



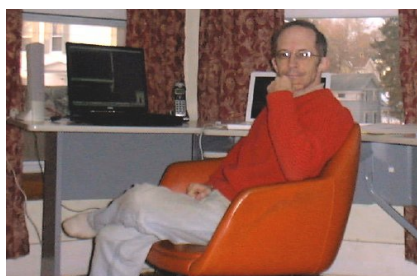
# **The SPARC**

**Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century**  
*Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club*  
**Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area**  
November 2020 - VOLUME 32, NUMBER 11  
[www.barc.org](http://www.barc.org) - [w1bos@arrl.net](mailto:w1bos@arrl.net)



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



I'll be honest, this last month has been quite busy for me with both medical appointments and trying to keep up with my new teaching schedule. There hasn't been the time or energy that I'd normally be devoting to radio.

This speaks to the fact that "it takes a village" to run a good club. When done this way, no one person does a lot of things, but a lot of people do a lot of small, important things. We have all heard over the past year (that seems like a decade, of course!) about "flattening the curve." Well, we can work on "flattening the work curve" for the club as well.

That's not to say we do a bad job at this. We have people who have wonderfully stepped in and stepped up to handle certain club events, such as the Holiday Party, for a good while, and they are very much appreciated.

In the "honestly, I'm not trying to be self-serving" department, one of the simpler things you can do – but one that I think makes a difference that people notice – is contributing to the SPARC. Steven showed us last month that you don't even need call letters by your name to contribute a fresh perspective! Amateur Radio is so huge that many, many things can be covered.

To some extent, it doesn't really matter if it's been covered before. Our membership and readership are constantly changing and evolving. Radio is constantly changing and evolving. So, writing about something that you do, or that interests you, is still valuable even if you see that it was done a year ago. Something about the subject is undoubtedly new, or new eyes will be reading it this time!

From a personal perspective (not even, really, as an editor), I'd like to see somethings written for the SPARC on such subjects as DMR, WIRES, and APRS. These are modes that I've either not gotten into heavily (or at all!), or didn't even exist when I was last heavily on the air as N2IKR. Even things you consider simple and elementary, such as how you effectively operate HF in an apartment building, could be revolutionary to some people and actually make a difference for them getting on the air.

I can take articles at any time, certainly, and I also want to make sure people are not shy about this type of contribution. Yes, you may be a better engineer than you are a writer (most engineers and scientists are in my experience, in fact), but then it's my job to make sure you look good.

Write for *your* SPARC. Your words, in a like manner to when you hit your transmit key, may go further than you'd ever realize!

## ***The SPARC***

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

- What Did You Miss at the Oct Meeting?
- BARC Member Activates Park on the Air
- Shake, Rattle, and Roll!
- General Radio News From Around the Net
- BARC Meeting Calendar



### **BARC General Meeting, Thursday, November 19, 7:30 pm**

BARC will be holding a General Meeting on Thursday, November 19, at 7:30 p.m. on the Zoom teleconferencing platform. Phil Temples, K9HI, will be giving us an update on ARRL issues. KB1ZFP will be talking about possible new membership options, and an update to our website.

To join the Zoom meeting above go to:

<https://zoom.us/j/95380084800?pwd=STIPQmE3ZnRDd0x5M00rMjB0OGcvZz09>

Meeting ID: 953 8008 4800      Password: BARC

### **BARC's Online Discussion Group – Joe Harris, N1QD**



BARC has an online forum at Groups.io. The 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: <https://groups.io/g/BostonARC>. You can join, if you're not already there, by sending an email to "[BostonARC+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:BostonARC+subscribe@groups.io)."

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

A Meeting of the Boston Amateur Radio Club was held on Thursday, October 15, on the Zoom teleconferencing platform.

Our featured speaker in October was Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, who gave a very detailed presentation on the Nashua Amateur Radio Society's journey toward "Club of the Year."

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### **BARC Member Activates Bunker Hill Monument as a Park On the Air**

**– Doc Kinne, KE1ML**



There are many different ways of doing amateur radio, of course. One of the time-tested methods, however, is taking a portable setup (for various values of portable!) into the field and transmitting from unusual sites. The Grand Dame of these activities, obviously, is the DXpedition, but many of us need to look smaller than that. In these cases, smaller never means less!

There are many “On the Air” programs. The RSGB has its famous “Islands on the Air” program. What many people may not be aware of is that the United States has a similar program, the “United States Islands Awards Program.” There are other programs dedicated to lighthouses, hills...and parks.

“Parks on the Air” is a worldwide program based in the US. It’s purpose is to have amateur radio operators “activate” and operate from specific national parks. The activity is divided between activators and “hunters,” the people who contact the activators. Both groups can qualify for awards.

In order to activate a park, an amateur radio operator needs to get at least 10 contacts from the site. On 21 October 2020, BARC member Brendan Baldonado, KC1NEF, at that time a newly licensed Technician, attempted to activate Bunker Hill National Monument before his scheduled General Class exam. This meant activating the park, and getting at least 10 contacts, on 10m, VHF, and UHF frequencies.

He did it! KC1HHO was the contact, on 2m, that pushed Brendan over the edge for this needed ten contacts. This writer had the pleasure of a contact as well, his first for the Parks on the Air program. He looks forward to future contacts, and we look forward to an article from Brendan giving more details on this achievement!



### **Shake, Rattle, and Roll! Hams React to Local Earthquake**

**– Doc Kinne, KE1ML, et. al.**

The morning of November 8<sup>th</sup> started with a bit of a roll for New England. A 3.6 magnitude earthquake (originally reported to be closer to 4.0) took place near Dartmouth, MA at 9:10:06 ET that morning. The epicenter was 11km south of Bliss Corner and 10km underground.

The Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association runs the only Netquakes seismograph still operating in New England at its club shack in Gloucester. The seismograph recorded the data shown below.

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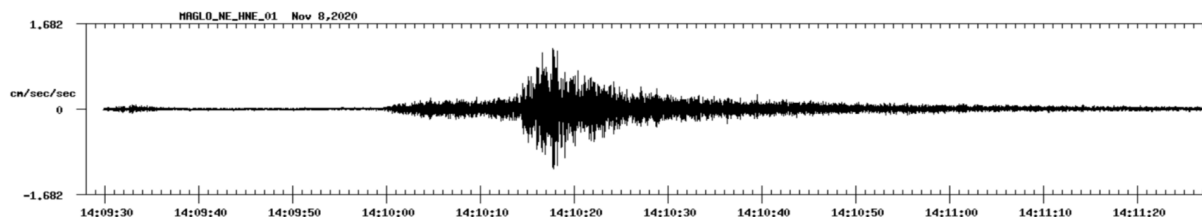
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### **NetQuakes Data**

**MAGLO\_NE\_01 – Stanwood St., Gloucester, MA**

Nov 8, 2020 14:09:28 UTC



EMA Emergency Coordinator Rob Macedo, KD1CY, felt the earthquake at his home while he was checked into the New England Phone Net on 3.945MHz. Rob checked in with one of the RI Skywarn Coordinators, John Buco, N1EGS and they found that, indeed, an earthquake had occurred that registered on the USGS website. Macedo immediately requested data on who felt the earthquake from participants on the New England Phone Net.

Mike Leger, N1YLQ, ARES DEC and Region 2 RACES Radio Officer suggested formally activating an ARES Net on the 147.0MHz Dartmouth Repeater, which was done. Eleven stations checked into the net, which ran for 2 hours. Three confirmed damage reports to home chimney areas near gas mains were reported and relayed leading to a temporary evacuation of around 20 people.

Macedo called the incident an “example of ARES in action to provide rapid and precise situational awareness for use by other agencies; in this case, it was the USGS and National Weather Service.”

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

- The ARRL Learning Network will be presenting “Amateur Radio’s Role in the Boston Marathon” as a free webinar on 8 December 2020 at 1:00PM ET. You can register for the webinar here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7934294019885217292>
- Hurricane Watch Net is activating for Hurricane Iota starting 16 November at 13:00UTC beginning on 14.325MHz, then moving to 7.268MHz as propagation changes.
- Sunspot Cycle 25 has officially begun and is going strong! Average daily sunspot number between 5-11 November was 31.3, up from 21.3 the previous week. Before that whole weeks in August and September had no sunspots at all. It looks like we can begin to hope that the higher HF bands will start to open!
- 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>

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

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

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

|             |      |     |                             |
|-------------|------|-----|-----------------------------|
| November 19 | 2020 | Thu | 7:30 pm <b>via Zoom.</b>    |
| December 17 | 2020 | Thu | 7:30 pm <b>via Zoom.</b>    |
| January     | 2021 |     | Holiday Party (details TBD) |

#### **VE Sessions**

None scheduled at this time.

### **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**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 21-23 November     | ARRL November Sweepstakes – Phone                                     |
| 28-29 November     | ARRL EME – 50 to 1296MHz Contest                                      |
| 4-6 December       | ARRL 160 meter Contest  |
| <b>6 December</b>  | <b>SPARK Article Deadline</b>   |
| 12-13 December     | ARRL 10m Contest  |
| <b>17 December</b> | <b>BARC General Meeting, 7:30PM, Zoom Teleconferencing Platform ▲</b> |

▲ *Note change from usual date and/or location*

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*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](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 CSEs you are claiming, and a photocopy of them
- Valid picture ID or two valid non-picture IDs

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- 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).



## **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)

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781.901.3545; [n1icn@arrl.net](mailto:n1icn@arrl.net)

Volunteer Exams:  
Jim Clogher, N1ICN, [n1icn@arrl.net](mailto:n1icn@arrl.net)  
Linda Blair, NA1I, [na1i@arrl.net](mailto:na1i@arrl.net)

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)

**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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