



# **The SPARC**

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

*Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club*

**Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area**

August 2020 - VOLUME 32, NUMBER 8

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



## **Message from the Editor – Doc Kinne, KE1ML**



“Would you look at the size of these shoes?!?!”

Yes, you would think that those may have been my first words upon taking over the SPARC from Joe. And in some way they probably were. Fortunately, Joe and I have similar software philosophies, and if I have experience in almost anything, it's newsletter production. In the mid-90s I was the writer and publisher for an 8-run science fiction magazine. Later in the 90s, for a couple of years, I was the editor for a small philosophical quarterly magazine. Finally, in the first decade of this century, I was the editor and designer for the MA State Chess magazine for a year. And all of those were done via the old saddle-stitch

physical method, so the SPARC should be easier. But no less important!

In a lot of interesting ways, I'm conservative, although most of my friends would be shocked to hear me say that. I'm conservative in the way that means I take a hard look at what has been done before, and then make changes as I understand the past. Joe, honestly, has done a great job with the SPARC over the last 5+ years and has given me a magnificent foundation to build on.

So, strap in, folks! Let's see what happens!

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

- 2020 QSO Today Virtual Expo
- Website & Club Infrastructure News
- What Did You Miss at the July meeting?
- BARC Meeting Calendar
- August Meeting Update



## **BARC General Meeting, Thursday, August 20, 7:30 pm**

BARC will be holding a General Meeting on Thursday, August 20, at 7:30 p.m. on the Zoom teleconferencing platform. Bruce Blaine, K1BG, will be giving a presentation on amateur radio licensing.

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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>.

### **2020 QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo – Steven Provost**

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 7th-9th, there was a huge Ham Expo with numerous attendees. This was held by many sponsors at a virtual online convention center. There were background scenes of the Arizona desert, and live Avatars walking around entering different rooms, talking to each other.



When you entered the virtual convention center and turned left, you'd be in the auditorium where many presentations were held for the three days. Here is a small sample of some of the ongoing discussions that were held:

Keynote: COVID-19: Amateur Radio's Impact On Problem Solving To Create A Global Response To The Pandemic - Dr. Scott Wright, K0MD  
How to Solder - Steve Johnston, WD8DAS  
VP6R 160 Meters: Mutiny on the Bands! - Glenn Johnson, W0GJ  
GPS Today - John Ackermann, N8UR  
ARKnet Wireless Emergency Intranet - Marcel Stieber, AI6MS  
The History of Heath Company, the G.I. Bill, and Economics of Restoration - Paul Topolski, W1SEX  
RFinder BT1 HT Radio  
The Slot Antenna: Undiscovered Country for Most Hams - John Portune, W6NBC  
From Rotators to Baluns, What's New At DX Engineering - Tim Duffy K3LR  
Get Active! Get On The Air! - Don Keith, N4KC

If you turned right, in the Exhibit hall there were different companies present their equipment.

#### Exhibitors List:

- 100 Watt and a wire
- ABR Industries
- Alexloop Electronics Eirele
- ARRL- **the national association for Amateur Radio**
- Art for Shacks
- Begali keys-i2rtf- Italy
- Bioenno power
- Connect systems Inc.
- Dipoles USA.com

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- Dx Engineering
- Expert linears
- Fastrack to your ham radio License
- Flexradio
- GigaParts
- GigaParts- Authorized Icom Dealer
- GigaParts- Authorized M&P

I attended two interesting discussions in the Auditorium setting:

1: Grounding antenna techniques for safety.

2: Beginner's discussion on getting on the air.

I also attended a YouTube/Zoom channel gathering space/lounge. It was basically people who had YouTube channels and were Ham Radio operators. One of the groups was Ham Radio 2.0

I stepped in to thank them for those who are new to the Amateur Radio world. All in all, I had a great time, too bad this particular event only runs once a year. But next year, make sure you save the dates:

***March 13-14 2021 the QSO Today Ham Expo.***

## **Website and Club Infrastructure News – Morgan Johnstone, KB1ZFP**



The website has gotten some upgrades in the last month. One of the things I wanted to enhance when I joined the club was work on BARC's social media. These days people connect by social media. So if BARC is to exist in modern America we needed to improve this.

While the website might look largely the same, a lot of work has been done in the background. We upgraded the program the website runs on to the current version. This allowed us to put more functionality in. Probably the best change we made was that, now when a post is made to the website, it is automatically put on both

Facebook and Twitter!

We also started taking advantage of the club's non-profit status. This allowed us to get a security encryption certificate for the website. This was *very important* because web browsers are being configured today so that they sometimes won't even go to websites if they don't have encryption certificates. It allowed us to get some software for the website that will help us know how many people are coming to the website and a little bit about who they are. Finally, we joined the "Amazon Smile" program that allows people to freely donate to their favorite non-profit while shopping at Amazon.com. Donations will go directly into our banking account!

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### **What Did You Miss at the July 2020 General Meeting? – Doc Kinne, KE1ML**

A Meeting of the Boston Amateur Radio Club was held on Thursday, July 16, on the Zoom teleconferencing platform. Many thanks to Phil Temples, K9HI, for facilitating that!

For the first time in a long time, BARC had a speaker at one of their meetings. Charles Bures, WA3ITR, gave a very detailed presentation on WSPR – the Weak Signal Propagation Reporter. The last time I was active on HF this mode didn't even exist, so from a personal standpoint, this was a very educational presentation. While WSPR seems to be mainly used on HF for propagation studies, I asked if there was any reason why it couldn't be used, or wasn't being used, on the VHF and UHF bands. There is no reason I could think of that it couldn't be, and Charles confirmed this.

The July Zoom meeting attracted nearly 20 people, including a couple of folks that haven't been to a meeting in years and some for whom it is now geographically impossible. Even after COVID is over, we're trying to see if a Zoom portion of the meeting might continue as part of our physical meetings. Many organizations are seeing an increase in attendance in their meetings because Zoom eliminates the geographical barrier and are looking to integrate Zoom meetings into their regular, physical meetings. We'll see how this plays out.

### **BARC Meeting Calendar for 2020**

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

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

August 20	2020	Thu	7:30 pm
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*“Entry Level Licensing:*

*What's Worked and What Hasn't – via Zoom*

September 17*	2020	Thu	7:30 pm
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October 15	2020	Thu	7:30 pm
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November 19	2020	Thu	7:30 pm
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#### **VE Sessions**

October 12	2020	Mon	7:30 pm
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### **August Meeting Update – Morgan Johnstone, KB1ZFP**

This month we are having a social meeting on August 20<sup>th</sup> at 19:30 via Zoom. We will have a guest speaker, Bruce Blain, K1BG. Bruce will giving us a presentation on the state of amateur radio licensing.

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.

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### **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 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**

15–16 August	ARRL 10 GHz & Up — Round 1
16 August	ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY
<b>20 August</b>	<b>BARC General Meeting, 7:30 pm, Zoom teleconferencing platform ▲</b>
16 August	ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY
6 September	Deadline for SPARC article submission
12-14 September	ARRL September VHF Contest

#### **▲ 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>.

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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 Doc Kinne, KE1ML, at 617.297.2718 or [kinnerc@gmail.com](mailto:kinnerc@gmail.com).

### **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](mailto:kinnerc@gmail.com). Articles for the September issue must be received by September 6.

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](mailto:kinnerc@gmail.com).

### **BARC Volunteer Exam Sessions**

The Boston Amateur Radio Club usually offers license exams quarterly. **Due to uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the next test session is yet 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](mailto:n1icn@arrl.net), or Linda Blair, NA1I, [na1i@arrl.net](mailto: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](http://www.NESciTech.org) or [www.NE1AR.org](http://www.NE1AR.org).



### **BARC Officers and Staff**

President: (*position vacant*)

Vice President: Morgan Johnstone, KB1ZFP  
857.287.9586; [morganjohnstone87@gmail.com](mailto:morganjohnstone87@gmail.com)

Secretary: Doc Kinne, KE1ML  
617.297.2718; [kinnerc@gmail.com](mailto:kinnerc@gmail.com)

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)  
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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)

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617.297.2718; [kinnerc@gmail.com](mailto: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 Newsline)	145.470 (PL 136.5)
Sun 9 pm	CAARAnet	145.130 (PL 107.2)



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