



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area
September 2020 - VOLUME 32, NUMBER 10
www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the Editor – Doc Kinne, KE1ML



It's funny – in a dark way, of course – looking back seven or so months ago. COVID had just really come into the public consciousness, and most of us thought that this would be an interesting blip in our lives. A few weeks after that, the world largely came to a halt. Nothing like this had ever happened before, and there were many of us who thought this would work itself out inside of a month. Why wouldn't we think that? Nothing even close had ever happened in a century in the United States.

But, as we all know by now, it didn't end in a month. It continued, and as I write this it is widely thought that we are just beginning the Second Wave. No one really knows what that will mean, and we'll largely have to take it by ear along with everyone else. Frankly, as leadership, we're probably erring on the side of caution given our population.

As a body, Amateur Radio has come through this crisis in flying colors. We were primed for it, granted, but we took advantage of it well. From my personal experience, traffic nets are up, and programs like Summits on the Air and Parks on the Air have seen a resurgence this summer both here and in the UK.

BARC also has experienced a small revival during this crisis. Our public face has increased. Our meeting numbers and attendance has both increased in quantity and quality as well, with our members and friends taking advantage of the virtual meetings and our guest speakers during this period. Our conversations during those meetings have been fruitful as well.

While I refuse to believe that what we're going through now is the "new normal," I also think we have at least a half year before we start to see the end of the tunnel we're in. From what I've seen, both Amateur Radio, and BARC have been bright lights in a difficult period. We should be proud.

In this Issue of The SPARC

- Train Watching
- What Did You Miss at the Sept Meeting?
- Local BARC Member Makes Good!
- General Radio News From Around the Net
- NE Division Convention Comes Online
- BARC Meeting Calendar



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

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC

BARC General Meeting, Thursday, October 15, 7:30 pm

BARC will be holding a General Meeting on Thursday, October 15, at 7:30 p.m. on the Zoom teleconferencing platform. Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, President of the Nashua Amateur Radio Society, will be talking to us about “The Road to Club of the Year.”

To join the Zoom meeting above go to:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4717136258?pwd=ZjRLam1ZV1kwVlF6TmZPQ2Vibis5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 471 713 6258 Password: BARC

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>.

Train Watching With My Anytone 878UV - Steven Provost



I bought my Anytone DMR radio from Bridgecomm Systems a few months ago and have been trying to find a way to use it not only as an Amateur radio but also a general scanner.

To listen to Commuter Rail and railroad freight companies, the first thing I tried to do was enter the frequencies into the programming software. When I typed them in I put the railroad frequency (example 160.800MHz) into both of the transmit and receive side of the programming software. When I first tried this, I didn't receive any signals from any of the frequencies I had programmed into the software. I asked some people who I thought might be able to help me, and watched a few YouTube videos. This research indicated that I needed to have an analog setting, with low power, at 25K bandwidth, and both CTSS

tones, decode and encode turned off. Next, I deleted the old frequencies from the channel list in the software and started with the frequencies of the Association of American Railroads.

First I typed in the Channel Name has AAR # <number>, then type in the frequency. This should be a frequency in the 160MHz band because that's where all of the railroad communications take place in the US. I punched the frequency into the receiving side of the software, and left the transmit side set at a default of 440.000MHz because we wouldn't be transmitting. To make sure of that, I set a check mark for the “Transmit Prohibit” setting of the software.

Next I set the channel up as an analog signal with low power. The bandwidth was set for 25K. With all that done, I made sure to save my work by hitting ALT-O. I then went to the settings on the Anytone 878uv radio and went to the

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC

menu button. Once on the main menu, I scrolled down to the radio's scan function. I hit the select button on the scan menu to turn on the scan, and let the radio run through the channels for some time to make sure I had entered the frequencies correctly. If everything was done correctly I expected to hear some railroad talk on any one of the 100 frequencies the American Association of Railroads use. Success!

Now with everything setup in my Anytone DMR radio I can listen to Train Crews, and their internal communications. I can hear conductors, trainmen, engineers, firefighters, passenger train crew members, Chief of On-Board Services, stewards, dining car attendants, kitchen staff, attendants and more! I can go to any place in the United States and listen to the trains, one of my other favorite hobbies.

If you enjoy trains as much as I do, you can follow the steps above and set up your radio to help you enjoy the railroad hobby. I hope to see you track side someday. A Police scanner or a two-way radio with the needed frequencies set up is one of the important tools to have with you when you are track side!

A word of caution - never stand too close to the tracks. Stand back about 10 feet or more from the tracks for your safety. Lastly take only pictures, and leave only your footprints in the sand.

Railroad frequencies used in the United States to program into your radio can be found here:
<https://www.radioreference.com/apps/db/?aid=7747>.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at 857-990-8549, or email me at stevenprovost570@gmail.com.

Member News – Doc Kinne, KE1ML

Send your contributions for this column to Doc Kinne, KE1ML, at ke1ml@arrl.net.

What Did You Miss at the September 2020 General Meeting? – Doc Kinne, KE1ML

A Meeting of the Boston Amateur Radio Club was held on Thursday, September 17, on the Zoom teleconferencing platform.

This was a well attended business meeting. Originally it was only supposed to be a short 45 minutes or so, but we had an active discussion regarding what we've done and what we may be able to do in the next few months.

Local BARC Member Makes Good! – Doc Kinne, KE1ML

It really is wonderful when one of our local club members is recognized for the good work they're doing for Amateur Radio. Interestingly enough, usually that recognition comes in the form of more work.

Late last month Phil Temples, K9HI, was appointed the New England Division Vice Director by League President Rick Roderick, K5UR. The position of Division Vice Director became vacant when Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF, was elected at ARRL First Vice President. Roderick, after consulting New England Director Fred Hopengarten, K1VR, and the Division's Section Managers, made the appointment. Tom Walsh, K1TW, E. MA Section Manager, mentioned that support for Fred was unanimous.



The SPARC

K9HI's CV is long and distinguished. He is an ARRL Life Member having been licensed for 50 years now. As a writer, he has written for QST, the League, and co-authored one of the Amateur Radio Public Service Handbook chapters.

Phil has been very active politically within Amateur Radio as well. He served for three terms as EMA Section Manager (and, in fact, was my first Section Manager when I first moved to the Section years ago). Currently is an EMA Asst. Section Manager, as well as an Assistant New England Division Director.

K9HI's station holds ARRL Field appointments as both a Public Information Officer and Affiliated Club Coordinator. He remains active in both roles, and has specifically benefited BARC in those jobs. Finally, Phil is currently chairing the Program Committee for the New England Division Convention during the most atypical time in our history.

Phil is also active in traffic handling. When his appointment as Vice Division Director was announced traffic circuits throughout the country lit up as messages of congratulations funneled to Watertown, MA. I had the privilege of delivering several of these messages.

BARC wishes the best for Phil Temples, K9HI, and look forward to the great things he has planned for the future!

General Radio News From Around the Net – *Doc Kinne, KE1ML*

- New England Sci-Tech is doing an online Amateur Extra Course, including the exam, between October 18-December 6. Details can be found here: <https://nescitech.org/product-category/courses/amateur-radio/>
- The Department of Defense is holding an exercise with Amateur Radio participation until October 26th. Every day at noon, local time, there will be a net on 5.3305MHz USB for amateur checkins. The NCS will ask for your callsign, city, and state.
- New England Sci-Tech will be doing two online General Class Courses, including the exam, between October 24-25, and October 26-29. Details can be found here: <https://nescitech.org/product-category/courses/amateur-radio/>
- Ham Radio Outlet in Salem (the Candy Store!) has reopened for foot traffic! Mask use in the store is mandatory. More information can be found here: <https://www.hamradio.com/locations.cfm?storeid=9>

The Virtual New England Division Convention Comes Online – *Doc Kinne, KE1ML*



While we hams do particularly well with social distancing, we still like to gather and put a face to a callsign. For me, at least, it's always a great surprise to have to rectify the actual face to

the face I've imagined after hearing someone over the air for a good while.

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC

This year the New England Division Convention has had to deal with blow after blow. It started the year off well by announcing a new venue in January when it would be held in late July. Little did anyone know at that point what the future held.

On April 10th the announcement was made that the Convention would be delayed until early November. On August 1st, the Convention was canceled entirely. It would turn out, though, the New England Division Convention was down, but it was not out!

Starting on October 10th and extending for more than a month, the New England Division Convention will be online! The New England ARES Academy will run from October 10th to the 31st. This academy will offer five Basic Tracks for those just getting started in Emergency Communication, and more advanced classes for those who are already familiar with the basics. Topics such as Go Kits, hardening your station or repeater, and working with served agencies, will be offered. One hour sessions will be held weeknights between 7:30 and 8:30PM. Two one hour workshops will be held Saturday mornings between 9:00 and 11:00AM. The NE ARES Academy is *free*.



W1A will return to the air between 6 and 8 November and *your station* could be one holding that callsign. Again, this is a free activity, requiring only a sign up at <https://hamxposition.org/>.

Things will finally come to a head on the 7th of November. The day will start out with the famous Nashua Area Radio Society Ham Bootcamp via Zoom. Created largely for newly licensed Technicians and General operators, some of the offerings such as, "Radio Programming Tutorials," "Getting Started With EchoLink," and "Getting Started with WSJT-X and FT8 Digital" will appeal to some of us who have been amateurs for decades. This free event will happen, again, on the 7th of November from 10:00AM to 6:00PM.

Finally, what would a major ham convention be without a Banquet? OK, things have to be a good deal different this year, granted. This year, it's BYOF – Bring Your Own Food – and then, much like the radio operators of old, we will all gather together by our computer monitors for a presentation by Gordon West, WB6NOA.

And, of course, we have to have prizes, right? Right! With thanks to the Minuteman Repeater Association, the banquet will be giving away a Kenwood TM-V71A Transceiver, an Astron Power Supply, and a dual band mobile antenna.

For more information, and the *very important* signups, go to <https://hamxposition.org/>. We hope to see you all at the Virtual New England Division Convention!

The SPARC

BARC Meeting Calendar for 2020

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

General Meetings (* Business/General Meetings)

October 15	2020	Thu	7:30 pm via Zoom.
November 19	2020	Thu	7:30 pm

VE Sessions

None scheduled at this time.

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 October	BARC General Meeting, 7:30PM, Zoom teleconferencing platform ▲
19-23 October	ARRL School Roundup
6-8 November	Virtual New England Division Convention
7-9 November	November Sweepstakes - CW
8 November	SPARC Article Deadline

▲ 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>.

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC

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.

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 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.

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.

The SPARC

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

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: 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.

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.

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 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)

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1