need extra radios. If you have a radio of your own, bring it. The more the merrier!

### **Call for Nominations for ARRL Director and Vice Director for New England Division**

The ARRL is governed by its Board of Directors. A voting Director is chosen by ballot by the full (licensed) members in each of the 15 ARRL divisions. Vice Directors - who serve in the absence of the Director from a Board meeting and succeed to the position of Director should a vacancy occur - are chosen at the same time. Elections are held in five divisions per year. It takes only ten full members in a division to nominate a candidate for either office.

This fall, ARRL members in the New England Division will have the opportunity to choose a Director and a Vice Director for a three year term that starts January 1, 2013. In 2012, ARRL members in Divisions where there are contested elections will be able to vote electronically. Members with valid email addresses in their membership profiles will be sent instructions on how to vote by email; members without email addresses, or whose emails bounce, or who request a paper ballot, will be sent a ballot by postal mail as in the past.

### **SKYWARN Spotter Training**

The National Weather Service in Taunton MA gives SKYWARN spotter training at several locations in Southern New England. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. The training session is free of charge, and there is no need to register. However, participants will be asked to fill out a short form during the class.

Friday, August 24th, 2012, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm  
Holiday Inn – Boxborough  
242 Adams Pl  
Boxborough MA

Preregistration not required. This is prior to the start of the ARRL New England Division Convention. No admission will be charged on Friday for those attending this SKYWARN Training session.

### **BARC Officers Elected For the Next Year**

At the June General meeting the annual election of BARC officers was held with the following result:

President	Joe Chapman, NV1W
Vice President	Linda Blair, NA1I
Secretary	Joe Harris, N1QD
Treasurer	Jim Clogher, N1ICN

## ***The SPARC***

### **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.

Stephen Pankowicz	N1IRF
Brett Smith	AB1RL – Upgrade to Extra

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](mailto:wa1ida@arrl.net)>.

### **Volunteer Examiners Needed - *Hank, K1QK***

BARC is in need of more Volunteer Examiners (VEs) for our exam sessions. In some cases we have only the required 3 VEs for our sessions. If any unforeseen situation arises and a VE is not able to make a session we would be forced to cancel the test.

There are some BARC members who are qualified VEs that have not been participating in the testing. We urge these VEs to attend our test sessions. If you can spare one night a month please come to a session.

We can surely use additional VEs. The test procedure for qualification is simple. Materials are available from the ARRL and the examination is an open book test. Hams with General and Amateur Extra class licenses are eligible to become VEs. If you would like to become a VE and help with the testing please contact Hank, K1QK, or Jim, N1ICN.

### **Discover Digital QST!**

If you're an ARRL member, you now have access to the new digital edition of the June 2012 issue of *QST*. It is available to all ARRL members at no cost. All you need to do is log on to the ARRL website. Also available: digital editions of the January through May 2012 issues. You will find links to all the digital editions on our website at <[www.arrl.org/qst/](http://www.arrl.org/qst/)>.

But wait - there's more! All ARRL members now also have access to every issue of *QST* via the Periodicals Archive at <[www.arrl.org/arrl-periodicals-archive-search](http://www.arrl.org/arrl-periodicals-archive-search)> - from the first issue, published in December 1915, through the December 2011 issue. You'll find more information about the digital edition in the FAQ section <[www.arrl.org/digital-qst-faq](http://www.arrl.org/digital-qst-faq)>.

We hope you enjoy the new digital editions of *QST*. Unless you have chosen to opt out of the print edition, you will continue to receive *QST* in the mail each month.

### **Businesses 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

## The SPARC

appropriate to our readers. For additional information, contact Joe Harris, N1QD, at 781.844.8684 or <n1qd@n1qd.org>; or Bob Salow at <wa1ida@arrl.net> or 508.650.9440.

A teal banner with white and red text and graphics. On the left, it says 'Hands-Only™ CPR' with the Ad Council logo below. In the center, there are two circular icons: the first shows a red mobile phone with a '1' in a red circle above it, and the second shows two hands being pushed together with a '2' in a red circle above it. To the right of the icons, it says 'Call 911' and 'Push hard and fast in the center of the chest. Learn more at [handsonlycpr.org](http://handsonlycpr.org)'. On the far right is the American Heart Association logo with the tagline 'Learn and Live'.

## I See the Future

*Note that VE sessions are suspended in July, August, and September*

15 Jul	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
29 Jul	Barnstable ARC Flea (Yarmouth)
12 Aug	NoBARC Flea (Adams)
19 Aug	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
24-26 Aug	ARRL NE Convention (Boxboro)
16 Sep	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
20 Sep	BARC General Meeting
29 Sep	WMARC Flea (Center Conway NH)
<b>7 Oct</b>	<b>BAA Half Marathon (Boston) (Rp)</b>
12-13 Oct	NEARFest (Deerfield NH)
18 Oct	BARC General Meeting
21 Oct	MIT Flea (Cambridge)

**(Rp)** = BARC Repeater 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 much of the Northeast, 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.

## Got a Story? Why not share It! -- Joe Harris, N1QD

We are always looking for articles for the newsletter. I have reserved this space for your articles, tips, how-to's, or other ham related information. Send your submissions to the Editor, Joe, N1QD, at <n1qd@n1qd.org>.

Articles for the August issue must be received by August 4.

# The SPARC

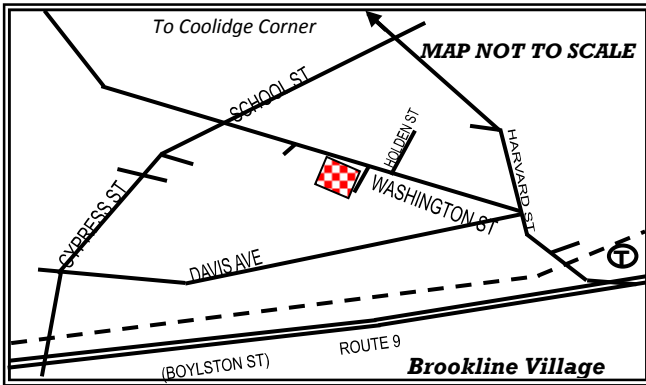
## Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1DA

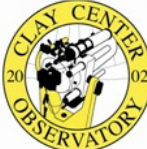
We have Business meetings quarterly. Unless circumstances warrant, BARC Business meetings will be held on the first Thursdays of December, March, June, and September. The next such meeting will be on **6 September 2012** at the Brookline Police Headquarters. All members are urged to attend and participate in club affairs. This is where club functions are discussed and decided, and 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 also 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 President Linda Blair, NA1I.

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





The Clay Center Observatory  
Welcomes BARC members

[www.claycenter.org](http://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

## 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 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.

To reserve a seat or for further information, contact:  
Jim Clogher, N1ICN, [n1icn@arrl.net](mailto:n1icn@arrl.net) or Hank Buccigross  
K1QK, [K1QK@arrl.net](mailto:K1QK@arrl.net)

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# ***The SPARC***

## **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 Linda Blair, NA1I, at <na1i@arrl.net>.

### **BARC Officers and Staff**

President: Joe Chapman, NV1W  
617.267.6349; joechapman@alum.mit.edu

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

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781.844.8684; n1qd@n1qd.org

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Geri Duff, KB1ISG  
781.749.7664; geriduff52@verizon.net

Membership Services: Linda Blair, NA1I  
617.500.4406; na1i@arrl.net

Newsletter Editor: Joe Harris, N1QD  
781.844.8684; n1qd@n1qd.org

**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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<b>Greater Boston Net Directory</b>		
Daily 5:30 pm	Eastern Mass/Rhode Island CW Net (NTS)	3.658
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