



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

December 2017 - VOLUME 29, NUMBER 12

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



President's Message – Joe Harris, N1QD



2017 is at its end, and it has been an eventful year for the club. BARC's new website made its debut; we hosted an incredible Field Day, and worked a fun special event station.

For the first time in this millennium, BARC has a new web site! A joint effort between NV1W and N1QD, the new WordPress [site](#) has been a great help to get timely news out to club members. Getting the membership application and dues payments systems online has really been the shining star, though. As an aside, remember to [renew](#) your membership by 31 January 2018 to take advantage of the 20%

renewal discount!

The club's largest events of the year book-end the seasons, occurring in June and December. Always the fourth weekend in June, Field Day is traditionally the largest event the BARC puts on, and this year was no exception. Club members gathered for the full 24 hour event, made almost 1100 QSOs across North America, and had a great time doing it. They also made the highest point total the club has seen since the author has been a member! BARC has been lucky to have access to a great Field Day site for several years now at the Bare Cove Fire Museum in Hingham, and hopefully that partnership will continue into the foreseeable future. At the opposite end of the year, Skywarn Recognition Day (always the first Saturday in December!) has been an annual event for the club since 2003, when the first group of participants almost found themselves stuck on top of Great Blue Hill in a massive snowstorm. Since then, the club has returned annually to the Blue Hill Observatory, and the event has been growing. This year, there were so many visitors and participants at the site that for a while it was difficult to walk from one side of the room to the other! Even on years with poor propagation, this is a fun event.

2017 also saw the club invited to an excellent presentation in March, hosted by the Clay Center Amateur Radio Club, where Air Force personnel presented on the PAVE PAWS mission. The talk was very well-attended by many clubs in the EMA territory, as many hams were curious to learn about our neighbors on 70cm.

The New Year is upon us, and the club will start things off with a Holiday Party on January 14. See details in this issue of the SPARC!

Joe Harris, N1QD

BARC Holiday Party Sunday, January 14, 12:00 noon

The BARC Holiday Party will be held Sunday, January 14, 2018, at 12:00 noon. at the Stockyard Restaurant in Allston. You'll find the reservation form at the end of this issue of *The SPARC*. Note that there will be no General Meetings in December and January.

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

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

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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: Whiterook MK-11 Pocket Spy Micro Key – Joe Chapman, NV1W

When my niece Meghan was young she went through a James Bond phase. This was a great thing for a nerdy uncle, since she was a cinch to buy Christmas gifts for. Usually I had to enclose a card that said, “Don’t take this to school,” or in the case of the X-ray laser, “Don’t look into the beam with your remaining eye.”

As tools of spycraft subminiature Morse code keys have doubtless gone the way of fake mustaches, microdots and dead-drop spikes, but the Whiterook MK-11 Pocket Spy Micro Key is still a fun accessory for a portable QRP rig. My KX-2 has a wonderful iambic paddle that attaches to the rig itself, but I still like carrying a small straight key with me for use on the SKCC frequencies or when I’m heeding the advice of Harry, WA1GXC, to slow down. The MK-11 is 2 × 1 × 1.6 inches and it weighs one ounce, and with a short 3.5 mm stereo cable it fits easily into the case I carry my KX-2 in.



The spring is a little stiff, but it’s comfortable enough and I found it easy to make good characters. You do have to hold it down as you use it, since there’s very little weight to the thing, and I can see that being slightly challenging with heavy mittens. I haven’t tried using it in extreme weather, but I’m not sure my rig would be happy outside in a hurricane either. All in all, it’s a nice little device and for twenty-three bucks you can’t go wrong.

I’d send one to my niece, but she’s now a teacher and hasn’t yet been bitten by the radio bug. At least still has a use for the X-ray laser.

Whiterook MK-11 Pocket Spy Micro Key. Electronics USA, 760-383-1050, <http://electronicsusa.com>. \$23.00.

Member News – Joe Chapman, NV1W

This month we welcome back an old friend, Tony Penta, N1AP. Tony was a member in the early 1990’s and currently resides in Medford.

Presentation on Puerto Rico at the Clay Center – Bob Phinney, K5TEC

The Clay Center Amateur Radio Club (CC-ARC) would like to invite all BARC members to join us for a special evening with Mike Corey, KI1U, the ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager who led a team of fifty emergency communications responders to Puerto Rico in October after Hurricane Maria devastated the island. Save the date: Tuesday, January 16, 6:30–8:00 pm. You are welcome to publicize this in your meetings and newsletter. RSVP: K5TEC@ne1ar.org.

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Minutes of the December, 2017, Business Meeting – Joe Chapman, NV1W

The Boston Amateur Radio Club held its quarterly business meeting on Thursday, December 7, at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline. Members attending: KB1EKN, KB1ISG, N1ICN, N1QD, NA1I, NV1W, WA1IDA.

After the group assembled the 2018 membership mailings, the meeting was called to order at 8:07 p.m. by President Joe Harris, N1QD.

Officer reports:

- Joe, N1QD (President): Lining up speakers for next year. Harry, WA1GXC, will be giving a talk on shipboard communications and Blake, K1BTH, is arranging a field trip to Massport, but the exact months are not yet assigned. We still need a speaker for the May meeting.
- Mark, KB1EKN (Vice President): SKYWARN Recognition Day was a great success. We had approximately 40 people through and at one point there were 20 in the room.
- Joe, NV1W (Secretary): The Clay Center ARC has invited us to join them for their January meeting which will feature a presentation on emergency relief efforts in Puerto Rico.
- Jim, N1ICN (Treasurer): We have \$1851.05 in the repeater fund and \$2200.00 in the checking account.

Committee reports:

- Repeaters: the rack mount hardware for the VHF repeater components has been acquired. We still need some cables and Joe, N1QD, felt we should go to hardline. We have a half-inch hardline for going between the duplexer and polyphaser assembled and donated by Dave Capone. A motion to spend up to \$500 out of the repeater fund for additional assembled quarter-inch hardline cables was made and passed.

Old business and announcements:

- The N1MM team does not accept donations outside its occasional fundraising drives, so the tabled motion to make a donation was dropped.
- The holiday party will cost \$25 per person, with the club picking up additional charges and individuals responsible for their own bar tab as in past years. The event will start at noon, not 1:00 pm.
- Geri, KB1ISG, announced that the Bare Cove Fire Museum now has Internet service for use during Field Day.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

—Respectfully submitted, Joseph Chapman, NV1W, Secretary.

No December or January General Meetings – Joe Harris, N1QD

Please be aware that BARC's SKYWARN Recognition Day event takes the place of the December club meeting and the Holiday Party takes the place of the January meeting.

Ham of the Year Nominations – Joe Chapman, NV1W

As has become our custom, the Holiday Party is where we award the "BARC Ham of the Year." The winner is chosen by your nomination from among the members. This means, of course, that it is up to you to recommend whom you think most deserves the award this year. We want to recognize a BARC member for outstanding contribution to the club and to the

The SPARC

Amateur Radio hobby. The rules stipulate that the award cannot be given to someone who has won in the past five years. Previous winners are:

1992 Mike Ardai, N1IST	2005 Arthur Ashley, N1NHZ
1993 Lajos Gergely, AA1BW/HA0DR	2006 Jim Clogher, N1ICN
1996 Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ and Bob Cassell, N1ENS	2007 Eric Falkof, K1NUN
1997 Terry Koen, N1IWF and Arthur Ashley, N1NHZ	2008 Tom Bertolino, KB1P
1998 Mike Kass, N1YER and Bob Wondolowski, N1KDA	2009 Hank Buccigross, K1QK
1999 Paul Carter, N1TMF and Mike Koenemund, KB1CKF	2010 Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ
2000 Mark Duff, KB1EKN	2011 Mark Duff, KB1EKN and Geri Duff, KB1ISG
2001 Frank Murphy, N1DHW and Bob Salow, WA1IDA	2012 Linda Blair, NA1I
2002 Jim Clogher, N1ICN	2013 Brett Smith, AB1RL
2003 Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ	2014 Joe Harris, N1QD
2004 Blake Haskell, K1BTH	2015 Joe Chapman, NV1W
	2016 Joe Flaherty, W1JJF

Nominations may be made on the Holiday Party reply form or sent via email to Joe Harris, n1qd@n1qd.org. The deadline is the 5th of January.

20 Years Ago in *The SPARC* – Joe Chapman, NV1W

In December, 1997, the club held its annual Holiday Party at the Happy Haddock in Medford — Plans were made for an NTS booth at the Hynes for First Night — BARC was forming an emergency response team that received ARES affiliation — BARC had 168 members — A practice net for aspiring net control stations was being started at 9:00 on Mondays after the club net — *And elsewhere, the Kyoto protocol to limit greenhouse gases was adopted and the film Good Will Hunting was released.*

Membership Renewals for 2018 – Joe Chapman, NV1W

BARC memberships work on a calendar year basis, so most people will need to renew on January 1 for the coming year. The regular tariff is \$25.00, \$12.50 for seniors 65 and over, and \$12.50 for additional family members living in the same house. Early renewals—made on or before January 31—may take a 20% discount (i.e., regular memberships \$20/senior and family \$10). Additional donations for the Repeater Fund are welcome and greatly appreciated.

Renewals may be made using PayPal on the club website, <http://www.barc.org>, via postal mail to Boston Amateur Radio Club, P. O. Box 15585, Boston, MA 02215, or by giving a check to any club officer.

BARC Meeting Calendar for 2018

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

General Meetings

February 15	2018	Thu	7:30 pm — At Eastern Bank, Jamaica Plain
March 15	2018	Thu	7:30 pm — At Eastern Bank, Jamaica Plain
April 19	2018	Thu	7:30 pm — At Clay Center Observatory, Brookline
May 17	2018	Thu	7:30 pm
June 21	2018	Thu	7:30 pm
September 20	2018	Thu	7:30 pm

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October 18	2018	Thu	7:30 pm
November 15	2018	Thu	7:30 pm

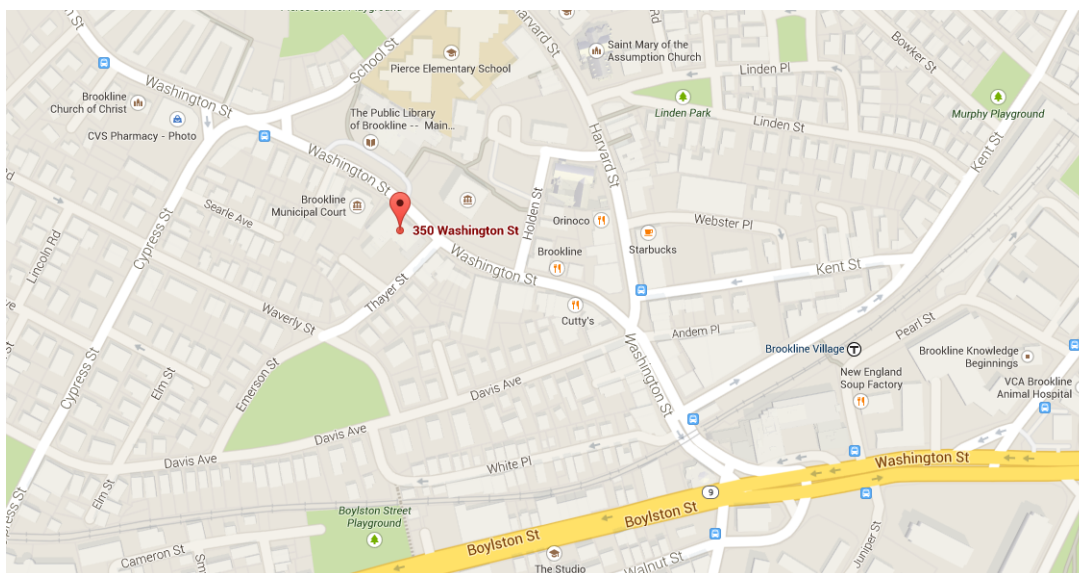
Business Meetings

March 1	2018	Thu	7:30 pm — At Eastern Bank, Jamaica Plain
June 7	2018	Thu	7:30 pm
September 6	2018	Thu	7:30 pm
December 6	2018	Thu	7:30 pm

VE Sessions

January 15	2018	Mon	7:30 pm — Note change from 2 nd Monday
April 9	2018	Mon	7:30 pm
July 9	2018	Mon	7:30 pm
October 8	2018	Mon	7:30 pm

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.

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[Compile the list of the check-ins and proceed with the net.]

Is there any further business for the net before I close? Hearing nothing, this is «YOUR CALL» closing tonight's session of the Boston Amateur Radio Club Net. I would like to thank everyone who participated in the net and those who stood by while I ran the net. The Boston Amateur Radio Club Net will return next Monday evening at 9 pm Eastern Time. This is «YOUR CALL» returning the repeater to general amateur use. 73.

I See the Future

31 December	ARRL Straight Key Night
6 January	Deadline for articles for the January SPARC
7 January	ARRL Kids Day
7–8 January	ARRL RTTY Roundup
14 January	BARC Holiday Party, The Stockyard, Allston, 12:00 noon
15 January	BARC VE Session, Brookline Police Headquarters, 7:30 p.m.
16 January	Clay Center ARC meeting (KI1U on Puerto Rico), Clay Center Observatory, Brookline, 6:30 p.m.
20 January	Whitman ARC WinterFest, Whitman
21–23 January	ARRL January VHF Contest

▲ 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 January issue must be received by January 6.

Quarterly Business Meetings – Bob Salow, WA1DA

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 **March 1, 2018** 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.

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**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



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 on Monday, January 15, 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.

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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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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 Thu Sat 6 pm	MA RI Phone Net (NTS)	3.978
Tue 7:30 pm	Clay Center ARC Net	446.325 (PL 146.2)
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 Newslines)	145.470 (PL 136.5)
Sun 9 pm	CAARAnet	145.130 (PL 107.2)

RADIO

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

*It's that time
of the year !*

BOSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Holiday Party

Here's why you must not pass this up:

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

Here's what's happenin':

Where:

**The Stockyard
135 Market St.
Brighton MA 02135**

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

When:

Sunday, 14 January 2018

12:00 pm

(The January club meeting is suspended.)

Ⓣ buses: #86 and #84 stop nearby

Talk in on 145.230

Food ?? Of course !!

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

© BARC

Cost ?? We knew you'd ask !!

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

Nominate your choice for the 2017 BARC Ham of the Year on the other coupon below.

Send both coupons below to:

**Joe Harris, N1QD
40 Drew Rd
Belmont, MA 02478**

Send before 5 January 2018

Send before 5 January 2018

Send before 5 January 2018

A party? Of course we'll be there!

Menu selections to be made at the table. Body Count: _____

◀ Cash Bar - You will be responsible for your own bar bills ▶

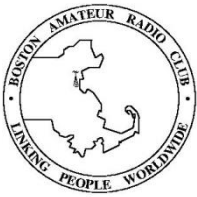
Name _____ Call Sign _____

Email _____ Phone _____

2017 BARC Ham of the Year

I nominate: _____

Because: _____



Boston Amateur Radio Club

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION - 2018

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



☐ New ☐ Renewal



Full name _____ Call sign _____
Name used on the air _____ Evening phone (_____) _____
Address _____ Daytime phone (_____) _____
_____ Cell phone (_____) _____
City/Town _____ State _____ ZIP (9 digits) _____
E-mail address _____

LICENSE CLASS

☐ Novice
☐ Technician
☐ General
☐ Advanced
☐ Extra

☐ Former ham
☐ Not yet a ham

Are you an
ARRL certified
VE?
YES NO

ARRL MEMBERSHIP

☐ Life
☐ Annual
☐ Not a member

EMCOMM?

1 2 3

Have you taken
ICS-700?

YES NO

The BARC membership list is for club use **only**, including publishing the roster to our members **only**. Do you wish to **restrict** such limited distribution:



OMIT ADDRESS



OMIT EVENING PHONE

NOTES

To save the club significant costs and effort, the club publishes its newsletter *only* online. You will be notified monthly by email to link to a web page where the earliest posting will be available.

You can join or renew your membership online! Visit <http://barc.org/join/> for details.

Membership Category

REGULAR MEMBER: Not otherwise qualified below

JUNIOR MEMBER: Are you under age 18?

SENIOR MEMBER: Are you over age 64?

FAMILY MEMBER: [Regular member I live with _____]

I am the family member to receive club mailings YES NO

Note: Each member in the family **must** complete a separate form.

Full year 2018 if paid
between
1 Nov 17 to 31 July 18

Half year 201 if paid
between
1 Aug 18 to 31 Oct 18

\$25.00

\$12.50

\$12.50

\$ 6.50

\$12.50

\$ 6.50

\$12.50

\$ 6.50

If you are able, please help support the club's activities and repeaters: ■ ■ ■ ■ ► \$

Total \$

Signature _____ Date _____

©BARC

- Welcome to the **Boston Amateur Radio Club**! Join in the fun of being a ham!
- Your cancelled check is your receipt; membership acknowledgement is for the year shown on the newsletter address label.
- Make checks payable to: **BOSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**
- Please write your call sign on your check.

Give to any officer or mail to:

BOSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
PO Box 15585
Boston MA 02215-0011

Dues \$ _____ Addl \$ _____ Recd by _____ Date _____

DB by _____ Memb Nr _____ Date _____ Loc _____

Gratuitus
est per

