



# The SPARC

*Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century*  
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club  
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area  
September 2012 - VOLUME 24, NUMBER 9  
[www.barc.org](http://www.barc.org) - [w1bos@arrl.net](mailto:w1bos@arrl.net)



## Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

*I first started taking long bicycle rides as a teenager. One of my daydreams at that time was a bike trip across the United States, and I imagined myself at a campsite, someplace exotic like Ohio, repacking the bearings in my hubs without doing anything clumsy like dropping a handful of ball bearings in the grass or getting grease on my shorts. Perhaps it says something about me that my Walter Mitty fantasies are about competence.*

*Emergency communications is, as NA1I often points out, the reason the FCC allows Amateur Radio to exist. It is our most honorable tradition, one that proves its worth every year, and an area where we are uniquely competent to serve.*

*You can get a good grounding in emergency work with five classes, three of which are free, and only one of which requires a significant outlay of time. FEMA has two on-line courses that pretty much anyone who wants to do any emergency work in the United States must take: Introduction to Incident Command System (IS-100) and National Incident Management System (NIMS): An Introduction (IS-700). Each can be completed in a few hours and there's a final exam on the material.*

*The Red Cross CPR/AED/First Aid course is a comprehensive half-day class in basic emergency life-saving skills (alas, your nerdy questions about things like the voltage of the defibrillator will go unanswered). The cost is around \$90; see <[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)> for details.*

*The National Weather Service SKYWARN class takes a few hours and is quite enjoyable. You can learn about upcoming classes by visiting <[www.wx1box.org](http://www.wx1box.org)> or listening to the announcements at the Monday night BARC club net. You can also find out more at BARC's November General meeting, when Rob Macedo, KD1CY, will join us for the quintessential New England pastime of talking about the weather.*

*The ARRL Emergency Communications course (EC-001) is taught on-line under the direction of a mentor--a ham who's experienced at emergency work. It costs \$50 and you have nine weeks to complete the course. I've found that you do have to keep at it and plan ahead, since some of the projects require activities like monitoring a regular net or interviewing ARES members about a deployment. You can buy a copy of the course text from the ARRL, which is invaluable for looking ahead and getting the longer projects underway.*

*When I finally got around to riding my bike cross country in 1999, I was moneyed enough to afford fancy sealed-bearing hubs, so I had to drop other things on the grass. My CPR kit sits unused in my backpack. In commending these classes to you I hope you'll have little use for what you learn, but if you do, may you experience the thrill of... competence!*

73, Joe Chapman, NV1W

## ARRL's Chief Operating Officer to Speak at BARC's September General Meeting

BARC's first General meeting of the 2012-2013 season will be Thursday, September 20, at 7 pm at the Brookline Police Headquarters Community Room. Our speaker will be Harold Kramer, WJ1B, Chief Operating Officer of the ARRL and Publisher of QST. Harold is an excellent speaker and the evening should be a heap of fun. Everyone is welcome to attend. Club members who haven't been to a meeting in a while are especially invited.

## **ARRL New England Director, Vice Director Re-Elected**

The policies of the ARRL are established by 15 Directors who are elected to the Board on a geographical basis. Responding to solicitations in the July and August issues of *QST*, ARRL members in the New England Division have nominated just the incumbents for the positions of Director and Vice Director.

Therefore, the incumbents have been declared elected without opposition by the Ethics and Elections Committee, per Article 19 of the ARRL By-Laws.

- New England Division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, of West Suffield, CT, was declared re-elected without opposition. This will be Frenaye's ninth term on the Board. He served as New England Division Director from 1985-1992 and was re-elected in 1997, and has served since. Frenaye is currently Chairman of the Board's Administration and Finance Committee.
- New England Division Vice Director, Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF, of Chelmsford, MA, was also declared re-elected without opposition. Raisbeck has served as Vice Director of the ARRL New England Division since 1997.

## **ARRL Will be 100 in 2014 – National Convention to be in Hartford**

ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio®, announced the organization will hold its national Centennial Convention in Hartford, CT, on 17-20 July 2014. The Convention will mark 100 years of the ARRL's founding in Hartford. The theme for ARRL's Centennial year is "Advancing the Art and Science of Radio - Since 1914."

Hiram Percy Maxim (1869-1936), a leading Hartford inventor and industrialist, founded the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) in May 1914, together with Clarence Tuska, secretary of the Radio Club of Hartford. Today, ARRL serves over 158,000 members, mostly licensed radio amateurs, in the US and around the world.

The organization's headquarters has been maintained in the Hartford area since its founding. ARRL's present facilities are located on Main Street in Newington, CT, a suburb of Hartford, and is visited by nearly 2,000 groups and individuals each year. The site is also home to the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station since 1938. The radio station, W1AW, is known as "the flagship station for Amateur Radio," and is known worldwide. ARRL employs around 100 people, mostly at the headquarters facility.

"The 2014 Centennial Convention is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, explaining that event will have all of the trademark elements of a proper convention and hamfest, presentations and forums, exhibits, vendors, demonstrations, flea market, activities for youth, and banquet. "But, plan on some very special centennial-themed activities," he added, "including tours of ARRL headquarters and W1AW, guest presenters, some surprises, and lots of celebrating! We want ARRL members to come with all of their experiences from the first one hundred years of Amateur Radio and ARRL, and leave with a shared vision for ARRL's Second Century."

The decision to host the Centennial Convention in Hartford was reinforced by the organizers of the New England Division Convention, held every two years in Boxborough, MA. "Boxborough's organizing sponsor, FEMARA, Inc., graciously agreed to forgo holding its convention there in 2014," said ARRL Chief Operating Officer, Harold Kramer. "Instead, FEMARA has offered to help share its expertise and volunteers as we prepare to bring this national level celebration to Hartford.

The Hartford area boasts dozens of attractions and activities, making Connecticut a great destination for members who plan to attend the convention with their family and friends. Nearby attractions include the Connecticut Science Center, Mark Twain House, Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, and the Wadsworth Athenaeum. Hartford is served by an international airport (Hartford/Springfield, BDL), and is conveniently located between Boston and New York City. Hartford's centrally located Union Station is serviced by Amtrak and major bus companies.

Interested parties may learn more about ARRL, Amateur Radio and the Centennial Convention at <[www.arrl.org/expo](http://www.arrl.org/expo)>.

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### **Minutes of the September BARC Business Meeting – Recorded by Joe Harris, N1QD**

#### **Attendees:**

Joe Chapman, NV1W, President	Geri Duff, KB1ISG
Linda Blair, NA1I, Vice President	Mark Duff, KB1EKN
Jim Clogher, N1ICN, Treasurer	Joe Flaherty, W1JJF
Joe Harris, N1QD, Secretary	Bob Salow, WA1IDA
Hank Buccigross, K1QK	Brett Smith, AB1RL

The Meeting was called to order at 1900.

#### **President:**

- NV1W reports that he attended the ARRL New England Division cabinet meeting, and that a full report would be forthcoming.
- Plans are laid for the September and November General Meeting speakers. The October speaker slot is still open.
- Club stationery has been purchased and donated to the club. It will be available to officers for official communications, thank you notes, and the like.

#### **Treasurer:**

- The club's current balance is \$3162.68 as of September 6, 2012.

#### **Repeater:**

- On July 14 NA1I, NV1W, and N1QD visited the BARC repeater site to inventory the Club's equipment. The repeater cabinet was inaccessible.
- The key to the repeater cabinet has been acquired from N1IST. Copies will be distributed to members of the repeater committee.
- There will be a follow-up visit in October to bring down the UHF repeater and duplexer for servicing.

#### **Public Service:**

- On October 7, BARC will coordinate hams to support the BAA Half Marathon.
- WA1IDA reports that he is looking to retire from his role as BARC Public Service Coordinator. He recommends finding individual event coordinators as well as an overall club Public Service Coordinator

#### **Old Business:**

- **VE Sessions**
  - K1QK reports that VE sessions will be on hiatus until January. In 2013 BARC will offer six VE sessions. Half will be on Monday evenings and half will be on Saturday mornings. Further details will be forthcoming.
- **SKYWARN Recognition Day**
  - KB1EKN reports that BARC will be participating in SKYWARN Recognition Day on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Antenna setup at the Blue Hill Observatory will likely take place on November 30.
  - BARC will look into attending the Blue Hills Observatory Open House in October.
- **Bare Cove Fire Museum**
  - The BCFM hosts BARC's Field Day and annual cookout. The Museum also allows the Club to store some of their equipment at their facility.
  - In recognition of this support, WA1IDA moved that BARC make a \$150 donation to the Museum. The motion passed unanimously.
- **2013 Schedule**
  - NA1I reports that the Brookline Police Headquarters will not be available on the third Thursday of February, March, or April in 2013.
- **Holiday Party**
  - As of now, the Stockyard Restaurant is not open for business. NA1I will investigate possible locations for the 2012 BARC Holiday Party
- **Membership**
  - There was an open discussion about helping boost Club membership.

#### **New Business:**

- **Cookout**

**Repeater: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5**

**Simplex: 147.420**

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- KB1EKN reports that the ARRL September VHF contest and the WAE SSB contest take place the same weekend as the BARC cookout. There will be a station set up at the Fire Museum for the guests to use.

The meeting adjourned at 2041.

### **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 2013, we have already been tasked with several events which will be announced later. 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.

### **Volunteer Examiners Needed – Hank Buccigross, 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.

### **Join the National Preparedness Coalition**

September is National Preparedness Month and FEMA invites you to pledge to prepare now by joining the National Preparedness Coalition.

The National Preparedness Coalition Online Community is where we connect and collaborate on emergency preparedness. Use it to empower yourself to prepare and to coordinate preparedness activities with your family, neighbors, co-workers, and those with whom you may study or worship.

#### **Here are the top 5 reasons to join:**

- Get access to useful information to help you prepare.
- Promote your national preparedness event on the calendar.
- Get support and share best practices with over 10,000 members.
- Connect with FEMA personnel and others near you in the regional forums.
- Help others prepare and increase our resilience.

For more information, visit <<http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM>>.

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### I See the Future

*Note that the 2012 VE sessions will be suspended for October, November, and December.*

15 Sep	RIAFMRS Flea (Forestdale, RI)
16 Sep	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
<b>20 Sep</b>	<b>BARC General Meeting</b>
29 Sep	WMARC Flea (Center Conway NH)
<b>7 Oct</b>	<b>BAA Half Marathon (Boston) (Rp)</b>
12-13 Oct	NEARFest (Deerfield NH)
<b>18 Oct</b>	<b>BARC General Meeting</b>
21 Oct	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
2 Nov	HCRA Auction (Feeding Hills)
3 Nov	FARA Flea (Bourne)
3 Nov	IRS Flea (Londonderry, NH)
<b>15 Nov</b>	<b>BARC General Meeting</b>
<b>1 Dec</b>	<b>SKYWARN Recognition Day (Blue Hill Observatory, Milton)</b>
<b>6 Dec</b>	<b>BARC Business Meeting</b>

(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 October issue must be received by October 6.

### 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 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.

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### **Is Amateur Radio Too Focused on EmComm?** -- Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the HamRadioHelpGroup, a Yahoo Group mailing list for anyone looking for help with anything related to Amateur Radio, one ham asked, "Over lunch today I read the September issue of QST, which is heavily EmComm oriented. The articles were interesting, but the op-ed piece on page 98 seemed a little over the top to me. Has this focus of this intensity always been a part of ham radio, and I just wasn't expecting it? How has it evolved over the years?"

To answer the question, another replied by posting Section 97.1, namely the principles behind the Amateur Radio Service:

*Sec. 97.1 Basis and purpose.*

*The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:*

- (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.*
- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.*
- (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.*
- (d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.*
- (e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.*

He went on to say, "I think that 97.1(a) addresses your question."

I like that reply a lot. First, it shows that providing emergency and public-service communications has been a part of Amateur Radio since its beginnings. Some hams are extremely focused on this, and I applaud them. In my opinion, the piece referred to in the latest QST was not over the top.

I think, however, that some hams do sometimes go overboard on EmComm, and act as if it's the only reason that ham radio exists. It's not. As you can see, the rules describe five different "purposes" for Amateur Radio. EmComm might be the first, but it's only one of five. We need to keep in mind the other four as well. I personally like (e), and would like to see Amateur Radio actually do more to promote international good will.

What do you think?

●●●●

*When he's not pondering the place of emergency communications in Amateur Radio, Dan, KB6NU, writes books about ham radio. He is currently feverishly trying to finish the No-Nonsense Extra Class License Guide. You can read excerpts from this upcoming book on his website, <<http://www.kb6nu.com/>>. You can email him with comments, questions, compliments, or brickbats at <[cwqEEK@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwqEEK@kb6nu.com)>.*

### **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.

Mark Duff, KB1EKN      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)>.

## The SPARC

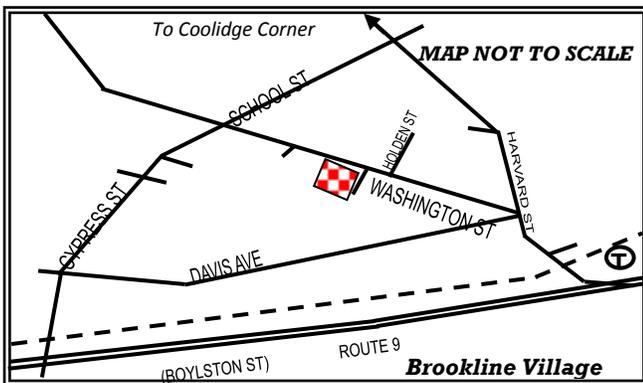
### Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1DA

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 December 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 Joe Chapman, NV1W.

### 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 VE session schedule is being revised to suit the needs and interests of the applicants and examiners. **The next exam session is planned for January 2013 at a date and place to be announced.** Generally, 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 above.

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 Linda Blair,  
NA1I, <[na1i@arrl.net](mailto:na1i@arrl.net)>.

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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 the Editor, Joe Harris, at <n1qd@n1qd.org>.

#### **BARC Officers and Staff**

President: Joe Chapman, NV1W  
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**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

**Repeater: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5**

**Simplex: 147.420**