



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area
February 2015 - VOLUME 27, NUMBER 2
www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President – Joe Chapman, NV1W

I have the happy duty to report that there has been a fantastic response to this year's drive for donations to the Repeater Fund. Several members have been very generous, and many more have rounded their annual dues up by ten or twenty dollars this time around. I am grateful for the good will of so many of our members, as well as those larger gifts which will get the fund off to such a good start.

Credit for the idea of putting the repeater on a good long-term financial footing goes to Mark, KB1EKN, to whom I extend (once again) our thanks.

As I write this message Boston is receiving another foot of snow, and Spring and Summer seem very distant. By the time this issue of the SPARC appears, volunteer registration for the Boston Marathon will be closed, but there will plenty more opportunities for public service as the weather gets warmer. You can hear more about them from Brett, AB1RL, at the February general meeting.

Later in the Spring, the theme of the April general meeting at the Clay Center will be DX. Our speaker will be Eric Williams, KV1J, who will be talking about his DXpeditions to Miquelon (IOTA NA-032), a French dependency off the coast of Newfoundland. Eric is also co-manager of the W1 QSL Bureau and will be able to answer any questions about how the bureaus work.

I mention the April meeting now because in a few weeks there will be an opportunity to work Eric as FP/KV1J, when he is active on Miquelon from February 26 to March 10. His plans are to operate mainly SSB and RTTY on 160-10 meters, favoring the higher frequency bands, and he will also be checking six meters for openings. At about 780 miles, he should be as easy to work as exotic Toledo, Ohio. More information can be found at <<http://www.kv1j.com/fp/Feb15.html>>.

Finally, hail and farewell to Aaron, KC1CNV, who is relocating to Tyler, Texas due to a job opportunity. May a General ticket be in your future so we can stay in touch!

73 and good DX to all!

Joe Chapman, NV1W

February's BARC General Meeting **Thursday, February 18, 2015, 7:30pm**

BARC's next general meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 18, at 7:30 pm at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline Village. Brett Smith, AB1RL, the club's Public Service Coordinator, will speak on public service.

Repeaters: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

443.550 (+) CTCSS 110.9

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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.

Doug Brander	KC1BSE – Upgrade to Extra
J.P. Tuttle	KB1TIC

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 Club Secretary, Joe Harris, N1QD, at <n1qd@n1qd.org>.

BARC Meeting Calendar for 2015

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place at the Brookline Police Headquarters; the map is later in this newsletter.

General Meetings

January 15	Thu	7:30 pm
February 18	Wed	7:30 pm
March 18	Wed	7:30 pm
April 16	Thu	7:30 pm
May 21	Thu	7:30 pm
June 18	Thu	7:30 pm
September 17	Thu	7:30 pm
October 15	Thu	7:30 pm
November 19	Thu	7:30 pm

VE Sessions

January 13	Tue	7:30 pm
April 13	Mon	7:30 pm
July 13	Mon	7:30 pm
October 12	Mon	7:30 pm

Business Meetings

March 5	Thu	7:30 pm	<i>at the Cambridgeside Galleria Food Court</i>
June 4	Thu	7:30 pm	
September 3	Thu	7:30 pm	
December 3	Thu	7:30 pm	

Signal Reports Wanted for 145.23 and 443.55 – Joe Harris, N1QD

Members may recall last fall when the club solicited signal reports for the 145.23 repeater. At that time we had just installed a Laird FG1443 to replace the Andrew DB224 that had been damaged the previous winter. The reports we received were not indicative of the excellent performance we want the club's flagship repeater to be known for. With this in mind, the club passed a motion to allocate funds to purchase a new DB224. The antenna was received in early October and installed on October 24. Initial reports have been **very** positive, but we have only heard from some of the frequent users. In addition, the UHF repeater has been on the air since spring, but has not been particularly active.

If possible, please try out both of the club's repeaters and let us know how they play in **your** neck of the woods! Signal reports would be greatly appreciated. Please direct your comments, including your location and operating conditions (portable, mobile, base, what antenna used, etc.) to Joe Harris, N1QD, at <n1qd@n1qd.org>.

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BARC Public Service Events for 2015—*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@arri.net>.

- **Sunday, April 12: Boston MS Walk at Boston University**
- **Saturday, April 18: BAA 5K** (Volunteer registration open Jan 6-Feb 10)
- **Mnday, April 20: Boston Marathon** (Volunteer registration open Jan 6-Feb 10)
- **Sunday, April 26: Run of the Charles**
- **Saturday, May 16: MS Journey of Hope Walk at Natick High School**

ARES, SKYWARN Volunteers Go On Alert for Massive East Coast Winter Storm—*The ARRL Letter, January 29, 2015*

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) teams and SKYWARN weather observers along the US Eastern Seaboard went on alert Monday, January 26, as a winter storm began working its way into the Northeast. The storm, which brought blizzard conditions to some areas, shut down transportation and kept residents at home in several states. Eastern Massachusetts and the City of Boston may have been hardest hit, with record or near-record snowfall amounts and storm surge flooding in some coastal communities. ARES units on Cape Cod deployed to staff six shelters and the Multi-Agency Coordination Center, which serves Barnstable County. A shelter was opened on Nantucket Island, after the entire island lost electrical power as well as most telecommunication services, and ham radio volunteers helped to fill the gap. Amateur Radio volunteers relayed this information to the National Weather Service (NWS) Taunton Office, home to WX1BOX, where operations kicked into high gear on Monday evening and continued for 27 hours. Hurricane-force wind gusts were recorded on Nantucket Island and on the western edge of Martha's Vineyard.

"Amateur Radio operators across Southern New England checked into regular SKYWARN Nets and/or with WX1BOX throughout the storm, even during the overnight hours, providing tremendous situational awareness and disaster intelligence information for the National Weather Service, state emergency management, nongovernmental organizations, and the media," Eastern Massachusetts Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator and SKYWARN Coordinator Rob Macedo, KD1CY, told ARRL. "Several hundred snowfall total and damage reports, including coastal flood reports, were fielded over a dozen SKYWARN nets across the NWS coverage area."

Macedo said widespread snowfall totals of 15 to 30 inches -- and up to 3 feet in some areas -- occurred in Central and Eastern Massachusetts and parts of Rhode Island, while up to 2 feet of snow fell in Connecticut and Southwest Massachusetts. ARRL Headquarters announced on Monday that it would close on January 27 in anticipation of the severe weather.

Massachusetts' South Shore experienced flooding, as a wind-driven tidal surge breached one seawall, flooding homes and businesses along the Brant Rock Esplanade. Flooding was also reported in Scituate, where streets filled with slushy seawater. Fierce winds caused some minor structural damage. A few residents had to be evacuated.

ARES and SKYWARN volunteers elsewhere in the Northeast also relayed ground-level weather conditions to NWS offices as the severe storm continued its northeasterly trek. The winter storm may not have lived up to advance hype in some areas, leaving forecasters apologetic, but it was a significant weather event for Northern New England residents. While the worst

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of the storm missed New York City, extreme Long Island saw a couple of feet of snow. Eastern New York SEC David Galletly, KM2O, said ARES groups in his Section stood down at midday on January 27.

"The storm track was apparently 50 to 100 miles east of the original forecast with a very sharp snow boundary," Galletly said. "This resulted in much less snow accumulation, especially in the Northern District counties."

ARRL New York City-Long Island Section Manager Jim Mezey, W2KFV, said ARES teams in his Section spent Monday preparing for a storm that was anticipated to be of "historic proportions." By midday, he said, ARES members were awaiting marching orders. The American Red Cross had identified three possible shelter locations in Nassau and Suffolk counties, where ARES might have supported communication.

"Winds were running at 25 MPH with higher gusts, creating whiteout conditions for most of the night and early morning," Mezey said. He reported snowfall accumulations of from 5 to 8 inches in New York City, 13 to 20 inches in Nassau County, and more than 24 inches in Eastern Suffolk County. By noon on January 27, ARES teams stood down but continued to monitor the situation a while longer.

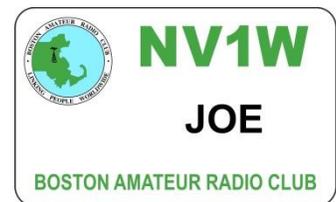
In Maine, where heavy snowfall and high winds battered eastern and coastal communities, ARES bumped up its alert status to Level 2 -- standby. Scattered power outages were reported, mostly in southern Maine. Temperatures remained in the teens. Maine ARES Section Emergency Coordinator Phil Duggan, N1EP, activated ARES Weather and SKYWARN Net sessions on HF, but no served agencies requested ARES communication support.

More than 1 foot of snow fell along parts of the Maine coast, and stiff winds out of the northeast caused considerable blowing and drifting of snow. At times, visibility was less than one-quarter mile. More snow is forecast for January 30.

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.

See our listing on the Sign Man's web site: <www.thesignman.com/clubs/boston.html> for details and fastener options.



BARC Net Preamble

The control operator for the BARC Net is Joe, W1JF. 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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Hands-Only™ CPR **1** **Call 911** **2** **Push hard and fast in the center of the chest.** **Learn more at handsonlycpr.org**

Ad Council American Heart Association *Learn and Live*

I See the Future

- 14 Feb AARC Flea (Marlboro)
- 18 Feb **BARC General Meeting – Wednesday ▲**
- 5 Mar **BARC Business Meeting – Cambridgeside Galleria ▲**
- 18 Mar **BARC General Meeting – Wednesday ▲**
- 6 Apr FARA Flea (Framingham)
- 13 Apr **BARC VE Session**
- 16 Apr **BARC General Meeting ▲**
- 19 Apr MIT Flea (Cambridge)
- 1-2 May NEAR Fest (Deerfield NH)

▲ *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 March issue must be received by March 7.

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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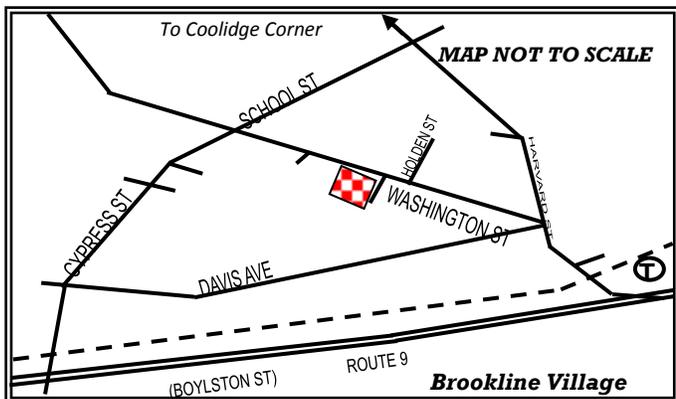
Quarterly Business Meetings -- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

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 **5 March 2015** at the Cambridgeside Galleria, in the lower level of the food court. 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 2014 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 CSCEs 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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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

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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 7 pm	MARI (Mass/Rhode Island CW Net) (NTS)	3.565
Daily 8 pm	Eastern Mass 2M Traffic Net (NTS)	145.230 (PL 88.5)
Daily 8 pm	Slow Speed CW Net	28.160
M, W, F 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	Waltham Wranglers 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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