



# The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

September 2014 - VOLUME 26, NUMBER 9

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



## Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

*I am writing this message just after finishing packing my bags for a bicycle trip to Nova Scotia, which I hope will include some operating as NV1W/VE1 bicycle mobile. Between camping and having to be prepared for chilly weather--an abstract concept with the temperature outside hovering near 90--I'm cutting the equipment list back to the KX1 and a trail-friendly end-fed dipole. An A123 battery pack, which will boost me to four watts, seems worth the 375 grams.*

*Reciprocal operating agreements make the whole process effortless; all you have to do is obey Canadian regulations, mention your QTH at some point in every QSO, and send EH? at least once every ten minutes. (I made that part up.)*

*Closer to home, as you will see in the minutes from this month's business meeting, Brett Smith AB1RL, our Public Service chair, has been approached by the BAA powers that be to take more of a leadership role in ham communications for the Boston Marathon. Brett has been doing an outstanding job, and it's good to see that others have been taking notice.*

*It goes without saying that Brett has the full support of the club. When he has a more clear idea of the technical challenges and other needs we will probably schedule an extra meeting of the business-meeting flavor to discuss what we can do to support his work and the Marathon.*

*You will also note that work is continuing on the repeaters. This is a time-consuming effort ably being headed up by Mark Duff KB1EKN and Joe Harris N1QD. In an attempt to improve the machine's coverage, we will probably be replacing the antenna, an expensive proposition since the antenna has to hold together in a harsh environment as well as have excellent performance characteristics. Because of this, I'll be encouraging people to add an extra donation for the repeater in the next dues cycle.*

*Finally, a welcome to those who joined the club over the summer, especially those preparing to take their Technician exams. Do not hesitate to contact me at [nv1w@arrl.org](mailto:nv1w@arrl.org) if you have questions. And as our dear northern neighbors say, 73, eh?*

*Joe Chapman, NV1W*

## September General Meeting

BARC's next general meeting will be held on National Cheeseburger Day, Thursday, September 18, at 7:30 pm at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline Village. We have not been able to engage a speaker for this meeting, so we'll have a update on recent club activities and invite everyone, especially those who went to the ARRL Convention in July, to talk about what they did on their summer vacation.

Repeaters: 145.230 ( - ) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

443.550 ( + ) CTCSS 110.9

## ***The SPARC***

### **Minutes of the September BARC Business Meeting- Geri Duff, KB1ISG (Acting Secretary)**

Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM at the Brookline Police community Room.

On hand were: Joe Chapman NV1W, president, Mark Duff KB1EKN, vice president, Linda Blair NA1I, membership services, Brett Smith AB1RL, public service coordinator, Jim Clogher N1ICN, treasurer, Blake Haskell KB1TH, Bob Salow WA1DA, and Geri Duff KB1ISG.

President Chapman announces that he is in the process of lining up speakers for the coming year of general meetings.

Vice President Duff led a discussion about the quality of the repeater.

Treasurer Clogher stated that not all bills are in yet but the checkbook balance is \$3,520.30.

Membership services Blair mentioned currently there are 90+ members and that a reader for the blind will be needed for the next VE session.

A discussion followed regarding the Winter Social. Blake will look into scheduling either Dec 7 or Jan 11 at the Stockyard Restaurant.

Public Service Coordinator Brett Smith led a discussion about the Boston Marathon. He has been asked to be on a communications committee for the BAA and would like help in the other events he has worked on like the Run of the Charles. The board, speaking for the membership, told Bret that they would support him in his endeavor.

Vote: Linda Blair made a motion to donate \$150.00 to the Bare Cove Fire Museum as thanks for letting BARC use the facility for this year's Field Day. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Vote: Linda Blair made a motion for BARC to purchase an antenna for the repeater and that Mark Duff be authorized to spend no more than \$1,000.00 for it. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted Geri Duff, acting Secretary

### **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@arrl.net](mailto:ab1rl@arrl.net)>.

- **Sunday, October 12: BAA Half Marathon, Boston**

### **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](http://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.

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## **The SPARC**

### **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.

#### **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.*



## I See the Future

**Note: There are no BARC meetings in July or August.**

<b>18 Sep</b>	<b>BARC General Meeting</b>
21 Sep	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
10-11 Oct	NEARFest (Deerfield NH)
12 Oct	<i>BAA Half Marathon (Boston) (Rp)</i>
<b>13 Oct</b>	<b>BARC VE Session</b>
20 Oct	MIT Flea (Cambridge)

**(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 September issue must be received by October 4.

## 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 <w1ida@arrrl.net> or 508.650.9440.

## The SPARC

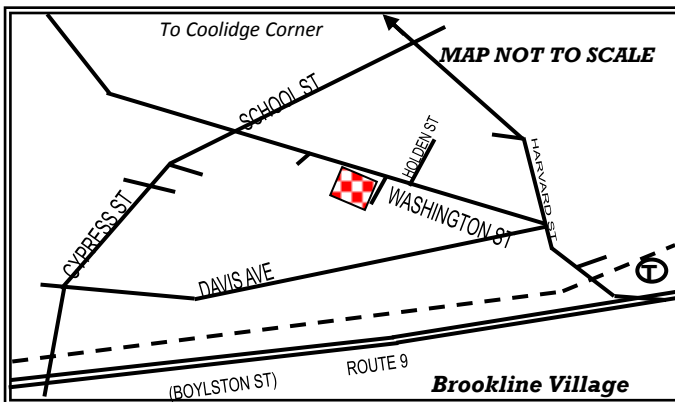
### Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1DA


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 December 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](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 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](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  
617.267.6349; nv1w@arrl.net
- Vice President: Mark Duff, KB1EKN  
781.749.7664; emgmt@comcast.net
- Secretary: Joe Harris, N1QD  
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- Treasurer: Jim Clogher, N1ICN,  
617.908.5019; n1icn@arrl.net
- Volunteer Exams:  
Jim Clogher, N1ICN, n1icn@arrl.net  
Linda Blair, NA1I, na1i@arrl.net
- Public Service Coordinator: Brett Smith, AB1RL  
859.466.5915; ab1rl@arrl.net
- Public Information Officer:  
Geri Duff, KB1ISG  
781.749.7664; geriduff52@juno.com
- 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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### 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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