



# **The SPARC**

**Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century**

*Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club*

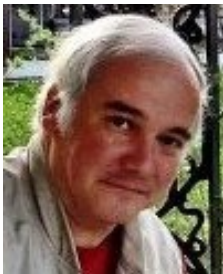
**Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area**

July 2018 - VOLUME 30, NUMBER 7

[www.barc.org](http://www.barc.org) - [w1bos@arrl.net](mailto:w1bos@arrl.net)



## **Message from the Editor – Joe Chapman, NV1W**



*In last month's elections, we were unable to find anyone interested in running for President, so the club is now "headless". At the risk of subjecting everyone to even more of my random musings, the President's Message that normally appeared in this space will be replaced by a Message from the Editor.*

*One other job of the President's that we'll all have to fill is finding speakers for meetings. If you'd like to speak at a club meeting, or know of someone who would be able to do so, get in touch with any of the officers.*

*In other news, the club had a very successful Field Day at the Bare Cove Fire Museum in Hingham. We had a mix of old and new faces, made just over 1200 contacts, and setup and teardown went smoothly. The new fiberglass push-up mast for the tribander was a success; the days of worrying that we might need to call 911 when working with the beam now appear to be in the past. A complete recap of Field Day will appear in a later issue of The SPARC.*

*Apropos of The SPARC, it is likely that this summer's issues will be on the short side. Contributions are always welcome.*

## **In this Issue of The SPARC**

- 3D printing
- KV1J on Miquelon
- Events and meetings



## **No BARC Meetings in the Summer**

As usual, there will be no BARC meetings during July and August. The next Business Meeting will be on Thursday, September 6 and the next General Meeting will be on Thursday, September 20. Both meetings will be at 7:30 p.m. at Brookline Police Headquarters in 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>.

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

In July, 1998, Ed Hennessy, N1PBA, wrote his first message as President of BARC — Mike Ardai, N1IST, provided a recap of Field Day — Having two generators at Field Day was deemed a success because of the added load of the coffee pots — Logging was messy because not everybody logged via computer and there wasn't a standard paper form — Newly appointed SEC Steve Schwarm, W3EVE, wrote about the reawakening of EMA ARES — BARC had 161 members — *And elsewhere, the second Harry Potter book, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, was published.*

### **3D Printing – Joe Chapman, NV1W**

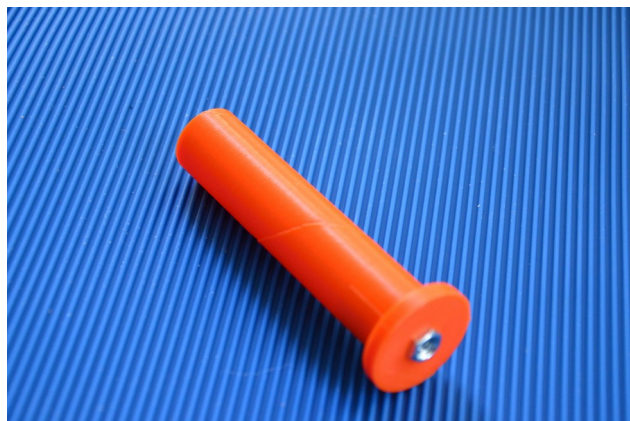
For most of my operating I use various wire antennas on my roofdeck. Setup involves running a length of coax from my apartment to the roof and both setup and teardown require a good twenty minutes each. For a quick check of a band or to try working a DX station that's just popped up I take an AlexLoop up to the roof with my KX3, so if the bands prove to be dead as disco at least I haven't invested 40 minutes.

An AlexLoop is a magnetic loop antenna, designed by Alex, PY1AHD, for 10 to 40 meters. The good thing about magnetic loops is they don't require a counterpoise and they can be tuned to a decent SWR. The bad thing is the bandwidth is small—you might have to retune every 20 kHz—and they're a little like Episcopalians in that they don't like getting too close to people. Since the AlexLoop is made to be held in the hand this personality quirk can be annoying. The obvious solution is to mount it on a tripod, which poses the simple problem of adapting a camera tripod to a fiberglass tube.

A Google search led me to some designs for 3D printed adapters that looked promising. I found one on Thingiverse (<https://www.thingiverse.com/>) that uses a 1/4"-20 mounting coupler to attach to a standard camera tripod screw. And, wonder or wonders, you can click through to someone who will 3D print the device and mail it to you. I used Treatstock, a broker that connects people who want to have something printed with someone who has a printer. I found a shop in Gray, Maine, willing to make the part for about \$7. Adding on shipping and a commission for Treatstock brought the tab to \$11 and change. The part arrived in a few days.

There was a link on the project page to the mounting coupler to its page on Amazon. While I generally prefer to buy hardware from an actual store, I'm also aware of my tendency to buy the wrong thing, so I went with Amazon. That part also arrived in a short order.

So, part in hand, I went upstairs to my roof to give it a try. Setup went quickly and tuning on the CW end of 40 meters took the usual minute or so of fiddling around. One of the regular CW Ops short CW contests was on, which I wasn't quite ready to jump into, but the Midwest was coming in nice and clear.



## ***The SPARC***

### **Minutes of the June, 2018, General Meeting—Joe Chapman, NV1W**

A General Meeting of the Boston Amateur Radio Club was held on Thursday, June 21, 2018, at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline. Members attending: KB1EKN, KB1ISG, KB1TIC, N1ICN, N1QD, NA1I, NV1W, Visitors: KC3JKQ. The meeting was called to order by President Joe Harris, N1QD, at 7:34 p.m.

The following officers were elected for 2018–2019: Vice President, Mark Duff, KB1EKN; Treasurer, Jim Clogher, N1ICN; Secretary, Joe Chapman, NV1W. The position of President is vacant.

A motion was made to donate \$200 to the Bare Cove Fire Museum as a token of appreciation for their continued support of Field Day over the past decade. Seconded and passed.

Linda, NA1I, reported that the club's state sales tax exemption expires on August 3, 2018. This renews automatically and we should receive a letter within 30 days of the expiration date. Our 501(c)(3) with the IRS does not expire and remains valid until revoked.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

— Respectfully submitted, Joseph Chapman NV1W, Secretary.

### **BARC Meeting Calendar for 2018**

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

#### **General Meetings**

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

#### **VE Sessions**

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

### **Eric, KV1J, Returns to Miquelon – Joe Chapman, NV1W**

Eric Williams, KV1J, is returning once again to the French territory of St. Pierre and Miquelon this month. Some may remember the presentation he gave to the club a few years ago on his DXpeditions to these tiny islands off the coast of Newfoundland. In addition to being a DXCC entity, Miquelon is IOTA NA-032.

According to Eric's webpage, <http://www.kv1j.com/fp/July18.html>, he will be QRV from Miquelon from the 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup> of July, operating primarily SSB, RTTY, and FT8, though he will also do some CW and will be active on the SSB/CW satellites, weather permitting. He'll also be on for the IARU HF Championships on July 14–15.

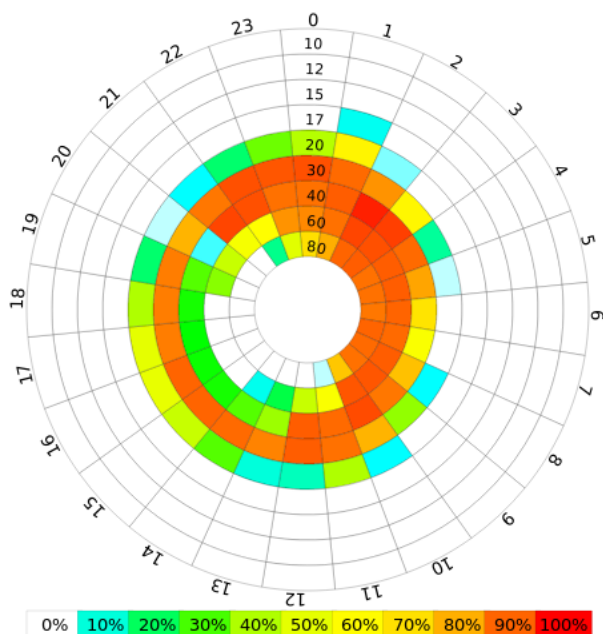
Propagation predictions (Miquelon is 780 mi. from Boston at a heading of 62°), courtesy of VOACAP:

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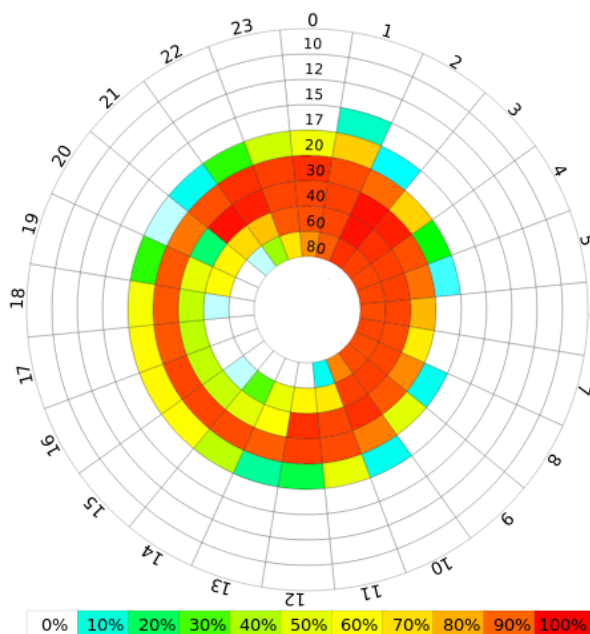
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*Boston-FP, 100W SSB*



*Boston-FP, 5W CW*

### **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 Secretary Joe Chapman, NV1W.

### **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*

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*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**

14–15 July	IARU HF World Championship
15 July	Flea at MIT, Cambridge
21–22 July	North American QSO Party, RTTY
21–22 July	CQ Worldwide VHF Contest
4 August	Deadline for articles for the August SPARC
4–5 August	ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest
4–5 August	North American QSO Party, CW
18–19 August	ARRL 10 GHz & Up Contest — Round 1
18–19 August	North American QSO Party, SSB
19 August	Flea at MIT, Cambridge
19 August	ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY

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>.

## **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](mailto:nv1w@arrl.net).



## ***The SPARC***

### **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@arrrl.net](mailto:nv1w@arrrl.net). Articles for the August issue must be received by August 4.

### **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, October 8, 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:

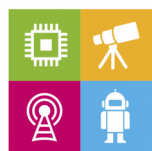
- Your current license and a photocopy for the ARRL, if you are upgrading
- Any CSEs you are claiming, and a photocopy of them
- Valid picture ID or two valid non-picture IDs
- A pen and a calculator (if you want to)
- **\$15.00** (good for all the tests you take at that session, except for retests)

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@arrrl.net](mailto:n1icn@arrrl.net), or Linda Blair, NA1I, [na1i@arrrl.net](mailto:na1i@arrrl.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@arrrl.net](mailto:nv1w@arrrl.net).



## **NEW ENGLAND SCI-TECH**

New England Sci-Tech Inc is a new 501(c)(3) STEM education center, amateur radio training center, and maker space located at 16 Tech Circle, Natick. It is home to New England Amateur Radio Inc (NE1AR) and the youth radio club Sci-Tech Amateur Radio Society (STARS). NE Sci-Tech welcomes memberships and donations via [www.NESciTech.org](http://www.NESciTech.org) or [www.NE1AR.org](http://www.NE1AR.org).



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## ***The SPARC***

### **BARC Officers and Staff**

President: *(position vacant)*

Vice President: Mark Duff, KB1EKN  
781.749.7664; [emgmt@comcast.net](mailto:emgmt@comcast.net)

Secretary: Joe Chapman, NV1W  
617.267.6349; [nv1w@arrl.net](mailto:nv1w@arrl.net)

Treasurer: Jim Clogher, N1ICN,  
781.901.3545; [n1icn@arrl.net](mailto:n1icn@arrl.net)

Volunteer Exams:

Jim Clogher, N1ICN, [n1icn@arrl.net](mailto:n1icn@arrl.net)

Linda Blair, NA1I, [na1i@arrl.net](mailto:na1i@arrl.net)

Public Service Coordinator: Brett Smith, AB1RL  
859.466.5915; [ab1rl@arrl.net](mailto:ab1rl@arrl.net)

Public Information Officer: Geri Duff, KB1ISG  
781.749.7664; [geriduff52@juno.com](mailto:geriduff52@juno.com)

Membership Services: Linda Blair, NA1I  
617.500.4406; [na1i@arrl.net](mailto:na1i@arrl.net)

Newsletter Editor: Joe Chapman, NV1W  
617.267.6349; [nv1w@arrl.net](mailto: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 Newslite)	145.470 (PL 136.5)
Sun 9 pm	CAARAnet	145.130 (PL 107.2)



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