



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

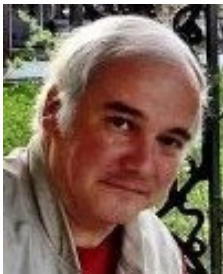
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

October 2019 - VOLUME 31, NUMBER 10

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the Editor – Joe Chapman, NV1W



This will be another short issue of The SPARC thanks to my ongoing vision issues. Thank you again for your understanding and any articles you wish to contribute for the November issue.

For me, Columbus Day has always been the point at which (a) summer is over, and (b) my ability to be in denial over the end of summer is also over. From the operating point of view that's not too bad, since my antenna is a temporary wire dipole on my roof deck. With the lower temperatures and less sun there are few other users of the deck to worry about.

In other news, SKYWARN Recognition Day will be here before you know it. This is the club's second operating event of the year and, unlike Field Day, no mosquitoes have been invited to participate. Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 7!

73 and good radio!

In this Issue of The SPARC

- November Sweepstakes
- Meetings and Events
- Fessenden station photos



BARC General Meeting, Thursday, October 17, 7:30 p.m.

The next BARC General Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 17th at 7:30 p.m. at Brookline Police Headquarters in Brookline. Directions can be found at <http://barc.org/directions-to-brookline-police-headquarters-brookline/>.

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

Simplex: 147.420

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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>.

ARRL Sweepstakes in November – Joe Chapman, NV1W

November is just around the corner, which means it's almost time for the ARRL Sweepstakes, which many regard as either the perfect contest or a holy terror. The CW contest is held on the first full weekend of the month (November 2–4 this year) and SSB on the third full weekend (November 16–18). Sunspot numbers being what they are, 80 and 40 meters should be our friends here on the east coast, and 20 meters is always a workhorse band for everyone.

As of mid-October, predicted Solar Flux for the CW contest is 68. A index is 5 on November 2–3 and 8 on the 4th.



Sweepstakes have their origins in an ARRL “January Contest” which premiered in 1929. The exchange was a message of a minimum of ten words, and the current exchange reflects its messaging origins by following the layout of an ARRL Radiogram header: Serial Number, Precedence (a single character corresponding to the class in which you're entering). Your Call, Check (two digits indicating the year you were first licensed), and ARRL Section. It is, to quote, uh, me, a bear of an exchange, especially for a QRP station.

It has the benefit of being a very popular contest, and for those of us filling in gaps for operating awards, another opportunity to work obscure states.

Complete rules can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>.

Member News – Joe Chapman, NV1W

Send your contributions for this column to Joe Chapman, NV1W, at nv1w@arrl.net.

BARC Meeting Calendar for 2019

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

General Meetings (* Business/General Meetings)

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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Fessenden Station – Joe Chapman, NV1W

Roving SPARC photographer George Kehler, W4BQK, sent these photos of Reginald Fessenden's broadcast antenna (or what's left of it) at Brant Rock in Plymouth. Fessenden (1866–1932) made what is generally regarded as the first radio transmission of music and entertainment for a general audience on the evening of December 24, 1906. Although

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more of his antenna survives than the tower at the Marconi site in Wellfleet, the surroundings today are a touch less scenic.



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.

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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, W1JJE. 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

14 October	BARC VE Session, Brookline Police Headquarters, Brookline, 7:30 pm
17 October	BARC General Meeting, Brookline Police Headquarters, Brookline, 7:30 pm
19–20 October	ARRL EME — 50 to 1296 MHz
20 October	Flea at MIT, Cambridge
21–25 October	ARRL School Club Roundup
2–4 November	ARRL November Sweepstakes, CW
9 November	Deadline for articles for the November SPARC
16–17 November	ARRL EME — 50 to 1296 MHz
16–18 November	ARRL November Sweepstakes, Phone
21 November	BARC General Meeting, Brookline Police Headquarters, Brookline, 7:30 pm

▲ 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>.

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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.

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. 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.

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 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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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 or www.NE1AR.org.



BARC Officers and Staff

President: *(position vacant)*

Vice President: Mark Duff, KB1EKN
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Treasurer: Jim Clogher, N1ICN,
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Linda Blair, NA1I, na1i@arrl.net

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Membership Services: Linda Blair, NA1I
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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 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 Newsline)	145.470 (PL 136.5)
Sun 9 pm	CAARAnet	145.130 (PL 107.2)



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