

The SPARC

Volume XV, Number 1; January 2003 Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club http://www.barc.org w1bos@arrl.net



The President's Word

Paul Olivieri, N1ZKR

New year's eve has come and passed so it is officially a new year. We have many events and many challenges ahead of us this year. One of the first is a new one: an ARES Winter Exercise on February 8th. There will be several public service events, most of which we have participated in the past and of course Field Day in June.

At the January business meeting it was discussed that we need (as it seems we always do) more net control operators for the Monday night BARC Net. It was also discussed that members would to have more "Field Trips" as we had done in the past. Everyone agreed that this was a great idea and many good suggestions for possible trips were mentioned.

What we need, however is someone to help coordinate these activities. We need folks to step forward to be net control without being asked repeatedly. We need volunteers for the public service events. We need folks to show up early on Field Day to help set up, not just to show up before dinner, make a couple of contacts, eat and leave. We especially need your help to promote, organize, and execute the events. They don't just happen because there has been a time and place selected.

It's time for action. "Let's roll."

VE Examination Fees Increase in 2003

ARRL Nov 12, 2002

Starting January 1, the fee charged all applicants at ARRL VECcoordinated Amateur Radio test sessions will increase from \$10 to \$12 for the year 2003. This fee is charged to anyone applying for a new amateur license or upgrading their operating privileges.

Applicants failing an exam element at ARRL sessions where examiners permit retesting on the same exam element also must submit a retest fee of \$12.

Additionally, the maximum reimbursement ARRL VEC allows ARRL volunteer examiner (VE) teams to retain to directly offset their prudently incurred out-of-pocket expenses will increase from \$4 to \$6 in 2003 (this fee has remained at \$4 per person served since 1991). "While the number of examinees has remained relatively unchanged in the past 24 months, our cost of doing business--and the expenses incurred by ARRL VEs--continues to rise," said ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. "An adjustment was needed in the 2003 test fee if we intended to maintain the same level of service that our VEs and VE teams have come to expect." Jahnke said that adjusting the reimbursement level for ARRL VEs who retain a portion of the fees to offset their out-of-pocket, exam-related expenses was also past due.

BARC Dues Unchanged for 2003

By agreement of the BARC Officers and the Executive Committee, the dues structure for 2003 will not be changed from 2002. The details for the fiscal year beginning 1 January 2003 are as follows:

Regular Member	\$23.00
Junior Member (Under 18)	\$12.00
Senior Member (Over 64)	\$12.00
Family Member	\$12.00

Note: between 1 August and 30 November dues are half those shown above.

A membership information form is included with this issue of *The SPARC*. To smooth his workload, the Treasurer asks that you complete the form fully (and legibly) and mail it with your check as soon as you can.

Hams Needed for Good Weather Duty

The Miami Tropical Hamboree (Hamfest) and the subsequent Miami Marathon need ham help. BARC member Ben Nemser, WA4DZS, says there is a desperate need for assistance to handle communications. The hamfest is 1 and 2 February, and the Miami Marathon is Sunday, 2 February. This will be the first year for the Miami Marathon, so skilled help can certainly be used.

Ben acknowledges the hardship for us in the Boston area to have to deal with the expected 65 - 70 degree days, but he thinks we can put up with it.

If you are interested, contact Ben at **bnemser@nemal.com** or at 305.439.7190.

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"EAN"

By Phil Temples, K9HI

I transmitted the net name, "EAN" indicating to stations that they should now "QNI" or "check in" to the Eastern Area Net. This particular net was being conducted via Morse code, an efficient mode for this sort of work. Traffic would be heavy this Tuesday evening, just a few days before Christmas. I was Net Control Station, or "NCS" of the Eastern Area Net, a clearinghouse for all formal, written radiogram messages passing between regions in the Eastern Seaboard of the U.S. and Canada.

As NCS of the net it was my responsibility to act as the "master of ceremonies" to ensure that stations with messages for one region would get hooked up to their counterparts in other regions to send, receive and relay messages destined for other nets.

In response to my call, I heard:

"Dit."

"...Dah dah."

".....Dididit."

Three stations came back simultaneously with different "signs" and on slightly different frequencies a few Hertz apart. The result was a not-unpleasant melody of varying pitches spelling out letters like "E", "M" and "S." They were easily distinguishable to the ear. I thought I recognized the swing in the "M" emanating from the semi-automatic key "fist" of W2MTA.

"Dah dah," I replied, pressing one side of the Bencher paddle to form the dashes indicating that the station signing "M" should go ahead.

Immediately I heard, "...DE W2MTA PAN RX QRU."

Bill's regular schedule, or "sked" involved him acting as the receiving station ("RX") for message traffic destined for the Pacific Area Net. Bill used a standard Q signal, "QRU" to indicate that he had no traffic to send.

"W2MTA R AS," I replied. "R" meant "received." And the letters "AS" sent together — "didahdididit" — instructed him to standby.

"DE ..."

"DE," I replied, in turn.

"...W2EAG 1RN TX QTC CAN 12 3RN 5 4RN 3 AR."

W2EAG, Mark in Taunton, Massachusetts was the First Region Net Transmit station. His list of traffic, or "QTC" included the traffic's destination followed by actual number of messages. Clearly, Central Area Receive was going to be busy this evening. In addition, Mark listed traffic for the Third and Fourth Regions.

Sending radiogram traffic on Morse code can be an absolute pleasure. One of the real advantages one has using Morse code over voice is something called "full break-in." If Mark had been transmitting simultaneously, or "doubling" with another station he would have quickly known this by hearing the dots and dashes of someone else's signals between his own. The concept is similar to a group at a party who begin to speak all at once, then pause and allow one to proceed. Traffic handlers refer to full break-in as "QSK." Sent as a question, QSK means, "Can you receive between my signals?" As a statement it means, "I can receive between your signals."

"...Dididah."

I instructed the sender of "U" to proceed.

"DE KW1U CAN RX QRU K."

Marcia, KW1U, from Martha's Vineyard was accepting messages on behalf of the Central Area Net. Marcia would check in directly to the Central Area Net in one hour with any messages she received off the Eastern Area Net.

I decided to get down to business.

"1U…"

"...dah," replied Marcia, immediately.

"EAG…"

"...dit," Mark responded, about fifty milliseconds later.

"D 10 CAN."

Simultaneously, I heard two "dahs" from Marcia and Mark, respectively, acknowledging my instructions.

In less than six seconds I had instructed both stations to move off frequency — specifically "D 10" or "down ten kilohertz." It was understood that Marcia would be receiving traffic destined for CAN. As the receiver, she would call Mark on the closest open frequency, "down ten" per my instructions.

"EAN K." Ready for more business.

"Dahdididit."

I acknowledged the "B" station.

"...DE VE3BDM ECN TX 1RN 4 2RN 3 4RN 6 8RN 2 AR."

To be continued in the next issue of The SPARC

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

Simplex: 147.42

ARRL Announces New Gear For ARES Volunteers

ARRL has announced that new gear for Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers is now available. The initiative to offer stylized ARES gear to volunteers arose during the ARRL Board of Directors' meeting last January - in the wake of Amateur Radio's deep involvement in responding to the September 11 terrorist attacks. The Board asked ARRL staff to look into the possibility of developing distinctive garments for use by ARES team members that would be similar to jackets and vests worn by other public service volunteers.

A questionnaire circulated among ARRL field volunteers indicated overwhelming interest in the idea. Results of the survey plus additional feedback from ARES volunteers led to arrangements to make available ARES vests, windbreakers and equipment bags.

The ARES vest is a reflective-style garment similar to those worn by law enforcement officers or joggers. This orange "bib" can be worn over a shirt or jacket. Constructed of neon mesh with large front and back reflector panels, the vest is imprinted with the words "AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS" on one side.

The vest is lightweight and easily folded and stored in your immediate-response kit. It features adjustable side straps, and one size fits most. The ARES vest retails for \$9.95 plus shipping and handling.

The brightly colored, royal blue windbreaker jacket features an embroidered ARES logo on the front and the words "AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS" in white lettering on the back. The jacket is 100% Nylon and has a snap front and a polyester lining. There's a bottom drawstring to keep out drafts, plus side slash pockets and elasticized cuffs.

ARES members may personalize their windbreakers with optional *first name* and *call sign* for an additional \$4. Sizes available are medium (M), large (L) and extra-large (XL). The windbreaker retails for \$30.95 (sizes 2X are \$34.95 and 3X are \$38.95), plus shipping and handling.

The ARES equipment bag is the perfect immediate-response kit! It offers places to store hand-held radios, spare batteries, paperwork and manuals, portable rigs, coaxial cable, clothing, and more.

The ARES equipment bag comes in black only. It is embroidered with an attractive three-color ARES logo. It includes hand and shoulder straps, heavy-duty zippers, Velcro and quick-snaps. It's great for travelers or as an airplane carry-on too. The bag measures 20 inches long by 11 inches tall and 10 inches wide. It retails for \$24.95, plus shipping and handling.

All orders must be placed through ARRL's authorized agent - Barker Specialty Company

http://www.barkerspecialty.com/arrl. ARRL Headquarters cannot handle orders. Barker Specialty also carries other official ARRL sportswear and supply items.

ARES stickers, decals, patches and other public service supply items are available directly from ARRL's online store http://www.arrl.org/shop.

Be Seen At Emergency and Public Service Events

BARC has a supply of the bright orange caps for use at emergency or public service events. They are adjustable to fit all but the very largest heads, and proclaim, "Emergency Communications."

The price is \$5.00, and they are available at club meetings, or contact Dick, KA1TUZ or Bob, WA1IDA.

January General Meeting

This month's BARC General Meeting is on Thursday, January 16 at 7p.m.

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 bus way 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.

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 February 2003 20 March 2003 17 April 2003 15 May 2003 19 June 2003

You can go anywhere you want if you look serious and carry a clipboard.

When you don't know what to do, walk fast and look worried.

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

Minutes of the Boston Amateur Radio Club Business Meeting

December 8, 2002 Recorded by Mike Ardai, N1IST, Secretary

Present were:		
Mike Ardai	N1IST	Secretary
Arthur Ashley	N1NHZ	Membership Services
Paul Carter	N1TMF	SPARC Editor
Jane Dionne	N1UGA	
Nelson Dionne	AA1MO	
Dick Doherty	KA1TUZ	
Mark Duff	KB1EKN	
Rick Hampton	WD8KEL	
Frank Murphy	N1DHW	
Paul Olivieri	N1ZKR	President
Bill Ricker	N1VUX	
Bob Salow	WA1IDA	Public Services
Joe Scully	K1SQT	
•		

The meeting started at approximately 0956 hrs.

The meeting was held after the BARC breakfast due to inclement weather on our usual date

When and where should we hold the Tech class? How many classes - is 6 enough?

Field Day planning should begin in January

Send proposed agendas for the BARC business meeting to barclist@mailman.qth.net before the meeting

6/21 - Kid's day at SEMARA

The meeting adjourned at 1035 hrs.

January 2, 2003 Recorded by Mike Ardai, N1IST, Secretary

Present were:		
Mike Ardai	N1IST	Secretary
Arthur Ashley	N1NHZ	Membership Services
Hank Buccigross	K1QK	
Jim Clogher	N1ICN	Treasurer
Dick Doherty	KA1TUZ	
Mark Duff	KB1EKN	
Joseph Harris	KB1IXK	
Frank Murphy	N1DHW	
Bill Ohm	W10HM	
Paul Olivieri	N1ZKR	President
Bob Salow	WA1IDA	Public Services
Joe Scully	K1SQT	

The meeting started at approximately 1906 hrs.

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

Reports were received from the various committees regarding various ongoing concerns of the club, such as emergency response, repeaters and public service.

Motion (passed) to give Bill Foley a gift certificate for his support to BARC - if it weren't for him, we would not have a place to meet.

Send proposed agendas for the business meeting to barclist@mailman.qth.net before the meeting so we will see what others are interested in and also be able to bring answers to proposed questions at the meeting.

VE session will be 1/13. Fee is now \$12. New tech question pool goes into effect 7/1/2003 and is available on the ARRL web site.

MS Walk will be in April or May - watch for more info.

The BARC web page has been updated - send any suggestions to n1ist@arrl.net.

The BARC holiday dinner ended up costing BARC \$49 - 27 people attended.

The repeater's clock has been set.

How can we get more BARC Net control operators? Recognize them in the SPARC? Certificates? Add a change to the preamble to remind people that we need NCS's.

We need a coordinator for field trips and visits - always was a club strongpoint.

Motion (passed) to pay travel expenses (toll, gas) for the president to attend the NE Division Director's meeting

The meeting adjourned at 2040 hrs.

The next Boston Amateur Radio Club business meeting will be held Thursday, February 6, 2003, 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.

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.

Future Business Meeting Dates

(First Thursday at 7:00 p.m.)

6 March 2003 3 April 2003 1 May 2003 5 June 2003 3 July 2003

Simplex: 147.42

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 upgrades and long lost members who rejoin, so greet them, too.

Donald Dipietro	Now WA1DFL
Joe Harris	KB1IXK
Tim Johnson	N2FAC
Joseph Recht	Upgrade to General

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: **wa1ida@arrl.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, January 13, 2003 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)
- \$12.00 (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 \$12 fee. Code and written tests can be taken together at the same session for a single \$12 fee.

The needed FCC forms will be provided. Repeaters: 145.23 (-) PL 88.5 447.175 (-) PL 110.9 For further information, contact Mike Ardai, N1IST 781.321.7939 **n1ist@arrl.net** Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ 617.969.4880 **ka1tuz@arrl.net**

Future Exam Dates

(Second Mondays at 7:00 pm)

10 February 2003 10 March 2003 14 April 2003 12 May 2003 9 June 2003 14 July 2003

I See the Future

12 Jan	BARC Breakfast
13 Jan	BARC VE Exams
16 Jan	BARC General Meeting
25 Jan	Antique RC (Nashua NH)
20 Apr	MIT Flea
6 Feb	BARC Business Meeting
9 Feb	BARC Breakfast
3-4 May	New England QSO Party

(**Rp**) = BARC 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.

BARC Monthly Breakfast

Every month, BARC has a social breakfast on the second Sunday of the month, which will be January 12 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 \$7.02 (including taxes) 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!

Simplex: 147.42

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.

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?

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.

Catch us on the Internet!

The Boston Amateur Radio Club has a web page at **http://www.barc.org**. 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, callsigns, 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/ articles.html and bylaws: http://www.barc.org/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.

We also run a club e-mail list via **qth.net**. You can subscribe, unsubscribe, or manage your **qth.net** subscriptions at **http://www.qth.net**. This change applies to all mailing lists previously on qth.net directly.

73, /mike n1ist@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@arrl.net** or 508.650.9440.

Your Ad Could Have Been Here

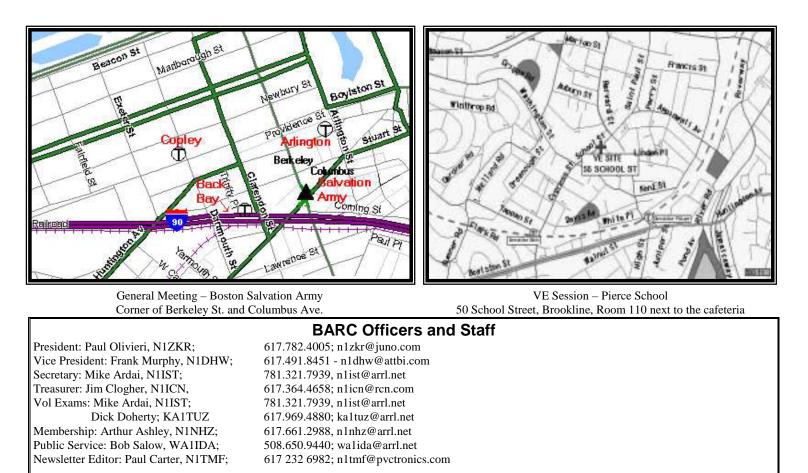
Are you a depressed BARC member because you have a treasure you must turn to cash and you couldn't make it to the last flea market? Well, cheer up, Bunky! The SPARC will run your (nonbusiness) ad for free. Of course, a 10% donation if you sell it (and of course you will) will be cheerfully accepted.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

Timing has an awful lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.

If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

Eat one live toad the first thing in the morning and nothing worse will happen to you the rest of the day.

I love deadlines. I especially like the whooshing sound they make as they go flying by.



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 5:30pm	Eastern Mass/Rhode Island Phone Net (NTS)	3.915
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)
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
Fr 9pm	SWAT Net and Net Control 101	145.23(PL 88.5)
Su 9:30am	Yankee SSB Net (6M)	50.275
Su 7pm	Youth Net	146.61 and all MMRA links
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
(4 th Sun. of Month)		