



# The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

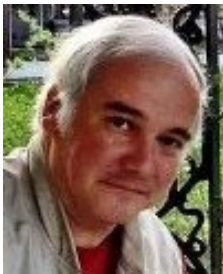
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

September 2019 - VOLUME 31, NUMBER 9

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



## Message from the Editor – Joe Chapman, NV1W



*I apologize for the brevity and late appearance of this month's issue of The SPARC, which bumped up against my September vacation. I have also had some recent vision issues, which I expect to have corrected by surgery later in the year. In the meantime, I suspect the October and November issues will also have to be somewhat abbreviated and am grateful for your understanding and any articles you wish to contribute.*

*Normally I would be delighted to hear that sixties and seventies are predicted for the next month; unfortunately those are solar flux numbers from last Friday's solar report. This fall I've been trying to set up a QSO with a station in Alaska, which looks most promising, or more accurately least unpromising, on 40 meters very early in the morning. It seems inaccurate to characterize sitting at my desk at 4 a.m. waiting for the first cup of coffee to check in as "the thrill of the chase." But there you have it.*

*You will notice a last-minute change to this month's meeting venue; thanks to VP Mark, KB1EKN, and Linda, NA1I, for coping with the sudden unavailability of our normal location.*

*73 and good radio!*

## In this Issue of The SPARC

- BARC's Summer Lunches
- Zenith and Ham Radio
- Report on Boxboro
- Meetings and Events



## BARC General Meeting, Thursday, September 19, 7:30 p.m.

The next BARC General Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at JP Licks, 659 Centre St. in Jamaica Plain. Directions can be found at <https://jplicks.com/locations/f/Boston~amp~Brookline/30>.

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## ***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>.

### **Report on the BARC Summer Lunches – Doc Kinne, KE1ML, ORS**

We decided to try an experiment over the summer this year.

Some years ago BARC used to have a monthly lunch at Old Country Buffet. When the mall that held the restaurant closed down a few years ago, the club, of course, stopped going.

I'm really of the opinion that clubs need regular meetings to survive and thrive. If regular meetings aren't held—regularly—the club's members might forget when they're held, and that causes a reduction in meeting attendance.

So, to tide us over between the end of our regular meetings in June and their resumption in September, we set up a Saturday lunch on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. Was the experiment a success? Well, it wouldn't break any records, but I do think it was a success, yes.

It started out rocky since KB1ZFP was in the middle of a Tufts Hospital visit that would end up being about 3 weeks in length. Due to a problem with our venerable subway system, I ended up being about 15 minutes late to the lunch. That first one was attended by myself and Joe Harris, N1QD. Joe and I had a great lunch and I was able to get to know our Repeater Trustee a good bit better.

Our August lunch featured a 100% increase in attendance! Myself, KB1ZFP, Secretary Joe Chapman, NV1W, and a friend of his, Jim Wilber, AB1WQ, attended. We talked a good bit about both general things and old telegrapher contests in particular.

Given this kind of success, should we keep going? Let me know during the upcoming September meeting, or via email at [ke1ml@arrl.net](mailto:ke1ml@arrl.net).

### **Zenith and Ham Radio's Early Days – Bill Ohm, W1OHM, via Joe Chapman, NV1W**

My fellow Chicagoan Bill Ohm, W1OHM, passed along an interesting article about how the Zenith Corporation evolved from amateur radio station 9ZN: <https://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/20170525/edgewater/zenith-company-history-edgewater-beach-hotel-chicago-radio-lab/>.

### **Member News – Joe Chapman, NV1W**

Send your contributions for this column to Joe Chapman, NV1W, at [nv1w@arrl.net](mailto:nv1w@arrl.net).

### **Report from the New England Division Convention – Doc Kinne, KE1ML, ORS**

Conventions are a good thing for me, both personally and professionally. They are the best thing I know of to reinvigorate me with regard to a particular subject. I pulled out all the stops with regard to the New England Division Convention in Boxboro this year. We stayed at the hotel. I did a presentation on the National Traffic System and how to be a Net Control Station. We spent some time with the President of the Nashua Area Radio Society pumping him for ideas they'd worked on in order to reinvigorate their club.

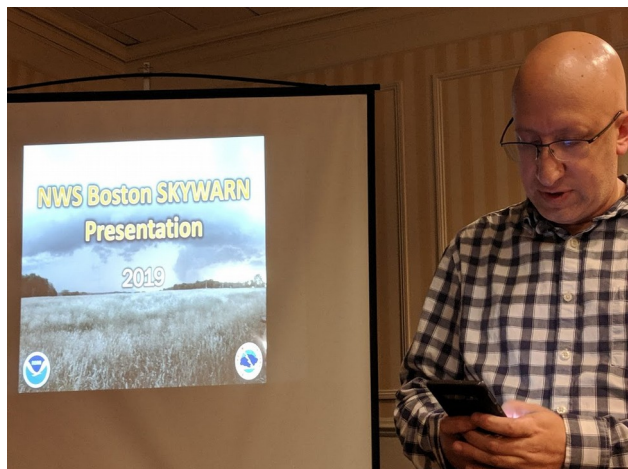
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## ***The SPARC***

I tend to go to a convention like this and jones-out on presentations and forums. I've never learned just to meet and talk with people in that type of setting, but I did some good work in that regard. Not only did we have some conversations with Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, of NARS, but I also hobnobbed a bit with Fred Hopengarten, K1VR, our Division Director; Tom Walsh, K1TW, our Section Manager; and I also met long-time Traffic Handler Betsey Doane, K1EIC.



Friday afternoon began with Rob Macedo's (KD1CY) SKYWARN Training Session (*photo at left*). Most of the emergency work that I do I do with SKYWARN. I have a small background in weather and weather forecasting having served as the Weather Director for WTOP-TV in Oswego, NY in my college days. The last time I'd taken the SKYWARN course like this was back in 2013, and while I'd updated my knowledge via the internet course earlier this year, I felt that this hands on course, after 6 years, had some value in being able to ask questions.

Saturday was filled with an Introduction to Fox Hunting, my presentation, an NTS and then ARRL Forum. Around 14:00 I realized I'd not even looked around the convention yet! However, KB1ZFP nearly literally dragged me to Fred Kammerer's (AB1OC) "Journey to the 2019 Club of the

Year" talk, which turned out to be among the most valuable presentations I saw at the Convention.

Saturday ended as we closed out the dealers' room. I was helping KB1ZFP put together his first kit—and his first experience soldering anything (*photo lower right*). We had to leave, they were closing down booths around us.

With something as large as the New England Division Convention, it's impossible to do everything—either things happen simultaneously, or you just run out of energy! Both things happened to me over that weekend. I never did properly get through the outdoor flea market. My purchases were more prosaic, in the end—a call sign hat (never had one as KE1ML), and an RF cable crimper.

The ending of the Convention held a shocker for me. For the first time I can remember—in anything!—I won a prize: a Yaesu FTM-7250DR mobile 144/440MHz radio. Since we don't have a car we're planning on integrating this into a Go Box.

To anyone who has not gone to the New England Division Convention, I heartily recommend it. It is great putting faces to the voices you hear on a daily basis, and you'll be utterly amazed at how often you'll have to re-orient your brain to map out the face you've created in your mind just hearing a person's voice now that you've seen the real face! Going to the Convention is worth it in any number of ways.



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## **The SPARC**

### **BARC Meeting Calendar for 2019**

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

#### **General Meetings (\* Business/General Meetings)**

September 19*	2019	Thu	7:30 pm
October 17	2019	Thu	7:30 pm
November 21*	2019	Thu	7:30 pm

#### **VE Sessions**

October 14	2019	Mon	7:30 pm
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### **New Business/General Meetings – Joe Chapman, NV1W**

The Bylaws require that BARC hold four Business meetings per year. In an attempt to streamline our meeting schedule, BARC Business meetings will now be held concurrently with the General meetings in March, June, September, and November. We will attempt to keep the business portion of these combined Business/General meetings to a half hour. The next such combined meeting will be on **September 19, 2019** 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.

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, W1JF. 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.*

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## ***The SPARC***

### **I See the Future**

<b>19 September</b>	<b>BARC General Meeting, JP Licks, Jamaica Plain, 7:30 pm ▲</b>
21–22 September	ARRL 10 GHz and Up — Round 2
21–22 September	ARRL EME — 2.3 GHz and Up
21–22 September	New Hampshire QSO Party
28–29 September	Maine QSO Party
5 October	Deadline for articles for the October SPARC
<b>14 October</b>	<b>BARC VE Session, Brookline Police Headquarters, Brookline, 7:30 pm</b>
<b>17 October</b>	<b>BARC General Meeting, Brookline Police Headquarters, Brookline, 7:30 pm</b>
19–20 October	ARRL EME — 50 to 1296 MHz
20 October	Flea at MIT, Cambridge
21–25 October	ARRL School Club Roundup

**▲ Note change from usual date and/or location**

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***

### **Two Ways to 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](mailto:nv1w@arrl.net). Articles for the October issue must be received by October 5.

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](mailto:nv1w@arrl.net).

### **BARC Volunteer Exam Sessions**

The Boston Amateur Radio Club offers license exams quarterly. **The next exam session will be on Monday, October 14, 2019.** Test 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:

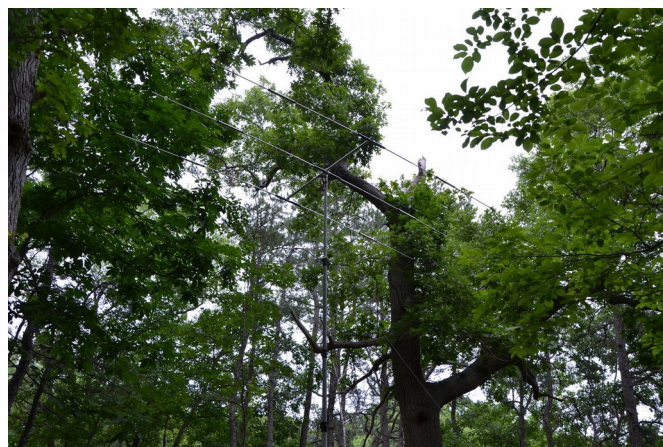
- Your current license and a photocopy for the ARRL, if you are upgrading
- Any CSCEs you are claiming, and a photocopy of them
- Valid picture ID or two valid non-picture IDs
- A pen and a calculator (if you want to)
- **\$15.00** (good for all the tests you take at that session, except for retests)

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



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 New England Spectrum Management Council (NESMC). The Club is also an associate member of the Courage HandiHams system.

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A banner for Hands-Only CPR. On the left is the Ad Council logo. The main text reads "Hands-Only™ CPR" and "Call 911". To the right of the text is a circular icon with a red number "1" and a red smartphone. Further right is another circular icon with a red number "2" and a pair of red hands. To the right of this is the text "Push hard and fast in the center of the chest." and "Learn more at [handsonlycpr.org](http://handsonlycpr.org)". On the far right is the American Heart Association logo with the tagline "Learn and Live".

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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 Newsline)	145.470 (PL 136.5)
Sun 9 pm	CAARAnet	145.130 (PL 107.2)

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