



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

June 2018 - VOLUME 30, NUMBER 6

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



President's Message – Joe Harris, N1QD



As the club moves toward elections and Field Day, I write to you in my final column. It has been three years since taking the reins from Joe NV1W, and now it is time for some new blood to take the club to its next destination. Sadly, we head into the election without a candidate for president, so it looks like the organization will be running headless. While the role of president has yet to be filled, the remaining three officers have all agreed to run again, so KB1EKN, N1ICN, and NV1W will all return to reprise their roles.

Without a president at the helm, there will be more need than ever for members to step up and do what they can to help BARC. Perhaps the most important task the president has is organizing the program for meetings. Over the past three years, I have tried to bring in guest speakers that reflect BARC's diverse interests. As a general-interest ham radio club, we have members that are into public service, kit-building, satellite operations, HF DXing, contesting, digital modes, and more. In order to attract as many people to meetings as possible, I made an active choice to not focus specifically on one specific aspect of the hobby. This was to expose the members to as many different facets of ham radio as possible. The club will be in desperate need for a volunteer to put together a program for the 2018/2019 term, so if you are interested in serving as a program/activity chair, please reach out to the officers.

It has been a privilege to serve as this club's president, but after six years of serving as a club officer, I am looking forward to returning to "roster member" status. I'll still be around though, and I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at Field Day!

73,

Joe

In this Issue of The SPARC

- Jump Kit suggestions from the 90's
- Field Day
- Events and meetings
- Looking for Roger



BARC General Meeting · Thursday, June 21, 7:30 p.m.

The next BARC General Meeting will be on Thursday, June 21, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline. The meeting will include a discussion of plans for Field Day and Elections. A map for this location can be found later in this issue of *The SPARC*.

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>.

Member News – Joe Chapman, NV1W

Send contributions for this column to Joe Chapman, NV1W, nv1w@arri.net.

Field Day – Joe Harris, N1QD

Field Day is just a week away!!

We are counting down the days to the 2018 edition of ARRL Field Day!! Setup will begin at 8:30AM on Saturday, June 23 at the Bare Cove Fire Museum. The plan is to repeat the 3A with a VHF setup that has been used the past few years. Logging will be done with N1MM+, and there will be opportunities for phone, CW, and digital ops. Will the stars finally align for a satellite QSO? Will 15 or 10 open? Will there be another 6 meter opening? Find out June 23 & 24!

The signup form for the 2018 Boston Amateur Radio Club Field Day is now live! If you are planning on attending Field Day, please let us know by filling out the signup form. It will help the club determine how much food to purchase, and give us an idea of how to best plan for setup and takedown.

Signup: <https://goo.gl/forms/Q2jqlTMCUgfAMpW82>.



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

The topic of the June, 1998, general meeting was Elections! — President Mike Ardai, N1IST, made a plea for more participation at Field Day — Bob Salow, WA1IDA, provided a recap of the 1998 Assisted Technology Conference — Bruce Piggott, KC1US, provided a recap of the 1998 Walk for Hunger — Bob Wondolowski, N1KDA, related the saga of his antenna — Senator Barry Goldwater, K7UGA (SK) was remembered — *And elsewhere, the TV sitcom “Sex and the City” premiered on HBO.*

Who the Heck Was Roger? – Harris Pitnof, WA1GXC

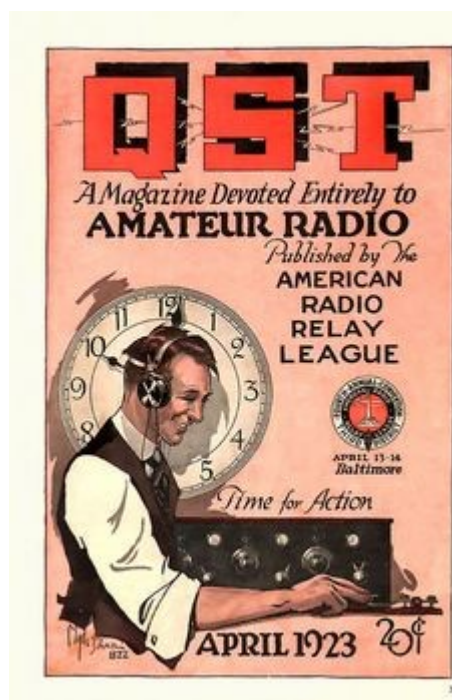
Our electronic and wired society is rich with urban mythology and apocryphal stories. Take a stroll down Wikipedia–memory lane and you will have access to a rich trove of fantastic stories (All true, or they couldn't be published on the InterWeb) that will enlighten and engender wonder. “History” has it that the term “Bug” for a computer problem, came about in 1947 when a brilliant Navy engineer found a moth stuck between relay contacts, fouling up the works. Taped the offending insect to accompany a note in the laboratory log to document the incident. Nice touch. Dig a little deeper in your research, however, and you can read in the 1901 edition of G. M. Dodge's *The Telegraph Instructor* the following phrase and definition: “Bug-in-the wire” — “Slang phrase frequently used when a wire is in trouble”.

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Much of our Amateur procedure comes handed-down to us from landline-Morse railroad telegraphy over 130 years ago, filtered through military and maritime radio, and finally winding up on our doorstep with the original meaning or intent long-ago lost. For those of you without a lot of familiarity with on-the-air CW (International Morse or Continental Code), keep in mind that the Code is a language of sound; as you read the following details, note that it is the sound, not the graphic representation on paper, that is the key. (Sorry for the pun)

In amateur, military, and maritime training publications and authoritative manuals, we represent the sound of some procedural signs (prosigns) by depicting letters with a bar drawn over them, commanding the operator to run the letters together for a unique sound. Thus, \overline{AR} universally signifies “END OF MESSAGE”. Why? Dit-Dah-Dit Dah-Dit was American Landline Morse for F N — “Finish”. Today’s International code does not exactly correspond with old Morse in every respect; same sound, different letters.

We refer to an old, dead Ham as a “Silent Key”, a SK. (Good news — if you’re still reading this, you need not worry) That’s kinda a double play-on-words, because \overline{SK} is the operating signal for “End-of-work”. But dit-dit-dit-dah-dit-dah doesn’t stand for “silent key” or “stop keying” — it is the same sound as American landline Morse for Signal “30” from the Phillips Code and the Western Union “92 Code” of operating signals — Dit-dit-dit-dah-dit (3) Daaaah

(long dash: “0”) — 30 — “End of work”. By the way, in modern International Telecommunications Union (ITU) publications and ARRL handbooks through the early 50’s, the prosign is represented as \overline{VA} — same sound.

The World War II Joint Army-Navy phonetic alphabet differs almost completely from the Int’l Civil Aviation Organization alphabet in modern widespread use by hams, military forces of many nations, and aviation domestic and worldwide. The ICAO phonetics were selected by a U.N. working group of linguists to be understandable and unambiguous in voice communications for speakers of almost all modern languages. Even the spellings are precise and purposeful — A is not Alpha, but Alfa; Juliett, not Juliet. A German or French speaker would pronounce Alpha as “Alp-Ha”, not Alfa. And Q is properly entered with the French pronunciation “Keh-Bec”, not “Kwe-Bec”. Although today’s voice equivalent of “R” for Received should be “Romeo”, it’s not. So from the oceans and battlefields of 1942 — “Peter, Queen, ROGER, Sugar, Tare”. ROGER it is, today and forever, on the air and in the air, all over the world.

Referencing Mr. Dodge again: “Ham — (see Plug)” “Plug — An operator who is not proficient”.

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Minutes of the June, 2018, Business Meeting— Joe Chapman, NV1W

A Business Meeting of the Boston Amateur Radio Club was held on Thursday, June 7, 2018, at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline. Members attending: KB1EKN, KB1ISG, KO4W, N1QD, NA1I, NV1W, W1JJF, WA1IDA. The meeting was called to order by President Joe Harris, N1QD, at 7:37 p.m.

Officer reports. President: no report. Vice President: no report. Treasurer: we have \$2,831.19 in the checking account and \$1851.17 in the savings account. Secretary: we had a good renewal rate for 2018, with only a handful of members not renewing.

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Committee reports. Public service: Bob, WA1IDA, gave a summary of the Run of the Charles and the remaining upcoming events for the year.

Repeater: we have changed out cables, added new hardline, and rack mounted the VHF repeater. The VHF isolator seems to have knocked out the noise on the output frequency. Users on the VHF repeater report problems during windy conditions, which leads us to surmise there is a physical problem with the antenna. We will be installing a high-quality Comprod antenna that we were able to obtain at cost sometime in July. The DMR UHF repeater is fine, with no problems reported in over a year.

Nominating committee: Linda, NA1I, reported that the committee offers the following slate: Vice President: Mark Duff, KB1EKN; Treasurer, Jim Clogher, N1ICN, and Secretary, Joe Chapman, NV1W. The committee was unable to find a candidate for President. A discussion was held about how to operate without a president. We also discussed the problem of low attendance at meetings.

Old business. Jim, N1ICN, will give the 501(c)(3) as well as the Massachusetts Sales and Use Tax Exemption paperwork to Kinda, NA1I, who will determine what needs to be done over the summer and do it.

For Field Day, we purchased a 38-foot fiberglass Max-Gain mast and guy kit for the 20/15/10 meter beam antenna. Total cost was \$264.60 including shipping. This mast will be used at this year's Field Day.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

— Respectfully submitted, Joseph Chapman NV1W, Secretary.

Thirteen Colonies Special Event – Andy Stewart, KB1OIQ

The annual 13 Colonies Special Event will take place from Sunday, July 1st, 9:00 AM Eastern (1300 UTC) until Saturday, July 7th, 12:00 Midnight Eastern (July 8th, 0400 UTC).

Participants are encouraged to contact as many of the original 13 Colonies as possible in that timeframe. There are also two bonus stations: WM3PEN (Philadelphia, PA), and GB13COL (Durham, England). A nice certificate is available at the end of the event.

Each colony has its own callsign and list of operators; Massachusetts is K2H. If you are interested in being a K2H operator, contact Bob (K1KVV) at radioevents@semara.org so he can put you on the official operators list. One must hold a General Class license, or higher, and should plan to operate from their home station.

This is a fun event and I hope a lot of you will participate. For more information: <http://www.13colonies.net>.

BARC Meeting Calendar for 2018

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

General Meetings

June 21	2018	Thu	7:30 pm — <i>Elections and Field Day</i>
September 20	2018	Thu	7:30 pm
October 18	2018	Thu	7:30 pm
November 15	2018	Thu	7:30 pm

Business Meetings

September 6	2018	Thu	7:30 pm
December 6	2018	Thu	7:30 pm

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VE Sessions

July 9	2018	Mon	7:30 pm
October 8	2018	Mon	7:30 pm

Jump Kit Adapter and Cable List – Mike Ardai, N1IST

[Excerpted from the President's Message in the June, 1998, issue of The SPARC. These days I think PowerPoles might be a better standard power connector than Molex, and the parts will certainly cost more than ten bucks. —NV1W]

[Recent BARC public service events and drills included] Aviation Expo, the Assistive Technology fair, the Chelsea fire, and the hurricane and airplane crash drills. Not only does this help the community, but also it helps publicize BARC and ham radio. As we have discovered at so many of these events, we are often called in to operate in some agencies' facility or vehicle. Often, these have ham antennas already installed, but many people couldn't take advantage of them because they didn't have the right adapters with them. Please take this time to gather up the following adapters and keep them in your jump kit:

- Cigarette lighter to standard Molex (fused) gator clips to Molex (fused)
- Banana plugs to Molex (fused) - we just rented a U-Haul that had binding posts on the dash
- Molex to radio DC power - whatever your radio needs to run on 12V
- Short coax with PL-259 connectors on each end
- Short coax with male BNC connectors on each end
- SO-239 to male BNC adapter - connects PL259 cables to HT antenna jacks
- Female BNC to PL-259 adapter - connects HT magmounts to mobile rigs

Total cost of this stuff is under \$10, much less if you scrounge bits, and it will save lots of hassles when trying to set up an emergency station.

Quarterly Business Meetings – Bob Salow, WA1IDA

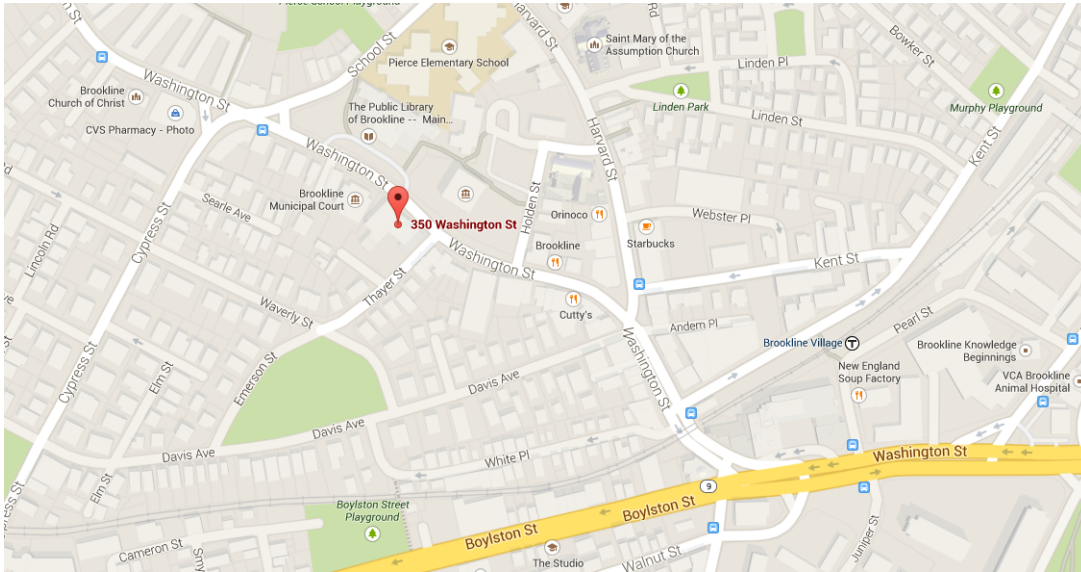
As the Bylaws require, BARC has Business meetings quarterly. Unless circumstances warrant, BARC Business meetings will be held on the first Thursdays of December, March, June, and September. The next such meeting will be on **September 6, 2018** at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline. All members 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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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.]

*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

17 May	BARC General Meeting, Brookline Police Headquarters, Brookline, 7:30 p.m.
20 May	Flea at MIT, Cambridge
26–27 May	CQ WW WPX Contest, CW
7 June	BARC Business Meeting, Brookline Police Headquarters, Brookline, 7:30 p.m.

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9 June	Deadline for articles for the June SPARC
9–11 June	ARRL June VHF Contest
16 June	ARRL Kids' Day
17 June	Flea at MIT, Cambridge
21 June	BARC General Meeting, Brookline Police Headquarters, Brookline, 7:30 p.m.
23–24 June	Field Day, Bare Cove Fire Museum, Hingham
24 June	BAA 10K (Rp)

▲ **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>.



**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.

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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 July issue must be received by July 7.

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, July 9, 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.

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.



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Newsletter Editor: Joe Chapman, NV1W

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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)



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