

The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area December 2015 - VOLUME 27, NUMBER 12 www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the President - Joe Harris, N1QD



We are now approaching the end of 2015, and the halfway point of my term as President. Since I was elected in June, the club has run several events. Highlights include HF-centric events like Field Day and SKYWARN Recognition Day, public service events like the BAA Half Marathon, and several club meetings with guest speakers. One of the things I've always enjoyed about BARC is the fact that we do a little bit of everything, and the variety of events in the past six months has been a great example of this.

As we move into the end of 2015, I'm curious: How was your year in ham radio? Did you work any rare DX? Try out a new mode? Make new friends? What are your goals for 2016?

Finally, I'd like to ask for some feedback from the club members. Are you content with the direction that the club is heading? Are there new or different activities that BARC should look into? If you aren't currently attending meetings, why not? Please, reach out to me directly at n1qd@n1qd.org with your opinions and comments!

Joe Harris, N1QD

In this Issue of The SPARC

- BARC Breakfast
- Holiday Party
- Ham of the Year nominations
- 2016 meeting and VE session dates



BARC Holiday Party Sunday, January 10, 2016 at 1:00pm

BARC's Holiday Party will be held at The Stockyard restaurant in Brighton on Sunday, January 10th at 1:00 p.m. Details can be found in this issue of *The SPARC*.

No January General Meeting

There will be no January BARC General Meeting on account of the Holiday Party.

Repeaters: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5 Simplex: 147.420 443.550 (+) DMR CC1 (soon)

From the Editor - Joe Chapman, NV1W

This will be a short issue of the SPARC thanks to the pressures of the season and a dearth of material. I wish everyone happy holidays, and safe travels to those who will be on the road, especially our migratory members Bob, WA1IDA, and Elaine, N1GTB.

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 December 2015 Business Meeting - Joe Chapman, NV1W

The December quarterly business meeting was held on December 3, 2015, at 7:30 pm in Brookline. Members present: N1QD, W1JJF, NV1W, WA1IDA, NA1I, N1ICN, K1BTH, KB1EKN, KB1ISG. Following a membership renewal envelope stuffing extravaganza, the meeting was called to order by President Joe Harris, N1QD, at 8:26 p.m. The September 2015 Business Meeting minutes were approved.

Joe, N1QD, reported that he is pleased with the meetings we've had so far this year. Tom Frenaye, K1KI, ARRL New England Region Director, is holding a cabinet meeting in Springfield in January. If you wish to attend and represent the club, see N1QD for more details. N1QD also reported that he's in the process of reapplying for our ARRL Special Service Club status. A discussion was held on ideas for General Meeting programs.

Vice President Mark, KB1EKN, ran the club's generator in a periodic test and it ran fine for 45 minutes.

Treasurer Jim, N1ICN, reported that the club has \$1990.72 in the general bank account and \$1000.18 in the Repeater Fund.

Secretary Joe, NV1W, made a plea for submissions for the SPARC. He will be taking photographs of club officers at the Holiday Party for use in the SPARC.

VHF Repeater: N1QD reported that he would be making a visit to the radio room on December 4th. He will check the duplexer and we should have a better idea of the status of the 145.230 machine after the trip.

UHF Repeater: N1QD will also tweak the bridge on the temporary K1RE UHF DMR repeater to get it back on the net and restore the connectivity of the non-local talk groups. He reported on an offer made by Mike, W1RC, of NEARFEST to provide matching funds up to \$500 for individual donations to fund a new DMR repeater. N1QD estimated that a new repeater will cost \$1970. Several members present made pledges to support the effort.

KB1EKN made an announcement about plans for SKYWARN Recognition Day. Blake, K1BTH, reported on the Holiday Party and recommended we survey the attendees this year to learn whether they prefer a December or January date.

N1QD led a discussion on whether we should do the BARC Breakfast and what day it should be on. It was agreed that the next one will be at The Friendly Toast in Kendall Square, Cambridge, on Sunday, December 20 at 8 a.m.

A discussion was had on our relationship with the Red Cross, and KB1EKN suggested we have a meeting or host a dinner to reintroduce ourselves to the appropriate people in that organization. The meeting was adjourned at 10:22.

BARC Breakfast - Joe Harris, N1QD

The BARC Breakfast moves to Cambridge this month! We will convene on Sunday December 20 at 8:00 AM. The venue is The Friendly Toast located at 1 Kendall Square. There is ample street parking in addition to a garage by the cinema on

Binney St. The closest T station is Kendall/MIT on the Red Line. Please try to be at the restaurant promptly at 8:00 AM so we can be seated together!

BARC Holiday Party – Blake Haskell, K1BTH

The Officers of the Boston Amateur Radio Club cordially invite you to join us and your fellow club members for the BARC Holiday Party on Sunday January 10, 2016 at 1:00 P.M. at the Stockyard Restaurant, 135 Market Street, Brighton, MA 02135 (www.stockyardrestaurant.com). The cost will be \$25 per person.

The Stockyard is a well-established Boston restaurant. They have been in business for over 40 years and have delicious food. BARC has held the Holiday Party there before. The full menu will be available. If the Club has more than fifteen (15) reservations, a special menu and perhaps a private room will be offered. Check their website for further information; special dietary needs can be arranged.

Please complete the reservation form attached to this issue of the SPARC. Return to Joe Harris, N1QD, at the address shown on the form no later than December 31, 2015 in order to give the restaurant an accurate headcount.

Directions to The Stockyard Restaurant:

From the North: I-93 or I-95 South into Boston to the Mass Pike extension. Take Mass Pike West one exit, Exit #18 Allston Brighton/Cambridge. After toll, stay left to Allston/Brighton. At third set of lights go right onto Lincoln St. and follow approximately 1 mile to the end/set of lights, go left. Stockyard is over the bridge on the right.

From the South: Route 3 or I-93 North into Boston to the Mass Pike extension. Take Mass Pike West one exit. Follow directions from the North.

From the West: Get on the Mass Pike East to Exit #18 Allston Brighton/Cambridge. Follow directions from the North.

Via Public Transportation: The 64, 70, 70A, and 86 MBTA buses all have stops near the restaurant. Go to www.mbta.com for more details.

The Stockyard has over 100 parking spaces and there is also on-street parking in the area. We look forward to seeing you on the 10th.

DMR Repeater Funding Drive – Joe Harris, N1QD

As I mentioned in an earlier column in *The SPARC*, the club's donated UHF repeater is non-functional in DMR mode. In order to transition 443.550 to DMR, the club will need to purchase a new Motorola DMR repeater. The price has been quoted as just under \$2000. Some of you may also be aware that NEAR-Fest, the New England Amateur Radio Festival, maintains a Digital Networks Commission tasked with expanding and enhancing digital amateur radio networks in the New England area. I have reached out to W1RC, the NEAR-Fest founder, and BARC has been selected for a matching funds grant of up to \$500 towards the purchase of a new DMR repeater!

Several club members already made pledges at the December business meeting, but we need your donation if we are to reach our goal! Send an email to BARC President Joe Harris at nlqd@nlqd.org with your pledge. Check should be made out to the Boston Amateur Radio Club with the note "DMR Repeater" and be mailed to the club PO Box. As the NEAR-Fest group wishes to make the donation by the end of 2015, they have asked that the fundraiser be completed by Friday, December 18. Checks will need to be received by Friday, December 18 to qualify for matching funds, but donations after that date will be most welcome. Any donations we receive in excess of the cost of the repeater will be placed in the general repeater fund. Please, consider a donation to help move BARC to the forefront of digital voice!

Simplex: 147.420

Ham of the Year Nominations - Joe Chapman, NV1W

As has become our custom, the Holiday Party is where we award the "BARC Ham of the Year." The winner is chosen by your nomination from among the members. This means, of course, that it is up to you to recommend whom you think most deserves the award this year. We want to recognize a BARC member for outstanding contribution to the club and to the Amateur Radio hobby. The rules stipulate that the award cannot be given to someone who has won in the past five years.

Previous winners are:

1992 Mike Ardai, N1IST	2005 Arthur Ashley, N1NHZ
1993 Lajos Gergely, AA1BW/HA0DR	2006 Jim Clogher, N1ICN
1996 Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ and Bob Cassell, N1ENS	2007 Eric Falkof, K1NUN
1997 Terry Koen, N1IWF and Arthur Ashley, N1NHZ	2008 Tom Bertolino, KB1P
1998 Mike Kass, N1YER and Bob Wondolowski, N1KDA	2009 Hank Buccigross, K1QK
1999 Paul Carter, N1TMF and Mike Koenemund, KB1CKI	F 2010 Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ
2000 Mark Duff, KB1EKN	2011 Mark Duff, KB1EKN and Geri Duff, KB1ISG
2001 Frank Murphy, N1DHW and Bob Salow, WA1IDA	2012 Linda Blair, NA1I
2002 Jim Clogher, N1ICN	2013 Brett Smith, AB1RL
2003 Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ	2014 Joe Harris, N1QD
2004 Blake Haskell, K1BTH	

Nominations may be made on the Holiday Party reply form or sent via email to Joe Harris, n1qd@n1qd.org. The deadline is the 31st of December.

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

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)		
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 Meetin	Business Meetings				
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		

Simplex: 147.420

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

20 Dec ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW

20 Dec BARC Breakfast, The Friendly Toast, Cambridge

1 Jan ARRL Straight Key Night

1 Jan Beginning of National Parks on the Air event

2–3 Jan ARRL RTTY Roundup

9–10 Jan North American QSO Party, CW

10 Jan BARC Holiday Party, The Stockyard, Brighton

12 Jan BARC VE Session

16–17 Jan North American QSO Party, SSB

▲ Note change from usual date and/or location

(Rp) = BARC Repeater likely to be used

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5 Simplex: 147.420

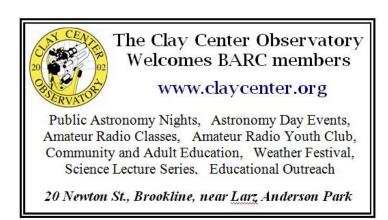
443.550 (+) DMR CC1 (soon)

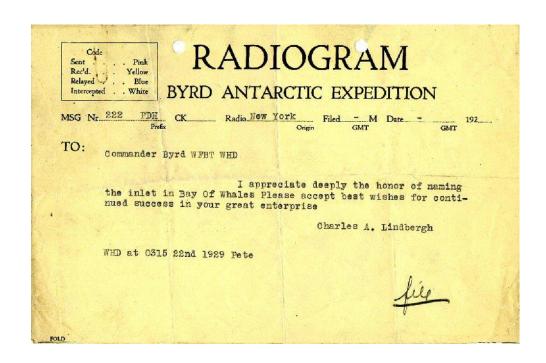
As you might expect, there are many more events (public service, hamfests, flea markets, etc.) taking place—some only peripheral to ham radio. For information on these, covering much of the Northeast, the "Ham - Electronic Flea Market" and the "PSLIST" lists tell the story. Of course, if you know of an event that would be of interest to the readers, please let the Editor know.

Join The SPARC Spotlight Team! - 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.

Articles for the January issue must be received by January 9.







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:

 $1 \text{ col} \times 2 \text{ in.}$ (business card)\$15 per issue $1 \text{ col} \times 2 \text{ in.}$ (business card)\$75 per 6 consecutive months $1 \text{ col} \times 2 \text{ in.}$ (business card)\$125 per 12 consecutive months $1 \text{ col} \times 4 \text{ in.}$ (½ column)\$30 per issue $1 \text{ col} \times 9.5 \text{ in.}$ (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; or Bob Salow, WA1IDA, at 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.

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420 443.550 (+) DMR CC1 (soon)

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 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@arrl.net.

Simplex: 147.420

BARC Officers and Staff

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

Vice President: Mark Duff, KB1EKN 781.749.7664; emgmgt@comcast.net

Secretary: Joe Chapman, NV1W 617.267.6349; nv1w@arrl.net

Treasurer: Jim Clogher, N1ICN, 617.908.5019; n1icn@arrl.net

Volunteer Exams:

Tue 8 pm

Wed 8 pm

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 Chapman, NV1W 617.267.6349; nv1w@arrl.net

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

MMRA Club Net 146.610 and all MMRA links 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)

Repeaters: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5 Simplex: 147.420 443.550 (-) CTCSS 110.9 Hz



Holiday Party

Here's why you must not pass this up:

- 1. Past experience has shown that you are guaranteed to have a good time,
- 2. You will be among the members and friends of the Boston Amateur Radio Club.
- 3. The BARC gourmet and gluttony departments have praised it far and wide.
- 4. Good food at a reasonable price.
- 5. You get to vote on the BARC "Ham of the Year," and watch the winner squirm.
- 6. It's for you, your family and your friends (if any).

Here's what's happenin':

Where:

The Stockyard 135 Market St. Brighton MA 02135

Parking in the restaurant lot Street parking on Guest St & Life St

When:

Sunday, 10 January 2016 1:00 pm

(The January club meeting is suspended.)

@ BARC

buses: #86 and #84 stop nearby

Talk in on 145.230

Food ?? Of course!!

Guests will have a luncheon menu to order from. There will be vegetarian options provided.

Cost ?? We knew you'd ask!!

It's a bargain at \$25.00 per person (tax and gratuity included). Reserve seats for yourself, your family and your friends by sending your check, *payable to BARC*, with the coupon below, and get it in the mail quickly.

Nominate your choice for the 2015 BARC Ham of the Year on the other coupon below.

Send <i>both</i> coupons below to:	Joe Harris, N1QD 40 Drew Rd Belmont MA 02478	Send before 31 December 2015 Send before 31 December 2015 Send before 31 December 2015
A party? Of course we'll be th Menu selections to be made at th		
◄ Cash Bar - You will be respon	II nominate: Because:	
Name	Call Sign	
Email	Phone	11
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		П



oston Amateur Radio Club ___MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION_- 2016

Members: if there are no changes to the below information from last year, check here and fill in only your name and call sign.



New __Renewal



Full name			Call sign				
Name used on the air				Evening phone ()			
				Daytime phone ()			
			Cell phone ()				
City/Town		State ZIP (9 dig					
	1				MDODTANT.		
Novice	MEMBEDSHID -11		BARC membership list is for use only, including publishing		<i>IMPORTANT:</i> To save the club significant costs and effort,		
Novice Technician	I ifo	the roster to our members only. Do you wish to restrict such limited distribution: OMIT ADDRESS		the club now publishes its newsletter <i>only</i>			
General	Life Annual			online. You will be notified monthly by email to link to a web page where the			
Advanced Extra	Not a member			earliest posting will be available. Our newsletter, <i>The SPARC</i> , is the source of local and general ham radio news and official club information.			
Former ham	EMCOMP49						
Not yet a ham	EMCOMM?						
Are you an ARRL certified VE? YES NO 1 2 3 Have you taken ICS-700? YES NO		OMIT EVENING PHONE		It is therefore essential that for this fast and cost saving plan, that you indicate above			
						your best email address.	
					embership Cate		
	BER: Not otherwise qual		\$25.00 \$12.50 \$12.50 \$12.50		\$ 12.50 1 \$ 6.50		
	R: Are you under age 18°				\$ 6.50 1 \$ 6.50		
L	R: Are you over age 64?				\$ 6.50		
FAMILY MEMBER: [Regular member I live with] I am the family member to receive club mailings YES NO			Ψ12.30 I		φ 0.50 Ι		
•		complete a separate form.	i I		i I		
If you are able, please help support the club's activities and repeaters:							
			To	•			
		Total \$					
Signature		Date		41111111	©BARC		
		Club! Join in the fun of being a		Give to any offic	cer or mail to:		
➤ Your cancelled check is your receipt; membership acknowledgement is year shown on the newsletter address label.				BOSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB			
Make checks payable to: BOSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB			PO Box 15585 Boston MA 02215-0011				
➤ Please write your o	call sign on your check.						
Dues \$	Addl \$	Recd by	С)ate	-		
DB by	Memb Ni	r Date		L	OC		