



The SPARC

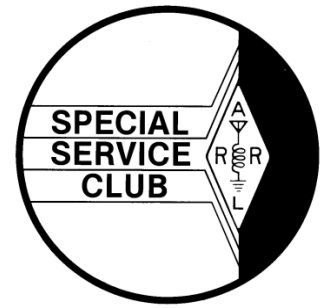
Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

September 2015 - VOLUME 27, NUMBER 9

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President – Joe Harris, N1QD

Greetings! Summer is approaching its end, and the new school year is upon us! I see the college students moving in to their new apartments, and hope that no one takes a truck down Storrow Drive! The summer is typically quiet for BARC, with two notable exceptions.

First, BARC had an excellent Field Day in June at the Bare Cove Fire Museum. Many of the old guard showed up, and we also had several new hams and new club members show up and get their feet wet, with a few making their first-ever QSOs! We also had a great presence on the VHF bands, fielding a 6 meter station and firing off traffic to the Eastern MA 2 Meter Traffic Net. I was proud of our efforts!

Second, the ARRL New England Division Convention (or Boxboro) took place in August. Boxboro is one of the premier ham-fests. The flea was packed on Saturday and there were some great vendor exhibits. The presentations are always top notch, and both banquets were very well-attended. The DX dinner featured an enlightening presentation by Jeff Jolie NM1Y about the recent K1N DXpedition to Navassa Island. Saturday night's banquet featured Gordon West WB6NOA. It was a real treat seeing Gordo speak; his talk had me in stitches on Saturday night. It was also great to see some familiar faces from the club on the convention floor!

As we move into fall, BARC starts up its 2015–2016 season. I hope to see many of you at the first General Meeting of the season, where our guest speaker will be Mike Kass N1YER. There are also more public service events coming up in September and October, see the notice from Brett AB1RL in this issue of the SPARC!

73, and see you at the September meeting!

Joe Harris, N1QD



BARC General Meeting

Thursday, September 17, 2015 at 7:30pm

There are no general meetings during July and August. BARC's next general meeting will be held on Thursday, September 27, at 7:30 pm at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline Village. The speaker will be Mike Kass, N1YER, Director of the Massachusetts Department of Health's Office of EMS.

Public Service – Brett Smith, AB1RL

As we head into September, organizing is ramping up for public service events in the fall. We could use plenty more volunteers for both the Jimmy Fund Walk on Sunday, September 27, and the BAA Half-Marathon on Sunday, October 11. Both events support great causes, and we provide communications to the medical team to keep participants safe and healthy. They're really community-oriented events, too, and a great way to do good for the hobby.

I hope you'll join us if you can. To volunteer at the BAA Half Marathon, please register as a volunteer on the BAA site: <http://www.baa.org/races/half-marathon/volunteer-information.aspx>. When asked for an assignment preference, make sure you select Ham Radios. To help out at the Jimmy Fund Walk, or if you have questions about either event, please feel free to mail me at ab1rl@brettsmith.org or phone (859) 466-5915. I look forward to hearing you on the air soon!

BARC's Online Discussion Group – Joe Harris, N1QD

BARC has an online forum at Yahoo groups. The Yahoo group serves as a sounding board for members to post their suggestions and comments, and is intended to foster discussion. The group can also be used to share photographs from club events! Come visit us at: <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/bostonARC/info>.

Minutes of the September 2015 Business Meeting – Joe Chapman, NV1W

The September 2015 Business Meeting was held at Brookline Police Headquarters on Thursday, September 3, 2015. Present were Joe Harris, N1QD (President), Mark Duff, KB1EKN (Vice President), Jim Clogher, N1ICN (Treasurer), Joe Chapman, NV1W (Secretary), Linda Blair, NA1I (Membership Services), Geri Duff, KB1ISQ (Public Information Officer), Blake Haskell, K1BTH, and Nathaniel Vishner, KB1QHX. The meeting was called to order by President Joe Harris at 7:33 p.m.

Officer Reports

President's Report: Joe, N1QD, noted that it's been a quiet summer and that he was glad to see many BARC members at the Boxboro convention.

There was no Vice President's report.

Treasurer's Report: Jim, N1ICN, reported that there is \$1000.10 in the repeater fund and \$2564.95 in the general account. Upcoming expenses include the Post Office box renewal in October. We will not have to do anything regarding our 501(c)(3) status with the IRS until 2018. We have finished moving our accounts to Eastern Bank and the Cambridge Trust account is now closed.

Secretary's Report: Joe, NV1W, noted that the SPARC is now being sent as a link to the copy on the BARC website rather than being sent as a large attachment to everyone on the mailing list. He has heard no comments, positive or negative, on the change.

Committee Reports

Repeater: Joe, N1QD (Repeater Trustee), reported that he asked both Joe Flaherty, W1JJF, net control for BARC's weekly net, and Greg Bennett, KC1CIC, representing the daily NTS traffic net, for comments on the VHF repeater and has heard no complaints. Problems with intermod and the repeater staying open have not been occurring, and N1QD noted that this might be due to one of the other organizations using the Federal Reserve having fixed their own equipment.

Mark, KB1EKN, noted that we still do have work to do on the VHF machine, in particular tuning the duplexer, reinstalling the polyphaser, replacing at least one cable (he noted that all the cables are at least fifteen years old at this point), and finishing cleaning out the equipment rack. The normal procedure for tuning a duplexer is to take it off site and then retune it after reinstalling it, and both N1QD and KB1EKN commented that a VHF duplexer is tricky to tune, particularly with the 600 kHz frequency pair spacing standard on two meters.

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On the UHF side, N1QD is planning a trip to the radio room on September 11. When we converted the UHF repeater to DMR, we found that it did not receive at all. There is a known bug reported against a similar Motorola repeater, so we may be able to solve the problem by reflashing the machine's firmware on-site. If this does not work, Ron Egalka, K1RE, a club member who operates a low-power DMR repeater from his condo on the Boston waterfront, has graciously offered to lend us his repeater so the BARC machine can be sent out for service. The repeater would continue to use Ron's call, frequency pair, and DMR color code.

John Garrett, WN9T, is asking the club to return the UHF antenna, which the club was led to believe he had donated. Blake, K1BTH, suggested that if and when we return the antenna we should include a letter stating that we believe BARC has no more of his property to help forestall any future misunderstandings. The group concurred. N1QD mentioned that another Boston area repeater uses an antenna that nulls out Pave Paws interference and is thus allowed to use higher power. This might be an option for the club, but such an antenna is expensive. He also said that we seem to have excellent coverage with only five watts.

Public service: Brett Smith, AB1RL, was not present, but he has sent email notices out for upcoming events.

Membership services: no report.

Old Business

Joe, N1QD, said he felt Field Day was a success. Mark, KB1EKN, reported that we spent approximately \$350, mostly on food and Field Day pins. He also suggested some changes to make: we need to do a better job protecting coaxial cables, as one of the 100 foot cables was damaged. We also can no longer tape cables to the floor, as it pulls off paint. We had one non-club member who showed up and wanted to operate, and we could have supervised him better. KB1EKN also recommended we buy a six meter filter and make an effort to have a two meter setup as well. A motion to make a donation of \$150 to the Bare Cove Fire Museum was voted and approved.

Bank transition: The move to Eastern Bank is considered a success, Linda, NA1I, observed that not only are we saving almost twenty dollars a month in fees, we're also earning interest.

Meetings: Linda, NA1I, described her schedule for arranging meeting space, and agreed to do this again for 2016. She will finalize the calendar with Brookline Police sometime in mid-November. She also noted that we will be using Eastern Bank's Jamaica Plain meeting facilities for the meetings we can't hold in Brookline Village, and that the location has parking and is accessible via public transportation.

Newsletter: Joe, NV1W, said he is willing to maintain a monthly schedule for the SPARC for at least the coming year, so we will not need to change the schedule at this time. Many commented that it would be nice to have more photos in the SPARC, and perhaps some followup articles on public service activities as well.

BARC breakfast: attendance was poor (one person) at the first breakfast in August. A discussion was had about whether it's good to schedule the breakfast on the day of the MIT flea, but no conclusion was reached. We decided to try again on Sunday, November 15.

New Business

The club will operate on SKYWARN Recognition Day on December 5 at the Great Blue Hill observatory as usual. Some changes in antenna configuration may be necessary because of the physical condition of the tower.

Holiday party: the group felt that having the party early in January was preferable to December because of parking issues at the Stockyard. A date of January 10 was proposed and Blake, K1BTH, will coordinate with the restaurant. SKYWARN Recognition Day will take the place of a December general meeting and the party will take the place of the January meeting.

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A motion to offer a 20% discount for renewals made before February 1 was voted and approved. We will be sending out letters with stamped return envelopes once again. There will be an envelope stuffing party at the December business meeting. K1BTH will supply envelopes and coordinate with Joe, NV1W, on mailing labels. Mark, KB1EKN, will obtain postage stamps.

A motion to spend up to \$100 to purchase a six meter filter was voted and approved. Joe, N1QD, will make the purchase.

Dave Capone, one of the speakers at the October general meeting, will be demonstrating cable connectors. KB1EKN did not think any of BARC's cables need new connectors, so we will not ask him to demonstrate on one of the club's cables. It was also observed that we should bring the club's PowerPole crimper and a supply of PowerPoles to a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Chapman, NV1W, Secretary

September 2015 General Meeting – Joe Harris, N1QD

Michael Kass is the director of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Public Health, Office of EMS. Some of you also know him as N1YER. Mike is a former BARC member and he will be talking to us about Public Safety Communications.

Mike is an attorney and has worked for the Commonwealth in various capacities. He was General Counsel for the State 911 Department and Chief of Staff for MEMA. Additionally, he has been very active in the planning and operation of the Boston Marathon for many years.

Some of the topics he'll be discussing include:

- Amateur Radio and Public Safety
- The Revised Commonwealth EMS Communications Plan
- Ambulance Task Forces

Please join us for an informative session and in welcoming back an old friend of BARC.

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

September 17	Thu	7:30 pm — Public Safety Communications/Mike Kass, N1YER
October 15	Thu	7:30 pm
November 19	Thu	7:30 pm

VE Sessions

October 12	Mon	7:30 pm
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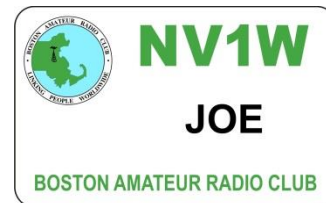
Business Meetings

December 3	Thu	7:30 pm
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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: <http://www.thesignman.com/clubs/boston.html> for details and fastener options.



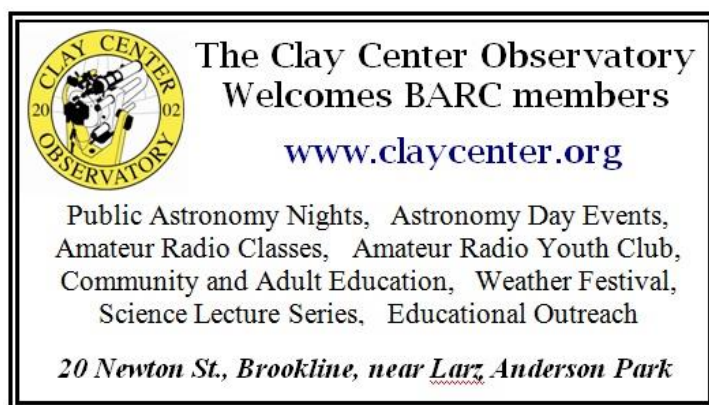
BARC Net Preamble

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

17 Sep	BARC General Meeting
20 Sep	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
27 Sep	Jimmy Fund Walk (Rp)
11 Oct	BAA Half Marathon (Rp)
12 Oct	BARC VE Session
15 Oct	BARC General Meeting
16–17 Oct	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.

Tired of the Editor’s Jokes? – Joe Chapman, NV1W

We are always looking for articles for the newsletter. I have reserved this space for your articles, reviews, tips, how-tos, or other ham related information. Send your submissions to the Editor, Joe, NV1W, at nv1w@arri.net.

Articles for the October issue must be received by October 3.

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 × 2 in. (business card)	\$15 per issue
1 col × 2 in. (business card)	\$75 per 6 consecutive months
1 col × 2 in. (business card)	\$125 per 12 consecutive months
1 col × 4 in. (½ column)	\$30 per issue
1 col × 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 Chapman, NV1W, at 617.267.6349 or nv1w@arri.net; or Bob Salow, WA1IDA, at wa1ida@arri.net or 508.650.9440.

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 **3 December 2015** 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.

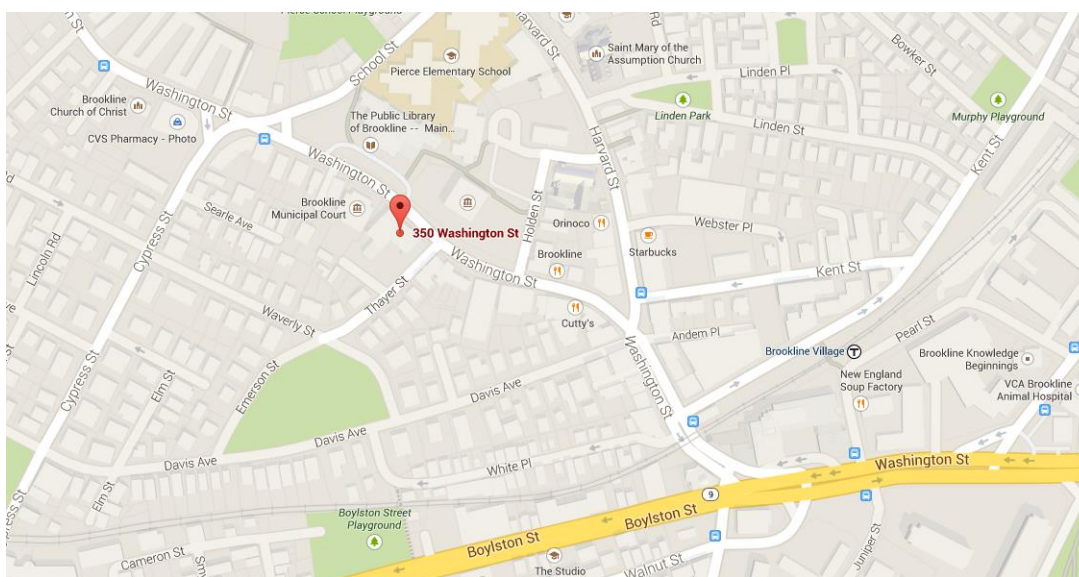
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To provide continuity of club business between meetings we also have a virtual business meeting via an email list. Any member interested in the affairs of the club can ask to be on this virtual meeting list—just give your name, call and your email address to President Joe Harris, N1QD.

Area Map for the Brookline Police Headquarters, 350 Washington Street, Brookline MA



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 2015 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.

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 Chapman, at nv1w@arrrl.net.

BARC Officers and Staff

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Newsletter Editor: 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 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
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)
Fri 10 pm	Heavy Hitters Traffic Net (NTS)	MMRA-linked repeaters: 146.610, 146.670, 146.715, 146.820, and all 222 and 440 repeaters
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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