



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

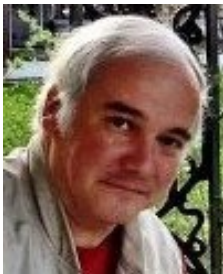
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

March 2020 - VOLUME 32, NUMBER 3

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the Editor – Joe Chapman, NV1W



As an introvert, staying home, avoiding groups of people, and staying six feet away from others is something I've been preparing for my entire life. But for all of us, the entirely sanitary nature of radio communication is something we can responsibly dive into with abandon over the next few months. Though it would sure be nice if the solar flux numbers were more cooperative.

For the past few years I've been working from home, and one of the things I miss is the random social interaction around the coffee machine. (I don't miss the coffee.) I've taken to leaving my HT on while working; sometimes there will be a squawk on .23 about the time I could use a break. I recommend it to those who may be new to this work-from-home thing.

By now everyone will have heard about the decision to postpone the Boston Marathon until September, and I suspect the rest of the spring public service season will see some more cancellations. All the more reason to keep your PTT pushing thumb in shape by talking on one of the BARC repeaters.

73, good radio, and good DX!

In this Issue of The SPARC

- Amateur TV in Boston
- 2020 Meeting Calendar
- Member news
- Upcoming events and non-events



BARC General Meeting, Thursday, April 16, 7:30 p.m.

For logistical reasons we have unfortunately had to cancel the March meeting. The next BARC General Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m. at a location to be determined.

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>.

The BARC Image Section – Doc Kinne, KE1ML

My introduction to radio began in my early teens when I started DXing AM radio stations (although, didn't quite know that's what I was doing back then). I also did some FM DXing to a certain extent, being able to listen to WRVO-FM in Oswego, NY while I lived in Rome, NY. WRVO-FM was situated on the SUNY Oswego campus and listening to this station actually played a part in my going there for college.

I actually auditioned to be on the WRVO-FM team, but somehow no one has ever thought I had a "radio voice" so that didn't work out. I managed to move to WTOP-TV, the campus TV station where I rose in the ranks to become a cameraman, and then Weather Director for the station. It was my introduction to image communications.

Ham radio image communications fall into 3 major categories: FAX, Slow Scan TV, and Fast Scan (Amateur) TV. FAX and Slow Scan TV are somewhat related. They are a low bandwidth static image mode traditionally used on the HF bands, however Slow Scan TV has picked up some activity on the 2-meter band via transmissions from the International Space Station of late.

What I'd like to concentrate on is Fast Scan TV, sometimes called Amateur Television. This is a high bandwidth, non-static image mode. It is meant to model commercial television broadcast standards. As with many amateur radio modes, there are various areas where ATV can be of use. Remember, one of those uses can't be to *broadcast* things. As hams, we transmit from point to point.

Beyond ragchewing contacts, ATV can be used for Emergency or Public Service work. Having a portable ATV station available to transmit back to a base during a weather event, or a public service event such as a parade, could be useful. With the advent of small, lightweight cameras, such things can be put on to balloons or rockets to transmit amazing images back to the ground.

ATV I like to think of as a low-power mode. Nothing about it is intrinsically low power, but the power that it transmits is smeared over a 6MHz bandwidth. Normal base transmit power is usually in the 1–2 watt range coupled with highly directional antennas. Due to this, ATV Base Stations are perfect for repeater operation. In this case people have one frequency to use, and one direction to point their antennas to, to get access to the local ATV community.

Boston and New England used to have an ATV community. A few years ago we had the East Coast Amateur Television club meeting in Melrose. I have not been able to find out if they had a repeater, and my research has shown no ATV repeaters anywhere in New England.

Currently the vast majority of the work in ATV is happening in Britain, and they seem to be concentrating on Digital Amateur Television. In the United States there is a good bit of activity on the West Coast. This seems to be split between vestigial sideband amateur television and the newer digital television modes. Closer to home, the nearest repeaters I was able to find exist in PA and OH. None in New England.



145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC

In my last article I mentioned that one of the many possible ways we might be able to excite BARC would be to find a niche that no one else is using. ATV may be that niche, but of course, it would require a section of the club to be interested.

Are you interested? Are Hams meant to be not only heard, but seen as well? Send me an email at ke1ml@arrl.net. Let's "see" what we can start!

BARC Meeting Calendar for 2020

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

General Meetings (* Business/General Meetings)

April 16	2020	Thu	7:30 pm	<i>[location to be determined]</i>
May 21	2020	Thu	7:30 pm	
June 18*	2020	Thu	7:30 pm	— <i>Elections</i>
September 17*	2020	Thu	7:30 pm	
October 15	2020	Thu	7:30 pm	
November 19	2020	Thu	7:30 pm	

VE Sessions

April 13	2020	Mon	7:30 pm
July 13	2020	Mon	7:30 pm
October 12	2020	Mon	7:30 pm

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 **June 18, 2020** 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.

Member News – Joe Chapman, NV1W

The membership renewal discount for 2020 ended on January 31. 2019 memberships are still in a grace period until the end of March.

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.

The SPARC

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

28–29 March	CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB
31 March	End of the grace period for 2020 membership renewals
4 April	Deadline for articles for the April SPARC
4 April	Seacoast Amateur Radio Flea Market, Hampton, NH
13 April	BARC VE Session, Brookline Police Headquarters, Brookline, 7:30 pm
16 April	BARC General Meeting, Location to be determined, 7:30 pm ▲
19 April	Flea at MIT, Cambridge
19 April	ARRL Rookie Roundup — Phone

▲ 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

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC

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 April issue must be received by April 4.

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 April 13, 2020.** 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, or Linda Blair, NA1I, 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 or www.NE1AR.org.



145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC

BARC Officers and Staff

President: (*position vacant*)

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

The SPARC is published monthly by the Boston Amateur Radio Club. The design and content are Copyright 2020, all rights reserved. Permission is hereby granted to reprint or distribute by electronic or other means any material herein, provided this publication and the issue date are credited. Such permission is limited to use for non-commercial purposes for the benefit of the Amateur Radio community. Permission for other purposes must be obtained in writing.

A horizontal banner with a teal background. On the left is the American Heart Association logo. The main text reads: "Hands-Only™ CPR Call 911 Push hard and fast in the center of the chest. Learn more at handsonlycpr.org". There are two circular icons: one with a red number '1' and a red smartphone, and another with a red number '2' and two red hands. On the right is the American Heart Association logo with the tagline "Learn and Live".

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC

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 8 pm	Sci-Tech Amateur Radio Society (STARS) 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)

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1