



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

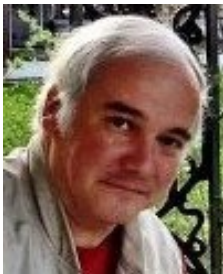
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

July 2020 - VOLUME 32, NUMBER 7

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the Editor – Joe Chapman, NV1W



I am in the process of handing the editorship of The SPARC over to our new Secretary, Doc, KE1ML, and this issue marks the end of my participation in BARC as an officer. I have held an elected office in the club since being elected President in 2012. As someone who was thrown into the deep end of the pool myself at a BARC election, I extend my best wishes to our new Vice President, Morgan, KB1ZFP, and the 2020–2021 Executive Committee.

Our June meeting via Zoom had 19 attendees, including some long-distance members who would not have been able to make it to a normal meeting. Among those attending were eight past Presidents, our earliest member and founding President Bob, WA1IDA, and a few of our newest members as well.

My BARC steno notebook has 5 pages left out of 80, and I am out of the 100 correspondence cards I bought to send thank-yous when I became President. Over the years there have been many in and out of the club whom I have had the pleasant duty to have to thank for their support of BARC. In this forum I especially want to say that I have been grateful for your contributions to The SPARC over the past five years.

73 ES QRT NV1W.

In this Issue of The SPARC

- Training for traffic handling
- Minutes of the June meeting
- Member news
- Upcoming events and non-events



BARC General Meeting, Thursday, July 16, 7:30 pm

BARC will be holding a General Meeting on Thursday, July 16, at 7:30 p.m. on the Zoom teleconferencing platform. Larry Banks, W1DYJ, will be presenting “A Quick Tour of FT8”.

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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>.

New Traffic Handler Training Program – Peter Doherty, KC1HHO

The Eastern Massachusetts 2 Meter Traffic Net (EM2MN), an official net of the ARRL/National Traffic System (NTS), is actively seeking additional stations to become involved with traffic handling. For those of you not familiar with the EM2MN, we meet on the 145.230 MHz W1BOS Repeater every day at 2000 hours local time. We pass formal written traffic into and out of the Eastern Massachusetts coverage area of the Repeater.

My name is Peter Doherty, KC1HHO, and I am the manager of this net. The traffic net is open to all licensed amateur radio stations and is a great opportunity to operate on a regular or daily basis.

A proactive approach to getting new licensees and established stations involved has recently been implemented.

The creation of training radiograms for new traffic relay stations that want to learn about the correct procedures and practices involved with traffic handling is now integrated into the normal passing of official traffic during every net. This is something that has never really been done in the past and in its infancy has attracted a few new stations already.

The training radiograms are simply trivia questions that a new relay station would copy and eventually answer via radiogram to the station they received it from during the net a day or two later. They are simple, fun and most are very short. Using this process you will be able to understand and use the important procedures, phrases, and techniques that are essential to proper handling of radiogram traffic. Reciting the written contents of a radiogram is a serious endeavor. Radiograms are to be delivered to the recipients exactly as they are written and recited. The fine nuances of the proper way to copy and create and read radiograms over the air can often be intimidating and not something that at first appearance seems to be enjoyable. But if you learn to understand and appreciate the practices and methods involved you will realize that having this skill will make your amateur radio hobby experience more enjoyable and rewarding. Using trivia for these training radiograms the student traffic handler will be able to learn about and experience the actual methods without fear of making mistakes that could be detrimental. This training program is intended to attract operators that want to utilize their stations for public service and at the same time get an enjoyable experience from the hobby.



Traffic handling, of course, is not for everyone, but the person who decides that is you. We are here for all amateur stations and are committed to teaching this important service of amateur radio to any operator that wants to get involved. The first step you can take is tune in and listen for a few days, then check in and introduce yourself to the group. If you want to get involved you'll be advised as to what websites can give you reading material that further explains the program and soon after that you'll be able to check in "requesting training". If you determine traffic handling isn't for you, no matter, you are still welcome to check in and participate.

To become proficient and adequately knowledgeable about the NTS takes a few months of regular attendance and upon the recommendations of the Net Manager the Section Traffic Manager will appoint you as an Official Relay Station. The future could also hold Net Control Station duties. Again, only you can decide.

With all the things you can do with ham radio—contesting, APRS, RTTY, FT8, HF, CW, ragchewing, WIRES-X, DMR (I'm certain to have missed a lot of modes)—NTS traffic handling has stiff competition for your allotted radio

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time. With the new training program underway getting involved with NTS is easier and more understandable than ever before. Please join us. For more information contact Peter, KC1HHO, at KC1HHO@arrl.net.

Minutes of the June 2020 General Meeting – Joe Chapman, NV1W

A General Meeting of the Boston Amateur Radio Club was held on Thursday, June 18, on the Zoom teleconferencing platform with the following persons in attendance: K1BTH, K1SU, K8BA, K9HI, KB1EKN, KB1P, KB1TIC, KB1ZFP, KC1NEF, KE1ML, KK6QYO, N1LFG, N1QD, NA1I, NV1W, W1JJE, WA1IDA, WB1EMS, and Steven Provost. This meeting was the annual elections meeting.

Introductions were started by Secretary Joe Chapman, NV1W, at 7:35 p.m. after which the meeting was called to order by Vice President Mark Duff, KB1EKN.

Following a period of nominations from the floor, the following members were elected as officers: Vice President Morgan Johnstone, KB1ZFP; Secretary Richard “Doc” Kinne, KE1ML; Treasurer Jim Clogher, N1ICN. The position of President remains vacant.

A discussion was held about SKYWARN Recognition Day in December. This event is currently up in the air due to both the pandemic and a new amateur radio club having been formed at the Great Blue Hill Observatory. Mark, KB1EKN, observed that the event requires a lot of time to set up and take down in potentially cold weather, and that the timing for setup (Friday) is not convenient for people who work regular hours. He also noted that we are only able to operate for about five hours on Saturday.

Phil, K9HI, reported on the state of remote VE testing, and described the procedures the Sci-Tech testing team in Natick is using to ensure the integrity of the testing process. He directed those interested to the websites hamstudy.org and examtools.org. Linda, NA1I, stated that the BARC VE team does not intend to offer remote tests at this time.

A discussion was held about the Holiday Party. Blake, K1BTH, offered to coordinate the party once again this year. A motion to hold the party on Sunday, January 3, 2021 at 1:00 at The Stockyard restaurant was made and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m. EDT.

— *Respectfully submitted, Joseph Chapman NV1W, Secretary 2015–2020*

Back Issues of the SPARC – Joe Chapman, NV1W

Jim Walsh, N1DDU, the club’s first treasurer, has a collection of paper copies of *The SPARC* from Volume 1, #3 (July 1989) through Volume 17, #3 (February 2005). He reports that some issues are doubtless missing but not many. As he and Mrs N1DDU are downsizing and moving, he needs to find them a new home. They are available for the taking.

Contact Jim at jjw426@aol.com if you are interested. Since the earliest issue the club has is March, 1996, it would be nice to scan the older ones for the club archives, which I would be willing to do.

QSL de W1BOS – Joe Chapman, NV1W

Well, I’ve never been happy with the club’s policy of not responding to paper QSLs for Field Day contacts. I’ve grumbled many times about the fact that I’ve made several QSOs with residents of a certain potato-oriented state that I need for WAS and none of them have confirmed the contact, and it’s especially galling when I make the request by sending a QSL card with a stamped return envelope.

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So, as one of my last acts as Secretary, I am donating 100 QSL cards to the club, and have cleared out the backlog to the best of my ability. (Our Logbook of the World accounts will soon be up-to-date as well.) I've reviewed Randy, KB3IFH's, QSL service before (summary: simply the best) and here's his work for us:



BARC Meeting Calendar for 2020

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

General Meetings (* Business/General Meetings)

July 16	2020	Thu	7:30 pm	<i>"A Quick Tour of FT8" — via Zoom</i>
September 17*	2020	Thu	7:30 pm	
October 15	2020	Thu	7:30 pm	
November 19	2020	Thu	7:30 pm	

VE Sessions

October 12	2020	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 17, 2020** at Brookline Police

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Headquarters or on the Zoom platform. 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 Doc Kinne, KE1ML.

July Meeting Update – Morgan Johnstone, KB1ZFP

This month we are having a social meeting on July 16th at 19:30 via Zoom. We will have a guest speaker, Larry Banks, W1DYJ. Larry will giving us “A Quick Tour of FT8.” Larry’s QTH is Maine and we are very excited that he is willing to give this presentation.

This Zoom meeting will be handled like our previous Zoom meeting with the meeting number and password coming to your email the afternoon of the meeting. We’d like to thank Phil Temples and the EMA section for the use of their Zoom meeting room.

We hope to see you all there.

Member News – Joe Chapman, NV1W

Congratulations to Brendan Baldonado, KC1NEF, of East Boston on his new Technician license!

Welcome to Christopher Kelly, KC1BZK, of Quincy, and welcome back to Tom McGee, KA1TOX, who was an active BARC member in the 1990s.

Field Day 2020 – Joe Chapman, NV1W

Field Day has come and gone. I’ve heard from Joe, N1QD, who was 2D with his father up in New Hampshire, and Harry, WA1GXC, who was 1D in Rhode Island. I operated 1E QRP from my urban Boston QTH, and managed to snag 36 contacts before thunderstorms and a low battery forced me off the air.

Remember that the deadline for submitting Field Day logs is Tuesday, July 28, 2020. There will be a drop-down on the web form for the club name; select “Boston ARC” to add your points to BARC’s total. This doesn’t change your point total or standing in the results.

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.

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[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

11–12 July	IARU HF World Championship
16 July	BARC General Meeting, 7:30 pm, Zoom teleconferencing platform ▲
18–19 July	North American QSO Party, RTTY
28 July	Deadline for submitting Field Day logs
1–2 August	ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest
8 August	Deadline for items for the August SPARC
15–16 August	ARRL 10 GHz & Up — Round 1
16 August	ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY

▲ Note change from usual date and/or location

Before going to any event over the next few months, please confirm that the event will take place and what the hours are.

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 Doc Kinne, KE1ML, at 617.297.2718 or kinnerc@gmail.com.

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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, Doc, KE1ML, at kinnerc@gmail.com. Articles for the August issue must be received by August 8.

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 Doc Kinne, KE1ML, kinnerc@gmail.com.

BARC Volunteer Exam Sessions

The Boston Amateur Radio Club offers license exams quarterly. **Due to uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the next test session is to be announced.** 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.



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BARC Officers and Staff

President: *(position vacant)*

Vice President: Morgan Johnstone, KB1ZFP
857.287.9586; morganjohnstone87@gmail.com

Secretary: Doc Kinne, KE1ML
617.297.2718; kinnerc@gmail.com

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: Doc Kinne, KE1ML
617.297.2718; kinnerc@gmail.com

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 5 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 Newslines)	145.470 (PL 136.5)
Sun 9 pm	CAARAnet	145.130 (PL 107.2)

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