



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

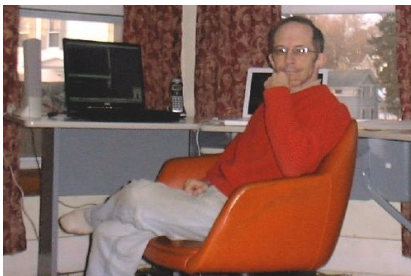
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

February 2021 - VOLUME 33, NUMBER 2

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the Editor – Doc Kinne, KE1ML



How has your radio *increased* in the past year? I'm willing to believe that it has.

Sure there are some things that have gone by the wayside over the past year. Actual meetings. A traditional Field Day. These are not small things by any means. But I'm sure there have been aspects of Amateur Radio that have increased in the last year.

I've personally noticed it with Traffic Nets, myself. The participants for the Eastern MA 2M Traffic Net have gone up significantly, as has the traffic numbers as far as I can tell. Participation in the MA/RI Phone Net on HF has increased so much there is serious discussion going on to make it a daily net! From someone who two years ago did a survey and specifically noted on these pages the decline of traffic nets, this was something that had me sit up and take notice.

What have *you* found over the last year?

In this Issue of The SPARC

- What Did You Miss at the Jan Meeting?
- A Look at the Shack
- The ARRL's Electronic Magazine App
- BARC Meeting Calendar & General News



BARC General Meeting, Thursday, February 18, 7:30 pm

BARC will be holding a General Meeting on Thursday, February 18, at 7:30 p.m. on the Zoom teleconferencing platform. Morgan Johnstone, KB1ZFP, will be highlighting changes and possibilities for the BARC website.

To join the Zoom meeting above go to:

<https://zoom.us/j/99918732995?pwd=cFhSbmwySUQ2QjI90eGVUNFNhQ0N4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 999 1873 2995 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."

What Did You Miss at the January 2021 General Meeting? – Doc Kinne, KE1ML

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

Doc, KE1ML, presented RemoteHams.com, and its software he uses to remotely get onto the HF spectrum over the Internet.

A Look in the Shack – Brendan Baldonado, NW1S

Greetings all from East Boston!



The dregs of winter are upon us and I assume as we have more free time we will all be spending a little more time in the shack. I wanted to take this opportunity, especially as a new ham, to show you guys my simple shack and favorite toy.

As an urban Ham lucky enough to have a second bedroom. I've placed my radio in that room which my YL has graciously allowed us to share as an office space. Since we share it, I have to keep most of my stuff to one side, organized, and out of the way. In the picture you can see my Yaesu FT-897D, the pride of the shack, placed atop a decorative wood box we had lying around. Inside the box is the Powerwerx switching power supply, and next to it all is a very old laptop I use for logging, and CAT Radio

control. Recently I've begun to experiment with digital modes as well. I have a custom cut RG-58X Coax cable up to a hole in the wall that goes out to a 3 season room that has my Nelson Antennas 9:1 Unun and 35 ft of Wireman antenna wire. The coax has 1:1 RF choke that I have been experimenting with. Currently; it has 4 turns on two Type 53 Ferrite cores. I've had some limited success on lowering the noise floor in the shack, another challenge as an urban Ham.

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC

As I mentioned above, the pride of the shack for me is my Yaesu FT-897. First, it's a 10 year old radio, but it is still a very capable machine. While it's a menu driven system without a lot of quick access buttons on the front, the small screen has just enough information for its users. The 897, for me and my uses, compliment each other perfectly. The radio has the ability for two onboard batteries, which it came with when I bought it. It has a Yaesu FT-40 Autotuner controlled by the radio. It does 160m all the way to 6m, and VHF/UHF. I am continually impressed with what I can do with such a small package, and the versatility of that radio has made it a great first radio for me. Sure it doesn't have a waterfall. Sure it needs dongles and cables aplenty for CAT control and digital modes. But I can unplug it and take the radio with the included side grab handle, bring it in the car for mobile use, and get all the same 100 watts using an external power source. I couldn't be more happy with my purchase and the opportunity this radio has given me.



I invite those Ham's in our club that have a pride of their shack to take a moment and share with this group some short info and why you love that one piece of equipment in your shack. With Field Day and social distancing let's brag about that cool new or old tech that still brings you a ton of joy every time you sit in front of your microphone.

The ARRL's Electronic Magazine App – Doc Kinne, KE1ML



There are a couple of solid reasons for belonging to the ARRL. The first and most important is that it serves as a lobbying organization to our government. No matter what you may think of lobbying, this function has been crucial for the existence of amateur radio not only in the United States, but throughout the world.

Another reason to join the League is for the magazine(s). Indeed, the magazine is the largest portion of your membership, from a material viewpoint. Finally, of course, you have the advantage of supporting amateur radio along with your other hams as a cohesive whole.

But let's get back to the magazine. I am, and I have been for the last few years, both a member of the ARRL *and* the RSGB (Radio Society of Great Britain). There are a couple of reasons for this, largely my great Anglophile-ism. The other reason is the RSGB's magazine, *RadCom*.

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC

For years, while I've liked *QST*, I've never been quite satisfied with their technical content. There are exceptions, certainly, but for several years I've seen *QST* as more of a social magazine. There is nothing wrong with this! One of our great strengths as both Amateur Radio operators and ARRL members *is* our community. In the end, I found *RadCom's* blend of social and technical to be nearer to what I wanted.

About a year or so ago, the League upped the ante. They allowed you to get a particular magazine sent to you via post, but at the same time they published *all* of their magazines, including *QST* in electronic format, viewable via an app.

Due to this, for the first time since I'd been a League member, I got a chance to take a look at *QEX*, the League's technical publication, via the ARRL Magazine's app. Not only does a League member have access to *QST* and *QEX* from this app, but also the *NCJ* (*National Contest Journal*), and their new publication, *On the Air*.

The ARRL Magazine's app is available on AndroidOS, iOS, and FireOS (Kindle). You can download individual magazines to your device for offline reading as well. The resolution of the app, at least on a tablet, seems fine even as I detect my eyes are getting older. The advantage of having *all* of the League's magazines in one place is compelling, and having the League offer this as a membership benefit was probably the largest membership upgrade I'd seen them do in years. While the RSGB also allows electronic access of its magazines as well, they restrict their view to the web.

In this way the RSGB could learn from its younger cousin! Take note, RSGB!

You can get the ARRL Magazine's App from your favorite app store. Full documentation for the program can be found here: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/QST/PageSuite/UserGuide.pdf>.

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

- W1HAI Featured on Pittsfield Community TV, 17 Feb
- Eastern MA Hospital Nets suspended until further notice due to COVID restrictions.
- New England Sci-Tech Technician Online Courses Being Given Throughout February.
- CAPE-3 CubeSat Launched.

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)

February 18	2021	Thu	7:30 pm via Zoom.
March 18	2021	Thu	7:30 pm via Zoom – Business Meeting.
April 15	2021	Thu	7:30 pm via Zoom.
May 20	2021	Thu	7:30 pm via Zoom.
June 17	2021	Thu	7:30 pm via Zoom – Elections.

VE Sessions

None scheduled at this time.

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC

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

18 February	BARC General Meeting, 7:30PM, Zoom Teleconferencing Platform ▲
20 February	ARRL International DX Contest – CW
6 March	ARRL International DX Contest – Phone
7 March	SPARC March Article Deadline – Become Famous! Write for The SPARC!
18 March	BARC General Meeting, 7:30PM, Zoom Teleconferencing Platform ▲

▲ 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>.

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.

To reserve a seat or for further information, contact: Jim Clogher, N1ICN, n1icn@arrl.net, or Linda Blair, NA1I, na1i@arrl.net.

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC



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 2021, 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