



# The SPARC

**Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century**

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

**Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area**

November 2015 - VOLUME 27, NUMBER 11

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



## Message from the President – Joe Harris, N1QD



November has arrived, bringing with it colder weather and the start of the contest season! As I write this message, I'm still recovering from a 23-hour effort in the ARRL CW Sweepstakes. Sweepstakes has been held annually (both in Phone and CW) for over 80 years now. The exchange emulates the header on an NTS message, with a Number, Precedence, Originating Station, Check, and Location. This makes for one of the most complex contest exchanges out there, and certainly the most challenging (for me, at least).

Sweepstakes is a great way to fill out your Worked All States list. Last weekend, I completed WAS in less than 12 hours! I've fallen in love with an annual Sweeps run, always trying for the elusive Clean Sweep! This year, I spent a good ten minutes on Sunday afternoon listening intently to a very weak VY1AAA, located in Yukon Territory, trying to make sure I had his exchange correct after I had made a QSO with him. His was the 83rd multiplier for me, completing the sweep!

Phone Sweepstakes (same rules, different mode) takes place the weekend after BARC's November general meeting. Give it a shot! See [www.arrrl.org/sweepstakes](http://www.arrrl.org/sweepstakes) for all the important details.

Joe Harris, N1QD

## In this Issue of The SPARC

- SKYWARN training in Belmont
- SKYWARN Recognition Day
- National Parks on the Air (*at right*: operating alfresco at Cape Cod National Seashore, Wellfleet)
- Drinking with Marconi
- 2016 meeting and VE session dates



## BARC General Meeting

**Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 7:30pm**

BARC's next general meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19, at 7:30 pm at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline Village. Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP, will give a presentation on Home Solar Power and how it affects Ham Radio. Having recently installed a 10 kW system, Tony has some experience with the types of systems, installations, potential RFI issues, and RFI remediations to a Solar Power system.

**No December General Meeting; Come to SKYWARN Recognition Day!**

There will be no December BARC General Meeting. Please join the club for SKYWARN Recognition Day at the Blue Hill Observatory on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Full details are in this issue of *The SPARC*.

Repeaters: 145.230 ( - ) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

443.550 ( + ) CTCSS 110.9

## **SKYWARN Training in Belmont on November 18**



The National Weather Service (NWS) in Taunton, Massachusetts (<http://www.weather.gov/box>) will be sponsoring a severe weather spotter training session, part of its SKYWARN program, in Belmont, Massachusetts. The class will be on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 from 700 PM to 930 PM. It will be held at Belmont High School – Main Auditorium, 221 Concord Avenue, Belmont, MA.

The session is open to the public at no charge. Amateur Radio Operators, Emergency managers, police, fire, and other first responders are encouraged to attend. Everyone *age 16 and older* who stays to complete the training will be able to become a trained NWS weather spotter.

The training session includes a two-hour thirty-minute computer-based presentation, which discusses the development of thunderstorms, the criteria for “severe” thunderstorms, as well as the cloud features associated with severe thunderstorms and tornados. Additional information will be presented about winter storms and proper snow measurement and reporting of coastal flooding, river, stream, and urban flooding and rainfall measurements. The session will also present the procedure for reporting weather information to the National Weather Service. Safety procedures for the various forms of summer severe weather (severe thunderstorms, tornadoes and lightning), winter storms, hurricanes and flooding will also be covered in the training session. Anyone attending should bring a pen or pencil and bringing a notebook is optional.

No pre-registration is required. Please contact Stephanie Dunten, NWS Taunton SKYWARN Program Leader, via email at [stephanie.dunten@noaa.gov](mailto:stephanie.dunten@noaa.gov) or by phone at 508-823-1983 or Rob Macedo, Amateur Radio Call Sign KD1CY, at [rmacedo@rcn.com](mailto:rmacedo@rcn.com).

Please spread the word about this SKYWARN Class for those interested in taking a session before the end of 2015. A new slate of SKYWARN Classes will be planned for the start of 2016.

## **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 from the October 2015 General Meeting – Joe Chapman, NV1W**

A business meeting was held at the beginning of the General Meeting on October 15 at 7:30 pm in Brookline. Voting members present: N1QD, KB1ISG, KB1EKN, NV1W, AB1RL, WA1IDA, NA1I, N1ICN, KB1TIC, K1QK. Visitors: KC1EKJ.

President Joe Harris, N1QD, made announcements concerning the SKYWARN training class in Belmont on November 18, the General Meeting on November 19, SKYWARN Recognition Day on December 5, and the BARC Holiday Party on January 10 at the Stockyard in Allston.

Joe, N1QD, described the current state of the repeaters:

- We need to replace the UHF antenna as the owner of the current antenna has asked us to return it. N1QD mentioned the possibility of getting a directional antenna which would allow us to aim a null in the direction of the PAVE PAWS radar on Cape Cod. He said that a commercial grade antenna would cost approximately \$1000.
- To support DMR, the current UHF machine requires a repair of \$1400, approximately two-thirds the cost of a new repeater. N1QD mentioned that we may be able to secure outside funding via either the NEDECN network or NEARFEST.

A motion was made and passed to authorize the Repeater committee to spend up to \$1000, half from the repeater fund and half from the general fund, at their discretion to obtain a new UHF antenna.

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Bob, WA1IDA, noted that our status as an ARRL Special Service club expired several years ago. N1QD will investigate what it will take to renew our status and report at the December business meeting.

Partners Health Care has requested a presentation by the club on amateur radio. Blake, K1BTH, Brett, AB1RL, and Bob, WA1IDA will investigate further and make a recommendation at a future meeting.

### **BARC to Participate in SKYWARN Recognition Day 2015 – Mark Duff, KB1EKN**

On December 5th, 2015, and for the 13th consecutive year, BARC will once again participate in SKYWARN Recognition Day. SRD is a joint event support by the ARRL and the National Weather Service where weather stations and weather buffs from across the country contact each other for fun and to promote the SKYWARN Program. Our station, WX1BHO, will be located at the summit of Great Blue Hill in Milton MA.

For several decades, hams have assisted the National Weather Service by providing real-time reports of severe weather and storm conditions. Although the NWS operates a network of 120 Doppler radars to track severe storms, at greater ranges weather radar has a difficult time sampling conditions close to the ground. The information radio operators located near a storm provide plays a key role in aiding forecasters. Stations will exchange signal reports, location and a brief description of the current weather at their respective locations ("sunny," "partly cloudy," "windy," etc.). BARC will be on the air from approximately 0900 to 1500 local time.

The event itself is a great way in a low-key environment to make HF contacts and get your feet wet in the HF Spectrum.

In past years we have endured all kinds of weather including warm and cold days, clear and cloudy days, and yes, even a blizzard. Access to the summit is gained by a 20 minute hike from the base of Great Blue Hill located on Route 138 next to the DCR Trailside Museum or (if you arrive early in the day) by car. Further information is available by contacting Mark Duff, KB1EKN, at [emgmt@comcast.com](mailto:emgmt@comcast.com).

### **Holiday Cheer: The Marconi Wireless – Joe Chapman, NV1W**



I recently gave a talk to the Hampden County Radio Association on "Bicycling and Ham Radio", celebrating two hobbies that I enjoy in combination as well as separately. In the spirit of combining radio and another hobby, and in time for the holidays, here's a recipe for the Marconi Wireless cocktail, an applejack variant of the Manhattan. To be honest, this drink is a little sweet for my taste, but as that means I'm unlikely to have two at a sitting, that's probably a good thing. One wants to drink responsibly and never, never, unless Bouvet Island suddenly comes up at 599 on 40 meters

and you *have no choice*, operate under the influence.

According to my friend Naomi Levy, bar manager at Eastern Standard in Boston, the Marconi Wireless was created at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York, probably in 1902 when Marconi received an award from the American Institute of Electrical Engineers for his work on radio. (He also stayed at the hotel in 1912 when he testified at the Senate hearings on the Titanic disaster, but the mood would have been decidedly less festive.) What follows is my interpretation of the drink as given in *The Old Waldorf-Astoria Bar Book* (New York, 1935).

Stir over ice: 2 oz/60 ml Laird's Bonded Apple Brandy (Laird's Applejack if the Bonded stuff is unavailable), 1 oz/30 ml Italian sweet vermouth, and 2 generous dashes Regan's No. 6 Orange Bitters. Strain into a conical cocktail glass and garnish with a Luxardo cherry. *Cin-cin!*

## Coming in 2016: National Parks on the Air – Joe Chapman, NV1W

The ARRL has announced a National Parks on the Air program for next year. “Throughout 2016, Amateur Radio will be helping the National Park Service celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Hams from across the country will activate NPS units, promote the National Park Service and showcase amateur radio to the public.” Further information on the program can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/NPOTA>.



Just like the Summits on the Air program, people will be able to participate by activating National Park Service units, by working those activations, or both. Activations will be announced on the NPOTA website <https://npota.arrl.org> where you will also find leader boards, the official list of NPS units, and other information. The following table shows the National Park Service units in Massachusetts. The League suggests that activators use cancellations from the NPS Passport program as evidence of their visit to the site, and the number of these cancellation locations is listed in the “Stamps” column.

ARRL Code	Name	Location	Stamps
HP02	Adams National Historical Park	Quincy	2
TR01	Appalachian National Scenic Trail	Western MA	0
HP49	Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park	Uxbridge	1
HP04	Boston National Historical Park	Boston	6
NS05	Boston African American National Historic Site	Boston	2
RC03	Boston Harbor Islands	Boston Harbor	4
SS03	Cape Cod National Seashore	Wellfleet	3
NS29	Frederick Law Olmstead National Historic Site	Brookline	1
NS41	John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site	Brookline	1
NS46	Longfellow’s House/Washington’s Headquarters National Historic Site	Cambridge	1
HP24	Lowell National Historical Park	Lowell	2
HP27	Minute Man National Historical Park	Concord	3
HP30	New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park	New Bedford	1
NS62	Salem Maritime National Historic Site	Salem	2
NS65	Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site	Saugus	1
NS66	Springfield Armory National Historic Site	Springfield	1

## BARC Meeting Calendar for 2015 and 2016

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

### General Meetings

November 19 2015 Thu 7:30 pm — Home Solar Power and Ham Radio — Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP  
 February 18 2016 Thu 7:30 pm (at Eastern Bank, Jamaica Plain)  
 March 17 2016 Thu 7:30 pm (at Eastern Bank, Jamaica Plain)  
 April 21 2016 Thu 7:30 pm (at Clay Center, Brookline)

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## The SPARC

May 19	2016	Thu	7:30 pm
June 16	2016	Thu	7:30 pm — Elections
September 15	2016	Thu	7:30 pm
October 20	2016	Thu	7:30 pm
November 17	2016	Thu	7:30 pm

### VE Sessions

January 12	2016	Tue	7:30 pm
April 11	2016	Mon	7:45 pm (note time change)
July 11	2016	Mon	7:30 pm
October 10	2016	Mon	7:30 pm

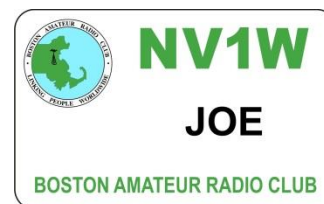
### Business Meetings

December 3	2015	Thu	7:30 pm
March 3	2016	Thu	7:30 pm (at Eastern Bank, Jamaica Plain)
June 2	2016	Thu	7:30 pm
September 1	2016	Thu	7:30 pm
December 1	2016	Thu	7:30 pm

## 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.*

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## I See the Future

18 Nov	SKYWARN Training, Belmont, MA
19 Nov	<b>BARC General Meeting</b>
21–23 Nov	ARRL Sweepstakes, Phone
28–19 Nov	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW
3 Dec	<b>BARC Business Meeting</b>
4–6 Dec	ARRL 160 Meter Contest
5 Dec	SKYWARN Recognition Day Special Event, Milton, MA
10 Jan	<b>BARC Holiday Party</b>

▲ **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.

## Want to See Yourself in *The SPARC*? – Joe Chapman, NV1W

We are always looking for articles for the newsletter. I have reserved this space for your articles, reviews, tips, how-tos, hints, kinks, photos, schematics, or other ham related information. Photos of you operating or your shack are especially welcome! Send your submissions to the Editor, Joe, NV1W, at [nv1w@arrl.net](mailto:nv1w@arrl.net).

Articles for the December issue must be received by December 5.



**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*



## 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@arrl.net](mailto:nv1w@arrl.net); or Bob Salow, WA1IDA, at [wa1ida@arrl.net](mailto:wa1ida@arrl.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.

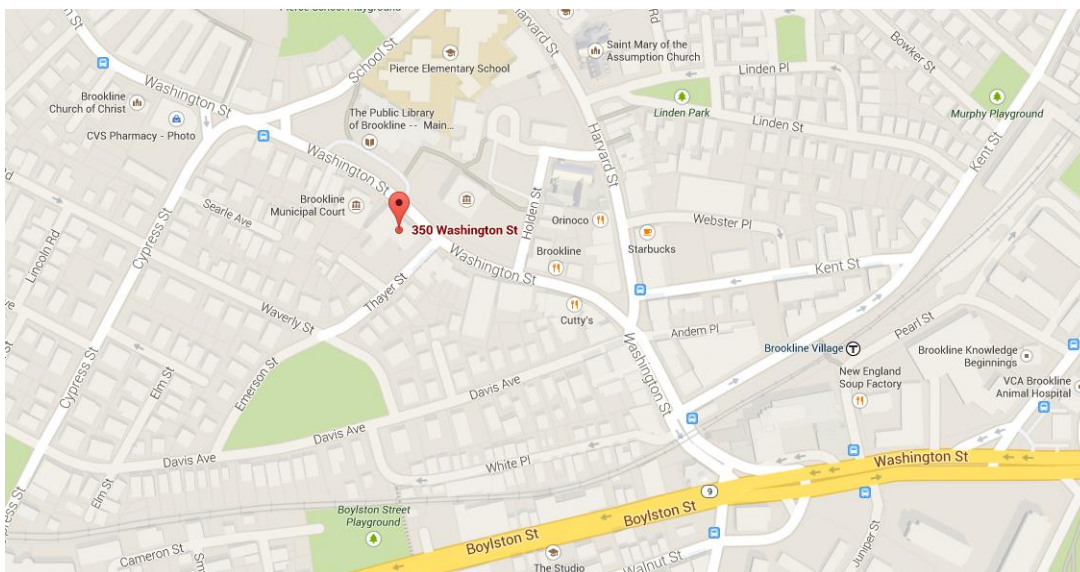
A short opening period of each General meeting will continue to be used to bring any immediate business matters to everyone's attention.

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.

*Right: NV1W/1 portable at the Cape Cod Bicycle Rotary, Harwich, in September 2015.*



## 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 2016 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@arri.net](mailto:n1icn@arri.net), or Linda Blair, NA1I, [na1i@arri.net](mailto:na1i@arri.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 Chapman, at [nv1w@arrl.net](mailto:nv1w@arrl.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)
Mon Wed 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
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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Simplex: 147.420

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