



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

April 2021 - VOLUME 33, NUMBER 4

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the Editor – Doc Kinne, KE1ML



Life can be very fluid – sometimes more than you want. Just in the last four years, for example, I've moved through 3 jobs. Very little of the past four years has been predicible.

Along those lines, the Boston Amateur Radio Club has to get ready for its elections. We have not had a President in a few years. Unfortunately, due to health issues that have come to the fore in the last year, the current Secretary and Vice President will not be standing for reelection. At this current moment, we have a Treasurer, and a SPARC editor. (For the last years the BARC Secretary and SPARC editor have been co-joined, but there is nothing in our

By-Laws or Constitution that mandates this). And while we have a Treasurer, that shouldn't prevent anyone from running for that office should they want it! The SPARC editor is not an office, per se, so if you're interested in that, speak up and let people know what you're ideas are.

While KB1ZFP and I are not vanishing, what the last several months have indicated to us is that our ability to be at a specific place at a specific time is tenuous at best, and we can only expect that will get worse as the next couple of years goes on. We, like the great people that came before us, will be around for consultation and for banging ideas against. I have to say our predecessors were more than fantastic regarding this, and we owe them a lot! We're hoping to be able to do something similar. BARC takes a village, and we have one.

Help lead it!

In this Issue of The SPARC

- What Did You Miss at the March Meeting?
- The RSGB Loses Its Patron
- New England QSO Paaaaahty
- Updated RF Exposure Rules
- BARC Meeting Calendar & General News



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

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC

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

BARC will be holding a General Meeting on Thursday, April 15, at 7:30 p.m. on the Zoom teleconferencing platform. Joe Harris, N1QD, will be presenting DMR basics, with an emphasis on getting set up and running on BARC's 70cm DMR repeater. No pressure, but this could be one of the best presentations this year!

To join the Zoom meeting above go to:

<https://zoom.us/j/99918732995?pwd=cFhSbmwySUQ2Qj90eGVUNFNhQ0N4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 999 1873 2995 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."

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

A Meeting of the Boston Amateur Radio Club was held on Thursday, March 18, on the Zoom teleconferencing platform.

This was largely a business meeting where various ideas for the near future were discussed, including exploring the possibility of putting the 2m W1BOS repeater on EchoLink.

The Radio Society of Great Britain Loses Its Patron – Doc Kinne, KE1ML

The Radio Society of Great Britain is the UK equivalent to the American Radio Relay League – their national society. The RSGB is actually a few months older than the ARRL.

Being from a different culture, they have different ways of doing things, of course. One of those differences is that, for most of its existence, the Radio Society of Great Britain has had a royal patron. The organization has had two. It's first was the then Prince of Wales, Prince Edward. He became patron of the Society in 1922 and remained so until he took the throne as King Edward VIII in 1936. For sixteen years the



145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC

Society had no patron. Then, in 1952, Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh became Patron of the Radio Society of Great Britain.

That ended on 9 April when Prince Phillip passed away. While Phillip had a great interest in technical matters, he was not a licensed Amateur Radio operator.

Phillip was the royal patron of nearly 800 organizations. While he certainly had specific interests, he strove to be an active patron in all of his societies, including the Radio Society of Great Britain. One of the last events he participated in before his general retirement was the 2017 “Youngsters on the Air” event where he said, “I am delighted to have this opportunity to welcome everyone who is participating in The Radio Society of Great Britain’s youth event ‘Youngsters on the Air 2017’. The skills involved in amateur radio are a valuable foundation for careers in science, technology, engineering and maths. I hope that all those taking part in this event will gain valuable experience for their chosen career. I wish all participants a very enjoyable week, and trust that the friendships formed will last long after the conclusion of the camp.”

A Special Event Station, GB0DOE (Duke of Edinburgh), will be active sporadically for a 28 day period from 9 April 2021 to 6 May 2021 to commemorate the life of HRH Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh, who passed away 09 April 2021. All QSL's and Queries go to Pete Soby, G0PNM at pete.soby@icloud.com

New England QSO Paaaaaaahy is May 1 and 2 – Joe Chapman, NV1W

Soon it will be May, and time for the New England QSO Party! This annual event is a great time to check out antenna systems and it offers a moderately paced opportunity to work new states and countries. You’ll find a wide variety of participants, from newcomers to experienced contesters, all interested in making contacts with New England stations. If you live in a rare county (looking at you, NW1S, KC1NRJ, and KM1NDY), you will have more suitors in this contest than Penelope.



The NEQP panjandrum, Tom K1KI, and his minions are working to make sure that all of the New England counties are active again this year and would appreciate your help. Get on for at least an hour or two and join in on the fun. Please let them know if you can put in any time at all so they can work on activity from the rarest counties. Will you be QRV? Let the world know which county you’ll be on from with a message to info@neqp.org.

The QSO Party is 20 hours long overall, in two sections with a civilized break for sleep Saturday night. It goes from 4pm Saturday until 1am Sunday, then 9am Sunday until 8pm Sunday. Operate on CW, SSB and digital modes on 80-40-20-15-10 meters. For each QSO you’ll give your callsign, a signal report and your county/state. Top scorers can earn a plaque and everyone who makes 25 QSOs and sends in a log will get a certificate. Last year we had logs from 1101 stations. The full NEQP rules are here: <http://www.neqp.org/rules.html>.

Last year I made a grand total of six Qs and couldn’t even complete a CW contact with N1DC in Braintree! That weekend could have been summarized as, “...but what is this propagation you speak of?” High hopes for a better 2021 NEQP for us all!

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC

Updated RF Exposure Rules Effective May 3 – Doc Kinne, KE1ML & ARRL

The FCC has announced that rule changes governing RF exposure standards go into effect on May 3, 2021. The new rules do not change existing RF exposure limits but do require that stations in all services, be evaluated against existing limits, unless they are exempted. For stations already in place, that evaluation must be completed by May 3, 2023. After May 3 of this year, any new station, or any existing station modified in a way that's likely to change its radio frequency emission profile — such as different antenna or placement or greater power — will need to conduct an evaluation by the date of activation or change.

The December 2019 RF Report and Order changes the methods that many radio services use to determine and achieve compliance with FCC limits on human exposure to RF electromagnetic fields. The FCC also modified the process for determining whether a particular device or deployment is exempt from a more thorough analysis by replacing a service-specific list of transmitters, facilities, and operations for which evaluation is required with new streamlined formula-based criteria. The R&O also addressed how to perform evaluations where the exemption does not apply, and how to mitigate exposure.

Amateur radio licensees will have to determine whether any existing facilities previously excluded under the old rules now qualify for an exemption under the new rules. Most will, but some may not.

More information can be found on the ARRL website at <http://www.arrl.org/news/updated-radio-frequency-exposure-rules-become-effective-on-may-3>.



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

- Virtual SKYWARN Training Sessions to be held in April and May.
- World Amateur Radio Day to take place on 18 April
- Amateur Radio community assists MARS in testing 60m.

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)

| | | | |
|----------|------|-----|-------------------------------|
| 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.

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 April | BARC General Meeting, 7:30PM, Zoom Teleconferencing Platform ▲ |
| 18 April | ARRL Rookie Roundup – Phone |
| 18 April | World Amateur Radio Day |
| 1-2 May | New England QSO Party |

▲ Note change from usual date and/or location

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC

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.

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

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC

- 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.



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.



145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC

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 |
| M,T,F,S 8:30PM | Massachusetts Rhode Island Slow Net | 3598 |
| 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 |
| Mon-Sat 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