



# The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

January 2021 - VOLUME 33, NUMBER 1

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



## Message from the Editor – Doc Kinne, KE1ML



There is a current meme on Facebook that states, “Tried the 7 day free trial for 2021. Not impressed. Wish to return.” That says it all, right there, honestly. While the introduction of the vaccine gives us hope, we continue to have a ways go to.

Since I last talked with you folks (in print, at least), I’ve lost a sister and an old friend, and we continue to deal with increasingly severe family health issues. And, of course, we’ve all lived through the most serious political situation this nation has experienced in over 150 years.

Radio, at least for me, but I venture to say for all of us, has been, and continues to be, a refuge. For me, my traffic nets have been a source of grounding, in some way. It has been great to touch base and talk, however briefly, with a group of people several times a week.

The last month, of course, also saw our yearly membership drive. I have been very happy with the result and am still working on processing what we received. I am *very thankful* for the unparalleled assistance given this process by Mark Duff, Joe Chapman, and Joe Harris. Literally, I do not believe the process could have been completed without these experienced and generous individuals. The best of thanks to all of you!

## In this Issue of The SPARC

- What Did You Miss at the Dec Meeting?
- Virtual Conventions Still the Norm 2021
- Next Virtual QSO Ham Expo in March
- BARC Meeting Calendar & General News



## BARC General Meeting, Thursday, January 21, 7:30 pm

BARC will be holding a General Meeting on Thursday, January 21, at 7:30 p.m. on the Zoom teleconferencing platform. Doc Kinne, KE1ML, will be introducing the RCForb remote radio system.

To join the Zoom meeting above go to:

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

Meeting ID: 953 8008 4800 Password: BARC

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 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 December 2020 General Meeting? – Doc Kinne, KE1ML**

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

This turned out to be a light, general, ragchew meeting. There was no speaker, but everyone enjoyed getting together and “seeing” one another.

### **Virtual Conventions Still the Norm in 2021 – Doc Kinne, KE1ML**

I hate the phrase, “the new normal.” I’m still one of those hopeful people who think that we will be a safely maskless, restaurant-eating, hamfest-gathering, school-attending population in the future. My only issue is that future is taking longer than I (or really, anyone, I think) want to arrive. Given the introduction of the vaccine, its efficacy, and what looks like its efficiency even with the new viral mutations coming down the pike, I think we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. This time, hopefully, it won’t be an oncoming train. But, realistically, it’s also going to take several months to effectively arrive.

Given that, for the time being, conventions are going to be online. The good news in my mind is that they *are* online! The situation is not stopping us from gathering, and for us hams, we’re able to do it in ways that are at least partially familiar with us.

I’ve always loved the ARRL Section Conventions. I felt that they gave a nice, geographic flavor to the hamfest. Rochester, the Western NY Section Hamfest was always a great time when I owned N2IKR, and our own New England HamXposition has proven to be as nice.

What I’ve liked about virtual conventions is the ability to look at and attend events in places where, for me, it would be difficult to get to geographically. The Radio Society of Great Britain meeting a couple of months ago was a good example.

Given that, we have a couple of “local” Section conventions coming up soon that I wanted to bring your attention to.

On 27 February the ARRL Vermont State Convention will be held at [www.ham-con.org](http://www.ham-con.org).

On 24 April the ARRL Virginia State Convention will be held at <https://viennawireless.net/wp/events/>.

I’ve just mentioned the League Section/State conventions, here. There are more online conventions being held. However. You can find out more at <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search/page:1/keywords:Online/model:Event>.

145.230 ( - ) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 ( - ) DMR CC1

## ***The SPARC***

### **Next QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Scheduled for March – Doc Kinne, KE1ML**

The QSO Virtual Ham Expo is back and will return on 13 March.

The first QSO Virtual Ham Expo was a success. It ended up having over 16,000 attendees. Indeed, it may have been a larger success than its organizers were counting on. But it looks like they've risen to this new challenge.

The preliminary slate of speakers look interesting. They include Carol Perry, WB2MGP, hosting the Youth Forum. The topics look even better and include such things as:

- The Storied History of the Ham Radio Callsign
- Using Drones for Amateur Radio
- The Search for Earhart's L10E
- Introduction to Ham Radio Satellites
- Detecting Earthquakes Using HF Receivers
- An Overview of Parks on the Air



These are the topics that caught my eye – your interests may vary.

There will be live virtual kit building workshops. These will operate by having you physically get the kit beforehand, and then have it in hand when the workshop takes place so you can build and follow along.

They're also mentioning "new video technology to enable a better experience when engaging with exhibitors." I may attend just to see how this works. One of my main reasons for attending conventions is to be able physically see and experience new equipment because I'm never quite satisfied with magazine ads.

While I, like so many others, am looking forward to a return of the "old normal" with ham conventions, I do find myself hoping that the larger ones may be able to retain a bit of the virtual presence that we've been able to develop, of necessity, over the last year.

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

- NEAR-Fest XXIX Canceled, April 30-May 1, 2021
- KD1CY "Interesting Stories about Ham Radio & Weather Spotting" on ARRL Learning Network, February 2, 2021
- New England HamXposition is set to go on with the show September 10-12, 2021 in Marlborough
- 2021 Dayton Hamvention Canceled

145.230 ( - ) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 ( - ) DMR CC1

## ***The SPARC***

### **BARC Meeting Calendar for 2021**

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

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

January 21	2021	Thu	7:30 pm <b>via Zoom</b>
February 18	2021	Thu	7:30 pm <b>via Zoom.</b>
March 18	2021	Thu	7:30 pm via Zoom.

#### **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**

<b>18-21 January</b>	<b>New England Sci-Tech General Online Course</b>
<b>21 January</b>	<b>BARC General Meeting, 7:30PM, Zoom Teleconferencing Platform ▲</b>
<b>24 Jan – 21 Mar</b>	<b>New England Sci-Tech Extra Online Course, Jan 24-March 21, 2021</b>
<b>7 February</b>	<b>SPARK Article Deadline</b>
<b>8 February</b>	<b>ARRL School Club Roundup</b>
<b>18 February</b>	<b>BARC General Meeting, 7:30PM, Zoom Teleconferencing Platform ▲</b>

**▲ 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.*

**145.230 ( - ) CTCSS 88.5/100.0**

**Simplex: 147.420**

**449.175 ( - ) DMR CC1**

## ***The SPARC***

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 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)

## ***The SPARC***

- **\$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 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)  
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)

Membership Services: Linda Blair, NA1I  
617.500.4406; [na1i@arrl.net](mailto:na1i@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

**145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5/100.0**

**Simplex: 147.420**

**449.175 (-) DMR CC1**

## ***The SPARC***

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

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.

### **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)

**145.230 ( - ) CTCSS 88.5/100.0**

**Simplex: 147.420**

**449.175 ( - ) DMR CC1**