



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

October 2017 - VOLUME 29, NUMBER 10

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



From the Editor – Joe Chapman, NV1W

The last month has been one for both natural and man-made disasters, and I doubt there are many among us without friends or family affected by one of them. One of my old friends was affected by the flood in Orange, Texas, and another who lives in the U. S. Virgin Islands told me his condo is in the only building on his block that still has a roof. I've just gotten mail from one of my small, quirky suppliers of historical artists' materials in California that they're evacuating due to an approaching wildfire.

As hams we have many opportunities to assist when the weather moves from being something to complain about to a danger, be it calling in wind damage to a SKYWARN net or deploying to Puerto Rico to provide desperately needed communications for a few weeks. Our good friend Rob Macedo, KD1CY, will be speaking at the October meeting on amateur radio's response to the recent hurricanes. I always enjoy Rob's talks, which always feature a video or two of a place experiencing some primeval deluge. Come and join us!

Joe Chapman, NV1W

In this Issue of The SPARC

- Review: Quicksilver Play-Series
- Meetings past and future
- Remembering K1LCQ (SK)
- Antenna/coax work party



Next BARC General Meeting

Thursday, October 19, 2017 at 7:30 pm

The next BARC General Meeting will be on Thursday, October 19, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline. The speaker will be Rob Macedo, KD1CY, who will talk about recent hurricane net operations. Directions to this location can be found elsewhere in this issue and on the web at <http://barc.org/directions-to-brookline-police-headquarters-brookline/>.

Repeaters: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5 in/100.0 out

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC

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: <http://groups.yahoo.com/bostonARC>.

Equipment Review: Quicksilver Play-Series™ – Joe Chapman, NV1W

I have what is probably a standard power setup in my shack. A 13.8 volt, 32 amp power supply feeds into a pair of RIGrunners, and a bunch of cables with Anderson PowerPoles on one end and various power plugs on the other connect them up with my equipment. I've been able to banish wall-wart power supplies completely, and for emergency power I can just plug a battery into the system.

My power supply is rarely something I need to look at or fiddle with, so it's on a top shelf and when I'm operating it's a peripheral-vision thing. Since I usually operate QRP and don't have any power controls that go over 100 watts, I'm not likely to draw anything near 32 amps unless something is on fire. I would notice this. Still, I liked the idea of having a quick monitor closer to my field of view, and I bought a small panel-mount voltmeter from Adafruit that's been sitting in the parts box for a year waiting for me to think of a nice way of mounting it.



Quicksilver Radio has a bunch of meters and other power-related doodads like USB charging ports and cigarette-lighter sockets that all have a round 1 3/16-inch bezel, along with plastic “pods” and panel mounts drilled to receive them. They're intended for things like car installations and equipment boxes like the ones Greg, KC1CIC, brings to Field Day.

I bought a single “pod” mount and a bargraph voltmeter. The voltmeter comes with a pair of crimp-on connectors which I used to make a cable with PowerPoles on the other end. I plugged it into a spare socket, turned on the power supply, and presto! The meter read 13.6 and the bargraph lit up completely. I fiddled with the voltage knob and the meter seemed to track. The bargraph goes from red to orange to green; turning the voltage down it reaches the orange zone at 12.5 volts and the red zone at 12.

The pod came with both wood screws and bolts and nuts. It assumes that you're going to have a hole underneath the pod for the wires to go through. I tried drilling a hole through the back of the pod but it's made of some tough plastic like Delrin that my drill bit didn't like. As it turns out I can just put the pod on top of another piece of equipment so I didn't need to worry about snaking wires out under the back.

Both the pod and the meter seem well-made and look very polished and professional. If you have a thing for blinking lights, you'll be happy.

Play-Series™ Single Pod, \$2.99. Bargraph Voltmeter, \$21.73. Quicksilver Radio Products, 387 South Colony Street, Meriden, CT 06451, (203) 440-4973. <http://www.qsradio.com>.

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The SPARC

Minutes from the September, 2017, General Meeting – Joe Chapman, NV1W

A brief business meeting was held at the beginning of the General Meeting held on September 21, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline. Voting members present: KB1EKN, KB1ISG, KB1TIC, KC1CVC, KI6FJS, N1QD, N1ICN, NV1W, WA1IDA.

Joe, N1QD, reported on the power outage that took both repeaters down for a week in early September.

A motion to hold the Holiday Party on January 14 at the Stockyard was made and carried.

A work party to tune and adjust the beam antenna used at Field Day is scheduled for October 21 at the Duffs' QTH in Hingham.

— Respectfully submitted, Joseph Chapman, NV1W, Secretary.

October General Meeting – Joe Harris, N1QD

The featured speaker at our October General Meeting is Rob Macedo, KD1CY. Rob is the Eastern Massachusetts ARES Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator as well as the MEMA/FEMA Region 1/NWS Taunton SKYWARN Liaison. Rob will give an updated overview on SKYWARN and ARES in Eastern Massachusetts. Rob is also the Director of Operations for the VoIP Hurricane Net and will speak on the recent hurricane net operations over the past 6 weeks including the recent Amateur Radio Operators deployment to Puerto Rico for relief efforts on the island.

Joe O'Brien, K1LCQ (SK) – Marcia Forde, KW1U

[We've recently learned of the death of longtime BARC member Joe O'Brien, K1LCQ, of Dorchester. Joe was active in the Eastern Mass. Two Meter Traffic Net for decades, and the following is reprinted from their website. —NV1W]

It saddens us to hear of the passing of Joe O'Brien K1LCQ last January 9, 2017. Joe was for many years an icon of the East Mass Two Meter Traffic Net, holding the position of Friday night NCS for at least 30 years before becoming ill last year. When I first upgraded to General class from a Novice in 1982 Joe was on the Boston repeater reliably every Friday and always signed off with "88s to the ladies". We will surely miss him. RIP Joe and 73 from the gang on EM2MN.

The following article was posted on the Eastern Massachusetts NTS website in 2008:

Meet Joe O'Brien, K1LCQ

Born June 28, 1926 in Jamaica Plain. Graduated from St. Ann's School Neponset June 1939. Graduated from Mechanic Arts High School (now Boston Tech) June 1943. Served US Army Air Corps as a bandsman and also a broadcaster on the base Armed Forces Radio Station at Fort Pepperell Newfoundland, August 1945 to December 1946. Played the trombone in the Army and also locally with American Legion Bands, but I was a lousy trombone player.

Upon return to civilian life I worked for phone company 1947–1949. Joined the City of Boston Public Works Dept. in 1950 and later the Boston Water and Sewer Dept. until retirement in 1996. The last 15 years of which I served as their Radio Dispatcher and was responsible for keeping their repeaters in operating condition, working with FCC licensed contractors.

Joined the ranks of amateur radio June 10, 1959 as a tech and operated six meter AM. Upgraded to General Class and Advance class a few years later. At that time Hams took their exams in the FCC Office at the Custom House Building in downtown Boston. Joined EM2MN back in the days when it was on 145.800 using AM emission before we had FM and

The SPARC

repeaters. Had to use Beam Antennas to communicate and pass traffic. That was back in 1978. Have been NCS on EM2MN on Friday nights for 25 years.

The following is a link to Joe's obituary.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/joseph-o%27brien-obituary?pid=1000000183534980&view=guestbook>

The Science of CW – Joe Chapman, NV1W



In a recent issue of the *QRP Quarterly*, Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, described how a friend of his helped adjust his new Begali Magnetic Pro paddle. The friend, Paul KW1L, appears to be a man after my own heart: if it can be measured, measure it.

Begali paddles come with a feeler gauge for adjusting the amount of throw each of the levers has, and I also have a set of automotive feeler gauges that I've used for adjusting other keys. I found them essential for adjusting a bug, where there are a lot of picky adjustments to be made and I don't always know what I'm doing.

What I'd never seen before is a measurement-based way of adjusting the spring tension that controls the amount of force required to make contact when you push one of the levers and generate dits and dahs. I scoured up a 50-gram Somfy Tac force gauge on eBay and set about adjusting my Begali Simplex Pro. The force gauge has a bar that sticks out in front, and you use it to move each lever of the paddle until it makes contact and then read off the force on the dial.

What a mess my settings were! The dit paddle required so little force that it almost would have been moved by a strong wind, whereas the dah side was at about 35 grams. I set them both to 35 (KW1L recommends 40) and was amazed at how much easier sending became.

BARC Antenna/Coax Work Party, Saturday, October 21 – Joe Harris, N1QD

At Field Day this summer, it was discovered that the club's tri-band beam antenna was not performing as desired. Specifically, a high SWR was noticed on the 15m and 10m phone bands. On Saturday October 21, the club will have an antenna work party at the home of Mark KB1EKN, near the 220 bus out of Quincy Center Station. We will erect the beam on a mast, and sweep it with an antenna analyzer. If anything appears to be a problem, we will re-tune the antenna as needed. While we have the crew together, we will also take the time to test and inventory the club's coax. If there are enough people on site, we will break up into teams to work on both tasks in parallel. Sign up for the work party [here](#). The club will pick up lunch for volunteers. Contact [Mark KB1EKN](#) with additional questions.

Member News – Joe Chapman, NV1W

BARC picked up two new members over the past month. Welcome to **Gene Lorden, KC1CVC**, of Milton, who was able to join us at the September General Meeting. Welcome also to **Niels Lora, KC1ICH**.

Member **Morris Beverly, N1AVP**, formerly KC1EKJ, has a shiny new call.

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The SPARC

BARC Meeting Calendar for 2017

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place at the Brookline Police Headquarters.

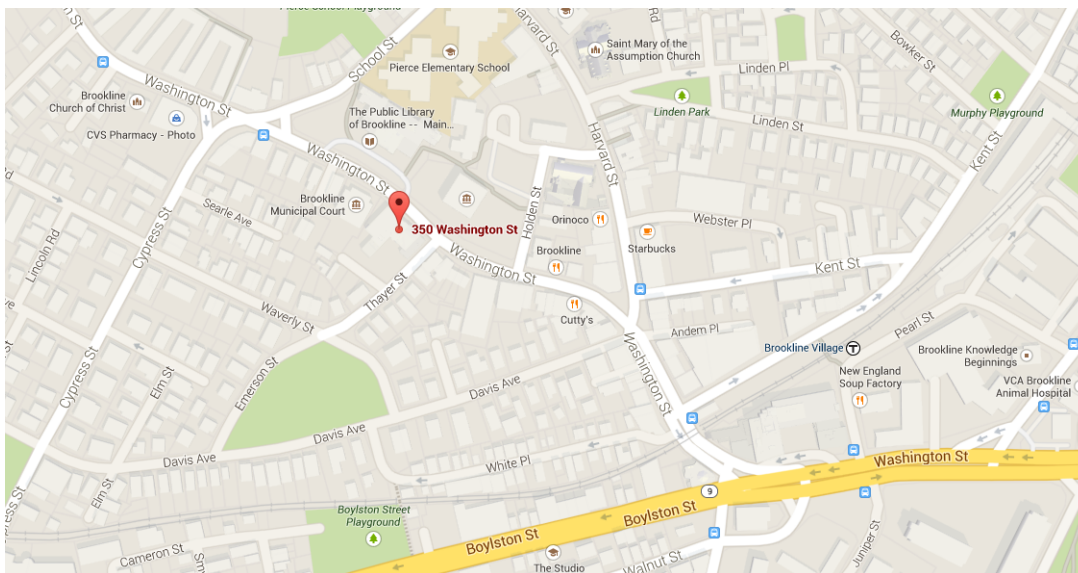
General Meetings

October 19	2017	Thu	7:30 pm — Hurricane operations, Rob Macedo, KD1CY
November 16	2017	Thu	7:30 pm — Radio programming, Gary Schwartz, N1ZCE

Business Meetings

December 7	2017	Thu	7:30 pm
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Area Map for Brookline Police Headquarters, 350 Washington St., Brookline



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-ins and proceed with the net.]

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The SPARC

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

13–14 October	NEARFest, Deerfield, NH
15 October	Flea at MIT. Cambridge
16–20 October	ARRL School Club Roundup
19 October	BARC General Meeting, Brookline Police Headquarters, Brookline, 7:30 pm
21 October	BARC Antenna/Coax Work Party, Hingham
28–29 October	CQ WW DX Contest, SSB
4 November	Deadline for articles for the November SPARC
4–5 November	ARRL EME — 50 to 1296 MHz
4–6 November	ARRL November Sweepstakes, CW

▲ Note change from usual date and/or location


(Rp) = BARC Repeater likely to be used

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

For an up-to-date calendar of events, including web links, visit <http://www.barc.org/calendar>.

See Yourself in Print! (well, PDF) – 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 November issue must be received by November 4.



**The Clay Center Observatory
Welcomes BARC members**

www.claycenter.org

Public Astronomy Nights, Astronomy Day Events,
Amateur Radio Classes, Amateur Radio Youth Club,
Community and Adult Education, Weather Festival,
Science Lecture Series, Educational Outreach

20 Newton St., Brookline, near Larz Anderson Park



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The SPARC

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 **December 7, 2017** at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline. 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.

Businesses Can Advertise Here

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

The rates for display advertising are:

1 col × 2 in. (business card)	\$15 per issue
1 col × 2 in. (business card)	\$75 per 6 consecutive months
1 col × 2 in. (business card)	\$125 per 12 consecutive months
1 col × 4 in. (½ column)	\$30 per issue
1 col × 9.5 in. (full column)	\$60 per issue

Originals of ads must be presented to the Editor in MS Word or .jpg format to print 1:1. Other composition will be at extra cost. We will be glad to quote other ad sizes and durations. Members are urged to seek prospective advertisers who are appropriate to our readers. For additional information, contact Joe Chapman, NV1W, at 617.267.6349 or nv1w@arrl.net.

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 next exam session will be in early 2018.** Generally, sessions are held at Brookline Police Headquarters, 350 Washington St. in the Community Room (across from the information desk).

We give all exams (Technician, General, and Extra). *Testing is by reservation only.* Please bring the following with you:

- Your current license and a photocopy for the ARRL, if you are upgrading
- Any CSEs you are claiming, and a photocopy of them
- Valid picture ID or two valid non-picture IDs
- 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.

The SPARC

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 Joe Chapman, NV1W, nv1w@arrl.net.

BARC Officers and Staff

President: Joe Harris, N1QD

781.844.8684; n1qd@n1qd.org

Vice President: Mark Duff, KB1EKN

781.749.7664; emgmt@comcast.net

Secretary: Joe Chapman, NV1W

617.267.6349; nv1w@arrl.net

Treasurer: Jim Clogher, N1ICN,

781.901.3545; n1icn@arrl.net

Volunteer Exams:

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 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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The SPARC

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 in/100.0 out)
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 8 pm	New England DMR Net	DMR New England Talk Group (TG 3181)
Mon 9 pm	BARC Club Net	145.230 (PL 88.5 in/100.0 out)
Sun Mon Wed Fri 10 pm	Heavy Hitters Traffic Net (NTS)	MMRA-linked repeaters: 146.610, 146.670, 146.715, 146.820, and all 222 and 440 repeaters
Tue 8 pm	MMRA Club Net	146.610 and all MMRA links
Wed 8 pm	Wellesley Amateur Radio Society Net	147.030; 444.600 (PL 88.5)
Wed 9 pm	Waltham Wranglers Swap Net	146.640 (PL 136.5)
Sat 9 am	Northeast SATERN Net	7.265
Sun 9:30 am	Yankee SSB Net	50.275
Sun 8 pm	Algonquin Amateur Radio Club Net	446.675 (PL 88.5)
Sun 8:30 pm	NSRA Net (with Newsline)	145.470 (PL 136.5)
Sun 9 pm	CAARAnet	145.130 (PL 107.2)

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