



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

June 2014 - VOLUME 26, NUMBER 6

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

On Friday I was poised to bag W1AW/5 in Louisiana on 20m CW. There wasn't too much of a pileup, and nothing like the free-for-all W1AW/5 spawned on 20m SSB the next day, so in sending my call I had high hopes my five watts would punch through to the Bayou. Then, all the sudden, in the words of Emeril, BAM! Complete radio silence. Nada. Not even noise. As it turned out a feedline lead had broken and the choke balun was now a bal-none. It was easily remedied by the venerable repair technique of sending \$25 to Buddipole for a new one.

With the earnest hope that this is not a sign of what summer has in store, I am happy to announce that plans for Field Day are well underway. I want to encourage everyone to participate, even if you can only drop by for a few hours. Helping set up and tear down the station, in particular, is a valuable learning experience that I recommend to all.

Our hosts at the Bare Cove Fire Museum in Hingham will be Mark Duff, KB1EKN, and Geri Duff, KB1ISG. If you're planning on coming, particularly if you want to eat or stay overnight, please drop a note to Mark at emgmt@comcast.net. If you wish to operate and have never done so at a club event, please contact me at nv1w@arrl.net in advance. While we want to encourage participation, we are also obliged to see that the station is used in a legal and courteous manner. There will be a six meter rig, so we can accommodate Technician licensees, subject of course to the whims of the "magic band."

Weather permitting, we will be attempting a satellite contact this year, with a simple station and a handheld VHF/UHF yagi. The satellite passes predicted for Field Day are not great, but some of them look promising with maximum elevations around 45 degrees and fifteen minute windows.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank everyone involved in planning and setting up for Field Day. It's a complicated event and one that we do well, thanks to a lot of work and accumulated knowledge. I am also grateful for the participation of our better operators, not only for the points they accumulate, but for the example they furnish for us all.

Join us in Hingham, and may your choke baluns live long and prosper.

Joe Chapman, NV1W

June General Meeting: Elections & Field Day!

Thursday, June 19

June means two things for BARC: Field Day and officer elections! The club's officers will be elected at our General Meeting. Interested in taking a leadership role in BARC? The Nominating Committee has provided a slate of officers, but nominations from the floor are also welcome. Once the formalities have been taken care of, the discussion will move on the Field Day, typically the club's biggest event of the year. In addition to some planning, a documentary will be shown. "The Last Big Field Day" is the story of W3AO's 2004 effort in which they ran as 51A. See how they pulled off this feat, and learn why it will likely never be repeated!

Repeaters: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

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Minutes of the June 5 BARC Business Meeting – Joe Harris, N1QD

Members in Attendance:

Joe Chapman, NV1W – President	Joe Flaherty, W1JJF
Linda Blair, NA1I – Vice President	Blake Haskell, K1BTH
Joe Harris, N1QD – Secretary	Bob Salow, WA1IDA
Geri Duff, KB1ISG	Nathaniel Vishner, KB1QHX
Mark Duff, KB1EKN	

The meeting was called to order at 1931.

President's Report: NV1W reports that he has sourced club badges from the Sign Man of Baton rouge. They will be available for club members to order at a cost of \$11.50.

Treasurer's report: N1ICN sent in a report that the club's balance was \$3634.88 as of June 5.

Secretary's report: N1QD reported that BARC's membership was holding in the mid-60s. He had also learned of issues with the club's website. The membership form did not appear to be working.

Public Service: WA1IDA reported on the upcoming Heartbreak Hill events on June 7 & 8. Recruiting is still active for the BAA 10K on June 22. Other upcoming events include The Finish at the Fifty and the BAA Half Marathon, both in their planning stages. A discussion was held regarding whether the club should accept donations from groups that utilize BARC for Public Service events.

Repeater: A discussion was held regarding the status of the new VHF repeater. The new antenna does not cover as well farther out from Boston, but it does perform better in the city. This is due to the new antenna having less directivity than the old DB224.

Field Day: The club decided to publicize this year's Field Day in the local media. A decision was made to provide lunch for the people that help set up Field Day on Saturday.

The meeting adjourned at 2113.

BARC Badges! -- Joe Chapman, NV1W

Rick, NV5A, the Sign Man of Baton Rouge, is now offering BARC badges. They're full-color plastic badges with our logo and your call sign and first name, at a basic price of \$11.50 for a badge with a safety pin fastener. Rick was a great help in designing a badge for us, and he does good work and ships promptly.

We have not yet been added to the club page (go to <www.thesignman.com>, click on "Club & Group Items", then click on "Other Clubs & Organizations") but we should be soon. In the meantime you can contact him directly and mention the Boston Amateur Radio Club.

VE's please note that he also offers an official ARRL Volunteer Examiner badge for the same price. These have to be approved by the New England Division Director, but Rick will take care of that also.

A tip of the hat to Mike Ardai, N1IST, for digging up an ancient PostScript version of the BARC logo for use on the badge.

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BARC Meeting Calendar for 2014

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place at the Brookline Police Headquarters; the map is later in this newsletter. These dates will be published again in the newsletter as needed.

General Meetings

February 19 ~~Wed 7:30 pm~~
March 19 ~~Wed 7:30 pm~~
April 17 ~~Thu 7:30 pm at the Clay Center in Brookline~~
May 15 ~~Thu 7:30 pm~~
June 19 Thu 7:30 pm
September 18 Thu 7:30 pm
October 16 Thu 7:30 pm
November 20 Thu 7:30 pm

VE Sessions

April 14 ~~Mon 7:30 pm~~
July 14 Mon 7:30 pm
October 13 Mon 7:30 pm

Business Meetings

March 6 ~~Thu 7:30 pm at the Cambridgeside Galleria Food Court~~
June 5 ~~Thu 7:30 pm~~
September 4 Thu 7:30 pm
December 4 Thu 7:30 pm

BARC Net Preamble

The control operator for the BARC Net is Joe, W1JJF. He rarely misses a net, but when he does any ham can take up the position and run the net. To assist you in opening and closing the net The BARC Net Preamble is printed below. Do not be afraid to step up and take the challenge.

Is there any further business for the repeater before we begin the Boston Amateur Radio Club Net? This is <<YOUR CALL>>. Calling the Boston Amateur Radio Club Net. This is <<YOUR CALL>>, my name is <<YOUR NAME>> and I am located in <<YOUR TOWN>>. This net meets each Monday evening at 9 pm Eastern Time on the 145.230 Boston repeater, PL 88.5. This net is an informal round table discussion concerning matters of interest to the members of the Boston Amateur Radio Club and the Boston Amateur Radio community in general. When checking into the net, please say, "this is" and drop your carrier to check on doubling. Then give your call sign, name and location. All amateurs are welcome to join the net. Any check-in's for the Boston Amateur Radio Club Net please call now.

[Compile the list of the check-in's and proceed with the net.]

Is there any further business for the net before I close? Hearing nothing, this is <<YOUR CALL>> closing tonight's session of the Boston Amateur Radio Club Net. I would like to thank everyone who participated in the net and those who stood by while I ran the net. The Boston Amateur Radio Club Net will return next Monday evening at 9 pm Eastern Time. This is <<YOUR CALL>> returning the repeater to general amateur use. 73.

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Field Day!

The Boston Amateur radio Club will be returning to the Bare Cove Fire Museum in Hingham for Field Day on June 28 - 29. Our plan is to set up on Saturday morning starting around 9AM. The event begins at 2PM and then continues for 24 hours. As in the past, Mark and Geri Duff will be our gracious hosts. Cots are available if you are interested in staying overnight (contact Geri at <geriduff52@juno.com> beforehand to make arrangements).

As far as operating goes, the plan as of now is to run 3A with a VHF station. We will also be attempting to make a satellite contact.

More discussion will be held at the June General Meeting!

BARC Public Service Events for 2014 - Brett Smith, AB1RL

The Boston Amateur Radio Club organizes hams to provide communications support to several charitable and athletic events in the area. Volunteering at these events is a great way to be active in the hobby: we demonstrate how amateur radio serves the community, and learn a lot about effective communication. Every event has positions that can be filled by new volunteers, and the equipment requirements are very modest. You just need a solid handheld and aftermarket antenna.

To learn more about volunteering, or to sign up for e-mail about upcoming events, please write Brett Smith, AB1RL at <ab1rl@arrrl.net>.

- **Sunday, June 22: BAA 10K, Boston (Hooray! It's *not* the same weekend as Field Day!)**
- **Thursday, July 3: Finish at the Fifty, Patriot Place, Foxborough**
- **Sunday, October 12: BAA Half Marathon, Boston**

Amateur Radio "Dry Spell" Aboard ISS Ends – The ARRL Letter, May 29, 2014



Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARRISS) school contacts and any incidental, casual operation from the station have been on hold because no licensed crew members have been aboard the ISS since May 12. That situation ended this week, when Flight Engineer Alexander Gerst, KF5ONO, of the European Space Agency, Flight Engineer Reid Wiseman of NASA, and Soyuz Commander Max Suraev arrived at the ISS after a May 28 launch from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Russia has threatened to exclude US astronauts from Soyuz flights because of US sanctions in the wake of Russia's annexation of Crimea. Scheduled ARISS contacts are expected to resume in July. Wiseman, Suraev, and Gerst will remain aboard the station until mid-November. -- NASA



I See the Future

- 15 Jun MIT Flea (Cambridge)
- 19 Jun **BARC General Meeting**
- 22 Jun **BAA 10K Race (Boston)**
- 28-29 Jun **Field Day**
- 14 Jul **BARC VE Session**
- 20 Jul MIT Flea (Cambridge)

▲ **Note change from usual date and/or location**

(Rp) = BARC Repeater likely to 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 July issue must be received by July 5.

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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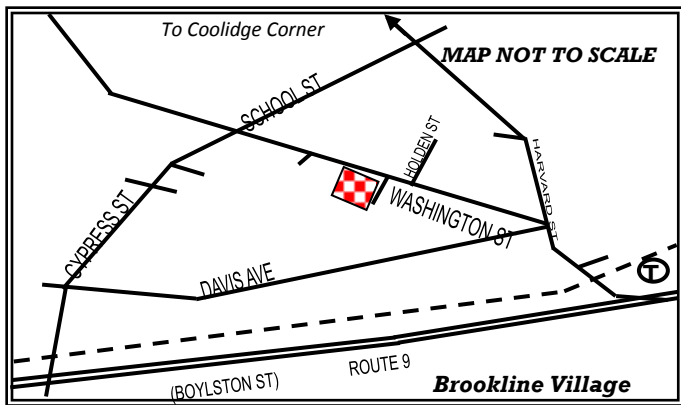
Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1IDA


As the Bylaws require, BARC has 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 **4 September 2014** 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

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 schedule has been revised to suit the needs and interests of the applicants and examiners. **The 2013 exam session schedule is shown elsewhere in this newsletter issue.** Generally, sessions are held at Brookline Police Headquarters, 350 Washington St in the Community Room (across from the 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> or Linda Blair, NA1I, <na1i@arrl.net>.

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443.550 (+) CTCSS 110.9

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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
617.267.6349; nv1w@arrl.net

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617.500.4406; na1i@arrl.net

Secretary: Joe Harris, N1QD
781.844.8684; n1qd@n1qd.org

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617.908.5019; n1icn@arrl.net

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Public Information Officer:
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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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Greater Boston Net Directory

Daily 5:30 pm	Eastern Mass/Rhode Island Phone Net (NTS)	3.915
Daily 7 pm	MARI (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 (PL 136.5)
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 (PL 136.5)
Sun 9 pm	CAARAnet	145.130 (PL 107.2)

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