

The SPARC

Volume XVI, Number 7; July 2004 Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club http://www.barc.org w1bos@arrl.net



The President's Word

Paul Olivieri, N1ZKR

Greetings everyone. Our By-laws state that the officers that were elected back in June 2004 will take office at the next General Meeting. Since this will probably not be until September, this lame duck is going to defer to our president-elect, Eric Falkof K1NUN who has some important things to say.

Thank you to everyone who has worked with me over the last two years to keep BARC a strong and active club. 73 Paul - N1ZKR

BARC - Ham Radio is a contact sport!

Eric Falkof, K1NUN

With a rich heritage drawn from our past, I am looking forward to serving as your president next year, beginning in September 2004. Our past presidents are a resource to be honored and to be relied upon. I am in awe of the progress they made and the dedication they brought. I hope to stand on their broad shoulders and will look to them for support. And I thank you for your confidence in me.

What will be the same and what will change?

To begin, the activities we have that are working should continue. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" says not to mess with things that are going well. Let's continue our involvement and increase participation in BERT, SATERN, our public service activities, licensing classes, the club table at the MIT flea market, support for JOTA, maintain our repeaters, and (of course) Field Day. Let's continue having a business meeting separate from the general meeting; there is a lot to be gained by a separation of business from pleasure; we can all have fun doing what we like most.

But what will be different? Like any newly arrived leader, a president gets to express dreams and then works to implement as many as possible, pending the approval and support of the electorate (that is, you, the members). So here is my dream list for BARC, in no particular order:

- Let's have a dinner for our significant others, to show appreciation for their support. We frequently abandon them as we seek the fun of the ether or the stink of the solder. Let's honor them and thank them.
- Elmering sessions; contact inactive members and newly licensed members who do not come to meetings. We pride ourselves on increasing our membership each

month, but why don't these newbies come to the meetings? Let's find out. Maybe they only need to be asked. Maybe a little coaching will help. We have vast experience to draw from and we can overcome almost any problem to get them on the air and having fun.

- Station setups team to visit and help new Hams set up equipment. Like elmering, we can help people solve problems with setting up a station (fixed or mobile). Making contacts is what Ham Radio is all about.
- Potential plans. Here are some more dreams, not as well developed...
 - o ARRL trip, possibly combined with other area clubs
 - Special event station (with HF too!) for activities in the Boston area
 - Promote CEMARC involvement at Museum of Science, CAP, others
 - o Telephone chain for special alerts, fun events and serious ones
 - o PowerPole assembly project. How about a soldering session to assemble power cables for all our devices at home. This will ensure compatibility with all our equipment. We should adopt the ARES standard so our equipment will be compatible with other Hams' if we ever need to relocate or loan equipment. (And maybe a session on good soldering technique, too!)
 - O Club kit assembly (RockMite, test equipment, other). There are a host of inexpensive kits for test equipment on a shoestring budget. Just ask me about my \$25 antenna analyzer that shows the 50-Ohm point and resonant frequency of an antenna.
 - o School programs. How can we help?
 - Liaison to home-schooled kids. Many homeschooled kids have irregular schedules, making their hours and our hours quite flexible. Their individual curricula may allow Ham Radio to be integral to lesson plans.
 - O DXpedition to a rare state/county/grid square (RI, NH, VT, or ME). We are blessed in New England with many easily accessed but Hamuninhabited locations. Many of these locations have comfortable hotels and motels, so neither mosquito netting nor snowshoes required...!
 - o Home-brew contest. Let's encourage solder melting and imagination. We can have

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- categories including neatness, utility, and effectiveness for purpose. There's always esthetics, if it doesn't work.
- O Physical fitness at the desk. We owe it to ourselves to have as much fun as possible, and sitting passively at our operating desks is not helping our cardiopulmonary function. There are simple things we can do, even without a doctor's note, to sit and stretch. Let's find out how.

Now, I said Ham Radio is a contact sport. What kind of contact? Well, there is station-to-station contact, like a QSO on the air. There is person-to-person contact, like at our club meetings. Ham Radio is an activity that requires contact to make the greatest impact and we can share that impact with the person at the other end of the conversation, whether by 2m FM, 80m CW, Echolink, or eyeball to eyeball. Making contact will be our theme this year and we'll have some fun. Stay tuned!

ARRL 2003 Annual Report Now Available

ARRL Letter, 11 June 2004

The ARRL 2003 Annual Report is hot off the press and copies - while they last - are available free upon request. Enjoy a look back at ARRL activities, Headquarters staff efforts, messages from ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, and ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, and more.

To obtain your copy of the *ARRL 2003 Annual Report*, contact Media Relations Manager Jennifer Hagy, N1TDY, **jhagy@arrl.org**, 860.594.0328. The 2003 Annual Report also is available on the ARRL Web site as an Adobe .pdf file: **www.arrl.org/announce/annualreport/03ar.pdf**.

Congratulations to Officers

Congratulations and welcome are due the elected officers of BARC. At the June General meeting, the following were elected:

President	Eric Falkof	K1NUN
Vice President	Blake Haskell	K1BTH*
Secretary	Paul Olivieri	N1ZKR
Treasurer	Jim Clogher	N1ICN*

^{*}incumbent

According to our bylaws, the new terms of office begin at the next General meeting (September). Please give a helping hand to the club and the officers by contacting any of them to assist in club activities.

Advance Notice for Public Service Later in the Year

BARC has been asked to support communications again for three exciting events later this year. Mark your calendars because your help will definitely be needed. Details will be posted as the dates approach.

Sunday, 5 September, will be the "Monster" Triathlon. Swim in (reasonably clean) Boston harbor, bike in Boston and Cambridge, and run in Boston. No, hams don't have to do these, but the triathletes need our protection.

Saturday, 18 September, is the WGBH Ice Cream FunFest. We help with crowd and parking management, and, as a bonus, have all the ice cream you can eat. Additionally, BARC participates in Ham Awareness Day with a free booth, meeting the more than 8000 visitors.

Sunday, 10 October, the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) puts on the BAA Half Marathon. It covers a scenic route, 98% in Boston and 2% in Brookline. While very scenic, it is still an urban course with many hazards, which we will care for.

To volunteer or for more information, contact Bob Salow, WA1IDA, at wa1ida@arrl.net or 508.650.9440.

Temporary VE Session Change

Because of extensive renovations at the Pierce School this summer, we must cancel the VE sessions for July and August. Things should get back to almost normal with the session on 13 September. "Almost normal," because the next month's exams are moved up to 4 October by the school holiday. After that you can rely on the second Mondays of each month (unless dire circumstances intervene).

Now You Can Get Your Newsletter Hot Off the Wire!

Bob Salow, WA1IDA

In an effort to conserve club resources, we are offering early access to *The SPARC* electronically, which also saves the costs of paper, printing and postage. Even if you have already renewed your 2004 membership, but neglected to check to accept receiving the newsletter electronically, all you need to do is send an email to the Keeper of the Database at **walida@arrl.net**. Let him know you want to help BARC save money.

Please provide your name, call and an accurate email address. You will be notified by email each month as soon as the issue is ready for access at a private member web site as quickly as it is published.

There is considerable cost associated with the mailed hard copy. This can be saved thanks to your acceptance and the generous efforts of Mike, N1IST, who has organized the electronic publication.

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Form Confusion

The BARC Membership Information form for 2004 may be misleading regarding membership dues. The block headed "1 December to 31 July" is for the whole 2004 year when paid between those dates. The block headed "1 August to 30 November" denotes the remainder of the 2004 year when paid between those dates.

If you have occasion to accept a form from a prospective member, please be sure that the dues are accurately determined.

Got Your New Badge?

New club badges have been made for all members. If you didn't get yours yet, pick it up at any BARC meeting. A clip is provided with the badge. If you cannot make it to a meeting (General or Business), send a SASE to the club PO box with your request. Unfortunately, the clips cannot be sent in the mail, so it's best to pick up your badge at a meeting.

We note that several members do attend the meetings but forget to pick up their new badges. Please remember to take your memory pills before attending meetings.

July General Meeting

Please note that BARC will not have General Meetings in July and August.

The next General Meeting of the Boston Amateur Radio Club will be on Thursday, September 16, 2004.

The General meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at the Salvation Army second floor auditorium, 147 Columbus Avenue, at the corner of Berkeley and Columbus. Our meetings are convenient to public transportation. Nearest T stations are Back Bay on the Orange line (exit the rear of the station) and Arlington on the Green line (use the Berkeley Street exit).

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. 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.)

(General meetings not held in July and August)

16 September 2004

21 October 2004

18 November 2004

16 December 2004

Minutes of the Boston Amateur Radio Club Business Meeting

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, August 5th (1st Thursday of the month), 6:30 pm. We meet at the Parlin library (410 Broadway) in Everett. There is free parking across the street behind the post office. The 110 bus from Wellington stops across the street

Future Business Meeting Dates

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

5 August 2004

2 September 2004

7 October 2004

4 November 2004

2 December 2004

6 January 2005

Orange Caps for 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.

BARC VE Session

Please note that BARC will not give VE Exams in July and August because of school renovation.

The Boston Amateur Radio Club holds its monthly VE session on the second Monday of each month. Exams will be held at 7:00 pm on September 13 at the Pierce School, 50 School St in Brookline, Room 110, next to the cafeteria. Future exam dates are listed below. A map is shown on page 7 of this newsletter.

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.

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)

(VE Exams cancelled for July and August because of school renovation)

13 September 2004

4 October 2004 (note schedule change)

8 November 2004

13 December 2004

Hunting all VEs

Mike Ardai N1IST

We are looking for VEs to help out with the BARC VE sessions. Most of the time we have at least the required 3 for them, but sometimes we may need some more, especially if one of the regulars can't make it. If you are an ARRL-accredited VE, please drop a note to Dick, KA1TUZ (ka1tuz@arrl.net) and let him know when you might be available to help out.

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I See the Future

11 July

17 July	NE Antique RC (Nashua NH)	
18 July	MIT Flea	
14-15 Aug	ARRL NE Div Conv (Boxboro)	
5 Aug	BARC Business Meeting	
15 Aug	MIT Flea	
5 Sept	Monster Triathlon (Rp)	
12 Sept	SEMARA Flea (S Dartmouth)	
18 Sept	WGBH Ice Cream FunFest	
1-2 Oct	Hoss Traders (Hopkinton NH)	
10 Oct	BAA Half Marathon (Rp)	

BARC Breakfast

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

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 July 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 \$7.23 (including taxes) per person (\$6.71 for seniors.)

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!

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

Simplex: 147.42

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.

Notes for Running the BARC Net

Mike Ardai N1IST

First, check that the repeater is free. If there is a QSO going on, and it is a few minutes into the net, break in and gently remind them that it is net time. Remember that we can't force them to leave; most will QSY to let the net go ahead. If it is a few minutes into the net and there is still no net control, jump in and pick up the net.

Make sure you have a pen and a sheet of paper. The important thing to copy down is the call; it's nice to get the name and QTH, but that will come easier later on.

For logging, make three columns on the page, one for name and callsign, one for checkmarks for those with traffic, and one for notes. Leave a blank line between entries for additional notes.

This net doesn't have any logging requirements; the logs are for your use when running the net. Other nets may require a specific log to be sent to the net manager. If you have email access and you would like to, format the logs like n1ist's regular ones and send them to barc-list.

A question was raised about what equipment you need to run the net. If you use a HT, don't move around during the net (the signal flutters) and make sure you have a spare battery handy if it dies. For a mobile rig, you will usually have a hand mike. I mounted the mike hook on my radio rack; the side of a shelf next to your table works well. Be careful with desk mikes; it is too easy to drop some papers or a book on the PTT switch and lock up the repeater for an hour or so. If you have a boom mike with a foot switch, that would be a good choice.

73, /mike

BARC Net NCS stations needed

Mike Ardai N1IST

We are constantly looking for people to help run the BARC Net each Monday night. This is a great way to get your feet wet in running a net and a nice way to help out the club. If you can help, please let me know when I ask for volunteers during the net or drop me an email at nlist@arrl.net.

If it is a few minutes after 9 PM and nobody is running the net, please jump in and pick it up. The preamble is in the SPARC and on the BARC web page. If you don't have it with you, just wing it.

SO-50 Satellite Now Available to All Via CTCSS Tone

ARRL Letter, 11 June 2004

AMSAT-NA says the SO-50 satellite - also known as SaudiSat-1C - now is available to all, and users can switch on the Mode J transponder via a CTCSS tone. Previously, only one of the three control operators could turn on the spacecraft for amateur communication. Here's the procedure: Transmit on 145.850 MHz (taking Doppler effect into account) using a CTCSS tone of 74.4 Hz to arm the onboard 10-minute timer. Then, transmit FM voice on 145.850 MHz using a CTCSS tone of 67.0 Hz to actuate the repeater within the 10-minute window (SO-50 takes a half second or so to start transmitting once a signal is received, so users should pause briefly before talking). SO-50's downlink frequency is 436.800 MHz. Sending the 74.4 Hz CTCSS tone again within the 10-minute window resets the timer.

Launched in December 2002, SO-50 sports a quarter-wave vertical receiving antenna mounted at the top corner of the spacecraft. The transmitter runs 250 mW into a quarter-wave antenna mounted on the bottom corner of the spacecraft and canted 45 degrees inward.

http://www.amsat.org/amsat/sats/n7hpr/so50.html

Vanity Call Sign Fee To Rise

The ARRL Letter - Vol. 23, No. 26

The FCC regulatory fee to obtain an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will rise from \$16.30 to \$20.80 later this year. The FCC announced the new fee in a Report and Order (R&O) in MD Docket 04-73, "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2004." The FCC says it anticipates 7800 applications for FY2004—2000 fewer than the previous fiscal year. The FCC expects revenue collected from the vanity call sign regulatory fees in FY2004 to rise by more than \$2100. The R&O becomes effective 30 days after it's published in The Federal Register. ARRL will announce when the new, higher vanity fee becomes effective.

Show 'n Tell Album

Views of the Show and Tell demonstration at the May 2004 BARC General Meeting. Photographs courtesy Bill Ricker, N1VUX.



Our Prez sees the light



Bob contemplates the eternal mysteries of PVC

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AMSAT Website Bigger and Better

The ARRL Letter - Vol. 23, No. 27

AMSAT-NA debuts Web site makeover: AMSAT-NA introduced its new Web site design http://www.amsat.org June 29 to coincide with the successful AMSAT-OSCAR Echo launch. The site has been available in "beta" form for a few weeks. "I must personally thank Emily Clarke for her excellent work in developing this new Web site," said AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH. "Judging by your comments, it already has your approval." The AMSAT-NA Web site makeover has been in the works for about a year under the management of AMSAT-NA Executive Vice President Rick Hambly, W2GPS.

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 2 in. (business card) 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.

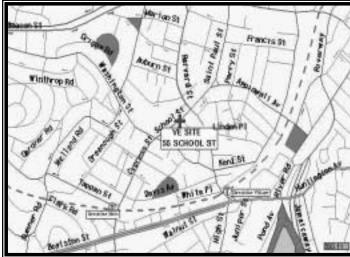
additional information, contact Paul n1tmf@pvctronics.com or 617.232.6982; or Bob Salow at **walida@arrl.net** or 508.650.9440.

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.

Simplex: 147.42





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: Paul Olivieri, N1ZKR; 617.782.4005; n1zkr@juno.com

Vice President: Blake Haskell K1BTH; k1bth@arrl.net

Secretary: Mike Ardai, N1IST; 781.321.7939, n1ist@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
Membership: Arthur Ashley, N1NHZ; 617.661.2988, n1nhz@arrl.net
Public Service: Bob Salow, WA1IDA; 508.650.9440; wa1ida@arrl.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 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)		
	Sat 9 am	SATERN Northeast Regional Net	7.265		
	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 8:00pm	EMA Section ARES Net (3 rd Sun. of Month)	146.61 and all MMRA links		

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