

The SPARC

Volume XIII, Number 11; November 2001 Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club http://www.barc.org/barc w1bos@arrl.net



A Message from the President

Mark Duff KB1EKN

Many thanks to those who traveled down to lower Plymouth in October to participate in Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). We had a great time and were treated very well by the Minuteman Council of the B.S.A. What was more important is that we achieved our goal of introducing Ham Radio to the many Scouts that were present. I am sure it was a memorable experience for everyone. I look forward to expanding the program next year. A special thanks goes to Frank Murphy/N1DHW and Arthur Ashley/N1NHZ who organized the event. Myself, Arthur, Frank and Bert Flower/N1MXO spent Friday afternoon installing dipoles in the scrub pine trees that are so prevalent in Plymouth. Judging from how long it took, I would say we all need to go back to drill school!

As I am sitting behind my computer writing this article I am also listening to the Hurricane Net on 14.325mhz (Hurricane Michelle). It reminds me on how important ham radio is to the safety and well being of everyone. We too are part of the legion of unsung heroes that have become so prevalent today. Over the last several weeks I have attended numerous seminars and training sessions with the intent of being prepared for events that may impact us in the future. Several things have come to light. The most important one will be the increased need for reliable communications. Public Safety Officials and other agencies are very concern about their ability to communicate. The reliability of Cellular Communications and Paging Services has come into question. I can't stress how important it is for all of us to make sure our equipment and ourselves are ready for deployment. Just as Firefighters and Police Officers have become the nation's first line of defense against terrorism and other emergencies, so to have ham radio operators.

Please keep up the good work!

Mark Duff/KB1EKN President

BARC Holiday Dinner

Please reserve Thursday, December 20 for the BARC holiday buffet dinner and awards presentation. This year, we're doing what worked so well for the last two years; a Chinese buffet in Brighton called Tin-Tin (they have some American dishes also.) The formal announcement and reservation form is enclosed in this

issue of the SPARC. Aside from the food and fun, BARC's <u>Ham of the Year</u> award will be presented at the party. Get out your pen and your checkbook and get ready for some real holiday cheer!

Nominate Your "Ham Of The Year"

Yes, there are many members who contribute to the club in outstanding ways, but one of them must stick in your mind as special. Each year BARC awards the "Ham of the Year" to someone nominated by the membership. This is your chance to make it happen.

The announcement for the BARC Holiday Party, which is included with this issue of *The SPARC*, has a coupon for you to state your choice. The only limits are that the nominee be a BARC member and not a previous winner. Even if you can't make it to the dinner (and miss the great time), you can still nominate your choice. Think about it, and then act.

A New (Half) Marathon

Bob Salow WA1IDA

A Half Marathon is a recognized distance in the running field. For the first time in Boston, a certified course was laid out along the Emerald Necklace from Roberto Clemente Park in the Fenway to the Franklin Park Zoo and back. Almost 3300 runners had registered but only 2600 ran, probably due to the current conditions.

The decision to produce this Half Marathon was made less than three months ago. BARC was immediately asked by the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) to coordinate ham support for the event. Knowing that we had a responsive and flexible team, we agreed. The hams had to be flexible because as a new event on an as yet undetermined course, our logistical support had to be devised before all factors were determined.

Eventually, the full event structure (almost) fell into place, and we hams fit perfectly. On a cool, misty Sunday, 14 October, the runners ran and 26 hams did their thing. When it was over, we received the gratitude of not only the BAA staff and the medical team, but also the Boston and State Police and the Boston Emergency Medical Service for our professional integration with them. Here's who we were:

Repeaters: 145.23 (-) PL 88.5 447.175 (-) PL 110.9

Simplex: 147.42

Marty K10ZS Bill KB1CIE Joseph KB1EIP Mark KB1EKN Miro KB1FMP KB1FMS Jelena Martha KB1FMT Trudy KB1FOA Sandy KB1HAD Pete KD10S Mark KE1L Rowe N1GIE Mike N1IST Bill N1IXS Spencer N1JWB Paul N1LRT Bert N1MXO Arthur N1NHZ Andy N10SG Dave N1ZDZ Paul N1ZKR Bill W10HM Ken W7LSG Bob WA1IDA Walt WA1WUV WX1G Dave

Triathlon Thanks

Bob Salow WA1IDA

As reported in the September issue of The SPARC, we coordinated and participated in the first world-class triathlon held in Boston. Fifteen early morning hams provided critical communications for this event, fully known as the Monster Challenge Tri-Boston, benefiting the AIDS Action Committee. In the international field there were 60 professional athletes, 130 relay team members and 450 individual participants.

The Race Director has sent us a letter of thanks for our support contributing to remarkable success. We were complimented on our professionalism and community spirit, and asked for our future support.

BARC Business Meetings now in Everett

Starting in September, the BARC Business Meetings will be held in the basement of the Parlin Memorial Library in Everett. This is a welcome change from the food court at the Cambridgeside Galleria, which is far too noisy.

The Parlin Memorial Library is at 410 Broadway St. (Rt. 99) in Everett, across the street from the old post office. There is free parking on the street, parking meters are turned off after 6 p.m. There is also parking in the lot of the old post office across the street.

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By public transportation, take the Orange Line to Wellington Station and take bus 110, getting off at Everett Square. Alternatively, take the Orange Line to Sullivan Square and take either bus 104 or 109, getting off at Sullivan Square.

Meetings will now start at 7 p.m. rather than 6:30 p.m. and *must* end by 8:45 p.m. There are many places to eat nearby.

Our thanks to Dick Doherty KA1TUZ and Joe Scully Jr. K1SQT for their efforts in bringing this happen.

RF Safety Rules Now in Force for All Amateurs

Excerpted from ARRL Letter, 1 September 2000

Starting Friday, 1 September, every US amateur is now required to fully comply with the FCC's RF exposure guidelines.

The regulations, which went into effect 1 January 1998, require US Amateur Radio operators to read and understand the rules and, where necessary, perform technical evaluations to determine that their stations are compliant with the new regulations. Up until now, only hams who have had to file an Amateur Radio application with the FCC have had to certify compliance with the RF exposure rules. As of 1 September, all amateurs must comply.

Under the regulations, an amateur station must not exceed the maximum permissible exposure (MPE) limits for transmitter operation. MPEs are both frequency and power-dependent.

"These regulations are not a major burden on the Amateur Radio Service," said ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, the League's point man on RF exposure issues. "Most hams are already in compliance with the MPE requirements; some hams will need to conduct a simple station evaluation."

By and large, the FCC has put hams on the honor system, but compliance with the RF exposure rules is not optional.

A complete description of the rules is available on the ARRL Web site at http://www.arrl.org/news/rfsafety/ The site also contains resources to make your station evaluation quite painless.

Address questions about RF safety and the FCC exposure guidelines to ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, ehare@arrl.org.

ARRL Membership And Renewal

The ARRL has a new policy on club benefits when joining and renewing ARRL membership through clubs. Formerly, the club got a \$2.00 rebate when members renewed, and \$5.00 when becoming a new ARRL member. Now, the club earns only a \$15.00 rebate for a new ARRL membership.

While all members should renew, there is added incentive to sign up new ARRL members. About 3/4 of BARC members belong to ARRL. The rest should become aware of the supports and

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benefits that come with ARRL membership. A "new" member is defined as any individual who has never been a member or who has allowed their membership to lapse for two or more years. Regular membership dues are now \$39 for one year, \$74 for two years, and \$105 for three years. There are also reduced rates for senior, youth, blind and family memberships.

When joining ARRL, your initial dues remain the same, but the club gets that small income. Sign up through BARC; **make your check out to** *BARC* and give it and your ARRL membership form to the BARC Treasurer. He will handle the rest, and you will get all the benefits of being a member of ARRL, The National Organization for Amateur Radio.

BARC Monthly Breakfast

Every month, BARC has a social breakfast on the second Sunday of the month, which will be November 11 this month. We'll be meeting at the Old Country Buffet at the Watertown Mall at 8:30am.

They are *very* good, offering an extensive breakfast buffet, costing \$6.35 per person.

We just intend to get together, socialize and eat, without having any formal club events or business. Family and friends of club members are welcome also. If you are not a BARC member, you too are invited to meet with us and see what we're all about.

The Old Country Buffet is in the Watertown Mall, on Arsenal St. in Watertown. From Memorial Drive continue on Greenough Boulevard to the Watertown exit, and then turn right onto Arsenal St. There is plenty of mall parking. The #70 T bus from Central Square Cambridge to Watertown Square stops right at the Watertown Mall. Hope to see all of you there – and bring your appetite!

November General Meeting

This month's BARC General meeting is on Thursday, November 15 at 7p.m. A representative from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency will speak on statewide emergency management planning.

BARC General meetings are held at the Boston Back Bay Salvation Army Building, corner of Berkeley St. and Columbus Ave. near Copley Square, in the second floor auditorium.

Parking is available; the entrance to the parking lot is from Columbus Ave. (across the street from the firehouse). It is also T accessible; the nearest T stations are Back Bay on the Orange and Purple lines (exit the rear of the station by the busway and walk down Columbus) and Copley or Arlington on the Green line (use the Berkeley Street exit). A map appears on page 7 of the newsletter.

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People arriving after 7:15 p.m. need to ring the bell at the door to be admitted, as the door is locked then.

Future General Meeting Dates

(Third Thursdays at 7 p.m.)

20 December 2001 (Holiday Party)

17 January 2002

21 February 2002

21 March 2002

18 April 2002

16 May 2002

Minutes of the Boston Amateur Radio Club Business Meeting

November 1, 2001 Recorded by Mike Ardai, N1IST

Present were:

Mike Ardai, N1IST, Vice President Arthur Ashley, N1NHZ, Membership Services Hank Buccigross, K1QK

 $Jim\ Clogher,\ N1ICN,\ Treasurer$

Mike Coffey, KB1EKN

Rick DeSisto, NG1L

Mark Duff, KB1EKN, President

Dan Malloy, KA1RDZ

Frank Murphy, N1DHW

Paul Olivieri, N1ZKR

Bob Salow, WA1IDA, Public Services

Joe Scully, K1SQT

The meeting started at approximately 1900 hrs.

November VE session will be on 11/5 due to Veteran's Day. We will go back to the normal second Monday schedule in December.

Thanks to N1DHW and N1NHZ for a terrific job with JOTA.

Discussions began about Field Day 2002.

BARC will purchase another 200 orange "Emergency Communications" hats for resale.

We need to finalize the recruiting/info brochure.

Our November speaker will be from MEMA; Future topics include show-and-tell night, HF operating, and a speaker from the Mass. power pool on RFI.

The BARC winter party will be held at the TinTin Buffet in Brighton (same place as last year) on 12/20 instead of the general meeting. Buffet dinner will be \$10. Reservation forms and the Ham of the Year nomination form will be in the November SPARC.

The BARC PO box has been renewed for another year.

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We will purchase a season pass for the MIT flea market again next year.

There was some discussion about getting BARC logo clothing - shirts, jackets and patches.

The meeting adjourned at 2050 hrs.

This is where the real business of BARC is conducted. If you have any suggestions, questions or comments, this is where to bring them. All members are welcome (and encouraged) to join us at this meeting.

The next Boston Amateur Radio Club business meeting will be held Thursday, December 6th 2001 (1st Thursday of the month), 7:00pm, at the Parlin Memorial Library [410 Broadway, Everett, MA] (off rt. 99) in Everett, MA. Check the Web page and/or listen to the repeater for directions.

Future Business Meeting Dates

(First Thursday at 6:30 p.m.)

6 December 2001

3 January 2002

7 February 2002

7 March 2002

4 April 2002

2 May 2002

BARC Growth

It's a rare month when we fail to add a few new members. Periodically we publish their names so that you can give them a special welcome. There may also be some long lost members who rejoin, so greet them, too.

John Fleury KB1HGI Joe Hutcheson KB1CJ Bart Johnson KB1HAN

Please welcome the 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 Keeper of the Database, Bob Salow, WA1IDA at: 508.650.9440 or email: walida@mediaone.net.

BARC VE Session

The Boston Amateur Radio Club holds its monthly VE session on the second Monday of each month. The next session will be at 7pm on Monday, December 10, 2001 at the Pierce School at 50 School Street in Brookline, Room 110 next to the cafeteria.

There is a free parking garage at the circular driveway. If driving, enter School Street from the Washington street side (opposite 394 Washington,) rather than from Harvard Street. Check:

http://www.barc.org/barc/school map.gif

for more info. This map also appears on page 7 of this newsletter.

For those traveling via public transportation, take the "D" branch of the Green Line to the Brookline Village station. Walk north along Harvard Street 0.2 miles to School Street then turn left. The Pierce School is on the left. The #66 bus runs on Harvard Street, crossing School Street.

Talk in on 145.23(-), PL 88.5.

We give all exams (Technician thru Extra, CW and written), and you don't need to pre-register. Please bring the following with you:

- Your current license *and a photocopy for the ARRL*, if you are upgrading
- Any CSCE's you are claiming, and a photocopy of them
- Valid ID (picture ID preferred)
- A pen and a calculator (if you want to)
- \$10.00 (good for all the tests you take at that session, except for retests).
- Note that code tests are no longer free. Those taking the code test only will also have to pay the \$10 fee. Code and written tests can be taken together at the same session for a single \$10 fee.

The needed FCC forms will be provided.

For further information, contact Mike Ardai, N1IST 781.321.7939 n1ist@arrl.net

or

Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ 617.969.4880 ka1tuz@arrl.net

Future Exam Dates

(Second Mondays at 7:00 pm)

14 January 2002 11 February 2002 11 March 2002 8 April 2002 13 May 2002

I See the Future

15 Nov BARC General Meeting 17 Nov 1200 RC & WARA Auction (Newton)

6 Dec BARC Business Meeting
10 Dec BARC VE Session
20 Dec BARC Holiday Party
3 Jan 2002 BARC Business Meeting
14 Jan 2002 BARC VE Session
17 Jan 2002 BARC General Meeting

21 Apr 2002 MIT Flea

 $(\mathbf{Rp}) = BARC \text{ repeater(s) may be used}$

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 New England and some of New York, the "Ham - Electronic Flea Market" and the "PSLIST" lists tell the story. They are posted by e-mail to barc-list and on PBBSs regularly. If needed, contact any club member who has access to these.

FCC Action For Rapid Info Access

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has assigned easy to use and easy to remember three-digit dialing codes for quick access to community information and referral services (211), and traffic and transportation information (511). Once these codes are activated by the carriers they can be dialed instead of the seven or ten-digits currently required to reach these services.

There are only eight possible three-digit codes, making them among the scarcest of telephone numbering resources. To ensure the efficient use of these codes, the Commission has established a "public interest" standard for assignment of such codes.

With this action, the Commission has assigned the 211 dialing code for use by community information and referral service organizations. The easy to remember 211 dialing code will provide direct access to organizations providing community information and referral services, such as child care solutions, housing assistance, maintaining utilities, legal assistance, counseling, and hospice services, that are not currently available through the 911 emergency code or the 311 police non-emergency code.

The Commission has also assigned the 511 dialing code for use by state and local governments in their efforts to improve local traffic and transportation conditions. The US Department of Transportation expects that the widespread use of the 511 dialing code will lead to reduced congestion and pollution on our nation's roads, lower fuel consumption, provide superior traffic management, enhance roadway safety, and enable the public to make wise travel decisions.

The Commission also concluded that because such codes are a scarce resource, it would examine and reassess these assignments in five years. If their use is not widespread, the Commission may consider expanding the use of these codes for other purposes.

More information about 211, including national and state contacts, press coverage, a press release, and a map showing 211 progress throughout the US can be found on the 211 web site: http://www.211.org. It also gives information on the first city (Atlanta) and first state (Connecticut) to establish the 211 phone number. Additional information can be found on this from the Alliance on Information Referral Systems at http://www.airs.org/

Among abbreviated dialing arrangements, "N11" codes are three-digit codes of which the first digit can be any digit other than 1 or 0, and the last two digits are both one. There are only eight possible N11 codes, making N11 codes among the scarcest of numbering resources. Following are the existing N11 code assignments:

211: Assigned for community information and referral services

311: Assigned nationwide for non-emergency police and other government services

411: Unassigned, but used virtually nationwide by carriers for directory assistance

511: Assigned for traffic and transportation information

611: Unassigned, but used broadly by carriers for repair service

711: Assigned nationwide for access to Telecom Relay Services

811: Unassigned, but used by local exchanged carriers for business office use

911: Unassigned, but used nationwide for emergency services

N11 codes "011" and "111" are unavailable because "0" and "1" are used for switching and routing purposes.

The information for this article has been obtained from the FCC, FEMA, the 211 Coalition, and the United Way of America.

BARC Net Preamble

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 145.23 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 checkins for the Boston Amateur Radio Club net please call now.

Is there any further business for the net before I close?

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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.

BARC Runs Friday Night Nets

The Boston Amateur Radio Club runs special interest nets every Friday evening at 9p.m. on the 145.23 machine. The net will switch to a new format in October. Each Friday of the month, the net will be devoted to a specific activity/interest.

1st Friday - SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Response Net);

2nd Friday - Weather Net;

3rd Friday - ARES net;

4th Friday - Tech Net;

5th Friday - All or some of the above.

All BARC members and other members of the Boston area Amateur Radio community are welcome to check in and participate.

Net Volunteers Needed

The Eastern Massachusetts 2M Traffic Net, the Heavy Hitters' Traffic Net, and the BARC Club Net are always in need of volunteers to act as Net Control Station. This is excellent practice for emergency communications, and also an opportunity to sharpen your operating skills among a friendly group of people. For further information please contact Mike Ardai N1IST.

Catch us on the Internet!

The Boston Amateur Radio Club has a web page at **http://www.barc.org/barc**. Here you can find some of the latest BARC news, sample exams, maps to our meetings and VE sessions, links to other radio clubs, and a club roster (only names, call signs, and e-mail addresses are on-line). If you have any suggestions, please let me know at **n1ist@arrl.net**.

New on our web page are the club articles:

http://www.barc.org/barc/articles.html and bylaws:

http://www.barc.org/barc/bylaws.html.

We also run an FTP site at **ftp.barc.org** under **pub/hamradio**. We've got a mirror of the ARRL infoserver, BARC documents, ham radio software, and a huge mods archive. Cheyenne

Greatorex, **n1qzs@magrathea.com**, maintains the FTP site. Contact him if you have any comments.

We also run a club e-mail list. To subscribe, send a message to majordomo@qth.net with the body (the subject is ignored)

subscribe barc-list

The welcome message will list the other lists that we have

73, /mike nlist@arrl.net

Several Hundred Boston Area Hams Could Be Reading Your Ad Right Now

The SPARC accepts commercial advertisements. BARC encourages monthly promotion of your products and services which would be of interest to our hundreds of members and others interested in the Amateur Radio Service.

Rates for display advertising are:

1 col x 2 in. (business card) \$10 per issue 1 col x 2 in. (business card) \$50 per 6 consecutive months 1 col x 2 in. (business card) \$90 per 12 consecutive months

1 col x 4 in. (1/2 col) \$20 per issue 1 col x 9.5 in. (full col) \$40 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.

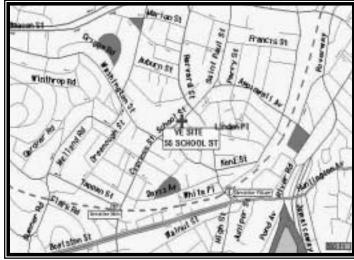
Members are urged to seek prospective advertisers who are appropriate to our readers.

For additional information, contact Paul Carter at n1tmf@pvctronics.com or 617.232.6982; or Bob Salow at wa1ida@mediaone.net or 508.650.9440.

Your Ad Could Have Been Here

Are you a depressed BARC member because you have a treasure you must turn to cash and you couldn't make it to the last flea market? Well, cheer up, Bunky! The SPARC will run your (non-business) ad for free. Of course, a 10% donation if you sell it (and of course you will) will be cheerfully accepted. Just send your ad to Editor Paul Carter, N1TMF.





General Meeting – Boston Salvation Army Corner of Berkeley St. and Columbus Ave.

VE Session – Pierce School 50 School Street, Brookline, Room 110 next to the cafeteria

Simplex: 147.42

BARC Officers and Staff

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

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Secretary: Guy Bzibziak, KB1CRY; 781.321.1104; kb1cry@arrl.net
Treasurer: Jim Clogher, N1ICN, 617.364.4658; n1icn@rcn.com
Vol Exams: Mike Ardai, N1IST; 781.321.7939, n1ist@arrl.net
Dick Doherty; KA1TUZ 617.969.4880; ka1tuz@arrl.net
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Public Service: Bob Salow, WA1IDA; 508.650.9440; wa1ida@mediaone.net Newsletter Editor: Paul Carter, N1TMF; 617 232 6982; n1tmf@pvctronics.com

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 a participant in Partnerships Advancing Technical Hobbies Which Attract Youth to Science (PATHWAYS). The Club is also an associate member of the Courage Handi-Hams system.

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Greater Boston Net Directory

daily 7 and 10pm	Eastern Mass/Rhode Island CW Net (NTS)	3.658
daily 8pm	Eastern Mass 2M Traffic Net (NTS)	145.23 (PL 88.5)
daily 8pm	Slow Speed CW Net	28.160
daily 10:30pm	Heavy Hitters' Traffic Net (NTS)	146.64
M 9pm	BARC Club Net	145.23 (PL 88.5)
Tu 8pm	MMRA Club Net	146.61 and all MMRA links
Tu 9pm	EMA Public Safety Net	145.23 (PL 88.5)
Tu 9pm	NETARC Satellite Net W1ME (ex K1MON)/NCS	446.575 (PL 88.5)
****	TYPE I A A DECLARATE	1.45.00

W 8pm Wellesley Amateur Radio Society Net 147.03
W 9pm HHTN Swap Net 146.64
Th 8:30pm Amsat Net N1OHJ/NCS 146.64
F 9pm SWAT (SATERN, Weather, ARES &Tech) Net 145.23 (PL 88.5)

Eastern Mass/Rhode Island Phone Net (NTS)

 Su 9:30am
 Yankee SSB Net (6M)
 50.275

 Su 3:30pm
 Youth Net
 3.970

Su 7pm Algonquin Amateur Radio Club Net 53.470 (PL 100.0/71.9), 223.860 (PL 241.8),

446.675 (PL 88.5) Su 8:30pm NSRA Net (with Newsline) 145.47

Su 9:30pm EMA Section ARES Net 146.61 and all MMRA links (4th Sun. of Month)

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daily 5:30pm