



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

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

August 2021 - VOLUME 33, NUMBER 8

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message from the Editor – Doc Kinne, KE1ML / M7RCK



This month heralds a new day for the Boston Amateur Radio Club. As detailed elsewhere in this issue, BARC had a successful election during July. For the first time in a long time, BARC has its officer slates fully filled! Again, they are a mixture of the new and the experienced. We're confident that this new team – helped by everyone in this old club – can make the successful transition from COVID to normality. We can only hope that will occur during their administration.

And the election excitement isn't over yet! Coming very soon we are voting for the the ARRL Division Director and Vice Director.. This will be a contested election and I urge every one of us to take a look at the candidates. All of them are good people, and some of them are both BARC club members, and have given very good service to our little organization. They all deserve and need your consideration.

As I write this Amateur Radio in New England again will be given – perhaps unfortunately – a chance to shine again as Hurricane Henri moves upon us. Depending on its track it may become the first hurricane in 30 years to make landfall in New England. Check your antennas. Monitor your frequencies. This is were we are all at our best and most needed!

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NO August BARC General Meeting!

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

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

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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 July 2021 Gen Meeting? – Doc Kinne, KE1ML / M7RCK

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

The club elected its new officers for the 2021-2022 season. It was a wonderful meeting, and we, for the first time in a long time, now have all of our officer positions fully staffed! More details can be read later in the newsletter.

BARC Field Day, 2021 – Doc Kinne, KE1ML / M7RCK, and the BARC Club

Field Day 2021 was again one for the record books, affected again by COVID as it was. Again, individual BARC members held Field Day on their own, or in very small groups, contributing to the club total. Wonderfully, however, this year we have pictures which we present here!

For some of us, it was the first people we'd had in our homes since the beginning of the COVID Pndemic.

Joe Chapman, NV1W writes:

Well, I saw N1QD get spotted on Saturday morning so I assume the NH team was properly set up well in advance. I tried doing some FT8 during Field Day, and even tried it with a version of wsjtx not under N1MM control (which I know works) but no luck. Must have messed something up. I also forgot that digital modes delight in draining your battery!

I thought the big yellow Energy Bar would last a lot longer than it did, so I had to switch it out Saturday evening. The rules don't allow you to recharge batteries off commercial power during the event, so I then went through 2 Bioenno and 2 A-123 batteries before I finally called it a wrap a little after 11:00 am Sunday. I ended up with 2 SSB and 50 CW contacts on 20 and 40 meters for 510 points thanks to the QRP multiplier.

Steve was at the mic for one of the SSB contacts, his first, and Mike cooked us up some traditional Field Day burgers. It looks like the club will have another chef to help at next year's FD! I contacted some familiar stations but nobody from BARC. I did made a contact right after NV1N at one point--the operator probably thought he was hearing an echo.

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There weren't any KL7 stations on the ARRL FD map, and, there didn't appear to be any evidence of them anywhere during the hours that VOACAP thought I had the best chance of making a contact, so WAS will have to wait a while longer.



N1QD, KB1JGZ, and K1SU Set Up for Field Day



NV1W & Steven Provost operate from middle of Back Bay!

Brendan Baldonado, NW1S writes:

I had some family things to attend too and was originally supposed to be at work. So i had not researched the rules for field day and had not planned to operate.

On Saturday I visited the Great Hill in Weymouth to finally meet some of the 'gang', there was only a few left when I got there after 6pm. Got to operate a ICOM 7300 and meet a few local hams. Rob Farquason had a 40M/20M dipole which did really well. We heard several UK stations and they snagged a contact with Russia. I made a few contacts, but just casually and didn't write down any details. Didn't take very many pictures unfortunately either.

Sunday I took a drive out to Natick to visit the NE Science Tech group. I got to meet in the flesh KM1NDY and AC1JR fellow POTA peeps. It was cool to see their club setup and meet all the various call signs I've heard on the radio. They gave me a tour of the facility and I even go to operate on 10Meters.

I ended up having my radio and equipment in the car both times but never pulled it out. Inspired by the day and once Field Day officially ended I headed to a park on my way home, Mystic River Reservation. The temperature was beginning to cool and I found a nice shady area with a table. Racked up 36 contacts on 3 bands, 20, 17 and 15. I tried 10 m for a bit, I could hear a few people but no contacts.

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We have a wonderful community and people were so welcoming to me a relatively new ham.



NW1S visits the Great Hill Gang in Weymouth

The July QRP Cookout – Doc Kinne, KE1ML / M7RCK

The early summer brought hope that we all could to some semblance of normality. Sadly that may not be turning out to be the case. As I write this nearly all of MA has reinstated indoor mask protocols as our positivity rate here in the Commonwealth rises above 3%. But Hams are resilient and smart people.

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In a great example of individual club members – people holding no great title or position – stepping up and taking control, BARC held its first QRP cookout on July 11th in Herter Park, Allston. The place has an ampetheater and a very nice looking stone circle!

Originally put forth by Dan Cross, KZ2X, the idea gained a lot of steam via the BostonARC group.io email list. It grew nicely to a small-ish outside gathering with small power radios and antennas – as befitting its QRP designation.

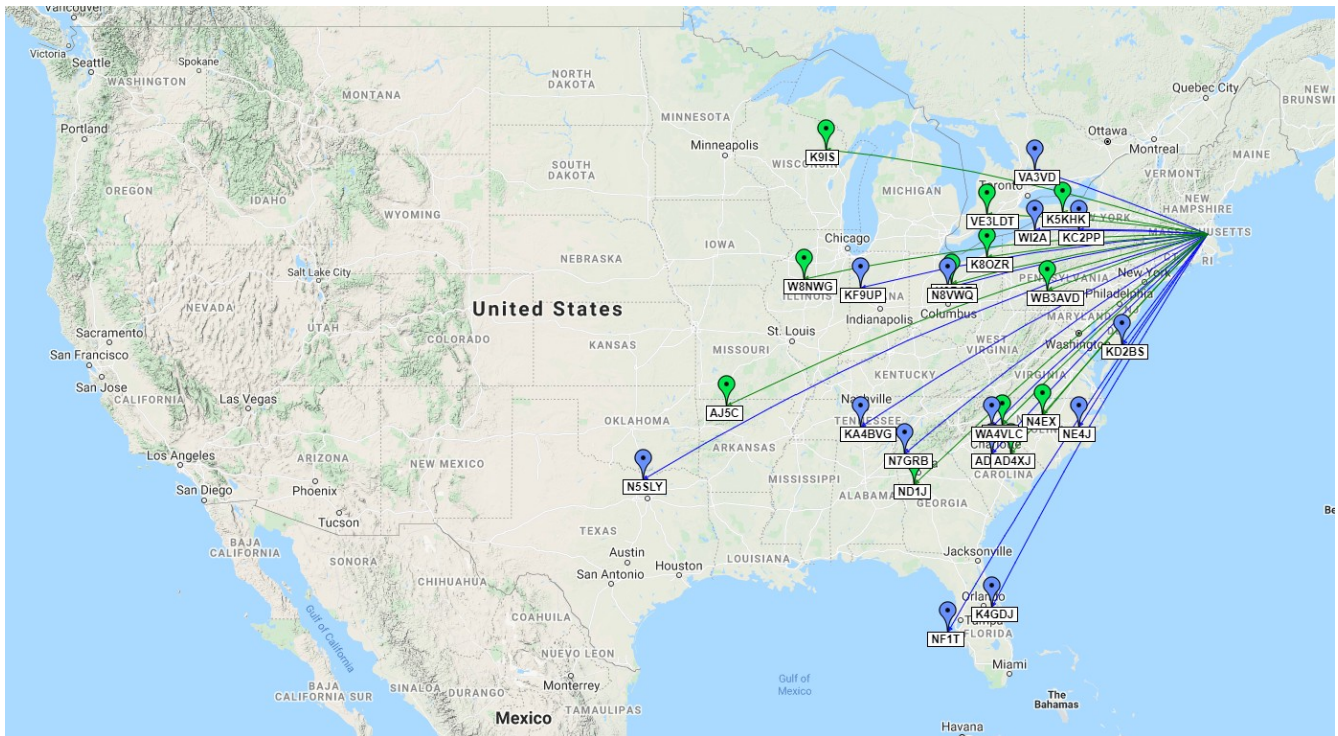
Joe Chapman, NV1W, took over a lot of the planning details, doing this through the email list, providing logistical details for everyone.



The Stone Circle of Herter Park

The park was a designated POTA site, part of the Charles River Reservation, K-8405, and so POTA contacts were made and exchanged. How far did we get? Joe, N1QD sends this picture! Not bad for a QRP session!

A picnic for August is already being planned. Check out the BARC Groups.io for evolving details.



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A New Year and New Officers - *Doc Kinne, KE1ML / M7RCK*

As noted, the July BARC meeting on Zoom produced some new officers for the Club.

Unfortunately severe health considerations prevented Morgan Johnstone, KB1ZFP from continuing on in his executive role. Doc Kinne, KE1ML / M7RCK also stepped down as Secretary given that most of his energy and time is now being spent being Morgan's primary caregiver. Nicely, Doc stayed on as SPARC editor.

As has happened before, this could have turned into a crisis situation. But, again, club members stepped up to continue to carry the ball!

Jim Clogher, N1ICN, continues on as Treasurer. Jim has been in this office since, seemingly, the days of Hiram Maxim himself, and while he is happy to continue, he *has* indicated that he's due for a break. Think about that as the next year goes on, folks.

Joe Chapman, NV1W, returns as Secretary. Perhaps better this time, the duties of the Secretary's office do *not* include the SPARC, and so things should be more a bit less hectic in that department.

Continuing our string of Joe-officers, Joe Harris, N1QD, comes on as BARC Vice President. Joe, of course, has extensive experience with the club having been President in the past. He is currently our Station Trustee as well.

Finally, rounding things out with a bang, new club member Brendan Baldonado, NW1S, comes on as President. Brendan is new to the club. While not doing radio he's a commercial pilot.

This is the first time in some years that BARC has had is full slate of officer positions filled. We look very forward to that being a good omen for the future as we hopefully transition this year from COVID to a more normal existence

Congratulations and the best of luck to all the officers. But remember, it takes a village to run a club, so let's all be ready to give our needed support from behind. Our officers need a solid foundation, which is all of us!

Amateur Radio Has a New Census – *Harold Pugh, Jr, K1RV*



As the amateur radio community grows and evolves, the need to better understand the preferences and expectations of amateur radio operators worldwide becomes increasingly important.

Inspired by the new licensees joining amateur radio's ranks, and the seasoned ones who continue to believe in its value, **Ham Census** (hamcensus.org) is inviting all hams to take part in a unique survey. The project's founders are looking forward to responses from both the United States and the rest of the globe, notably from Canadian neighbors to the north, the large Japanese and Thai ham communities, and all other operators worldwide. Questions deal with operating preferences, gear, the shack, views on regulations, clubs and associations, and importantly, about the future of amateur radio.

K3MRI, co-admin of both Ham Census and Ham Community, says: "We wanted to give operators a louder voice to better inform club leaders, associations, manufacturers and also regulators." He continues, "we all want the amateur radio community to grow organically and collaboratively, and for that we need to know what operators are thinking." K3MRI and his team are counting on operators, clubs, organizations and even ham-related businesses, to spread the word ensuring there is a large sample of respondents of all ages, all interests, and all nationalities.

Ham Census, which is divided into six parts, runs year-round delivering constantly updated results. The only caveat is that, though it is absolutely free for all to take and use, only those who complete all six parts of the Census have access to the full results.

Importantly, after completing it, Ham Census is encouraging respondents to submit suggestions on how to improve both the questions and multiple choice answers, notably on everything that is cutting edge.

As K3MRI states: "if there's one thing all hams continue to prove, is that amateur radio innovation is alive and well."

Ham Census takes about 40 to 45 minutes to complete.

WBZ's 100th Anniversary Special Events Stations – *Joe Chapman, NV1W*

The Billerica Amateur Radio Society, along with the Hampden County Radio Association in Springfield, will be commemorating WBZ's 100th anniversary by conducting a special operating event starting at 1300z/9:00 AM EDT September 17 and ending at 0359z September 20/11:59 PM EDT September 19. Amateurs using the callsigns W1W, W1B, W1Z, and WB1Z will make two-way contact with other amateurs across all bands on SSB, AM, CW, and digital modes.

A special QSL card will be sent to anyone who contacts one or more of the special event stations and sends a card accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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If you or someone you know might be interested in operating one of the special stations, please contact Larry Krainson, W1AST, at wb1dby@comcast.net. Seeking New England operators only at this time.

More information on this event at <https://nediv.arrl.org/wbz100/>

NE HamXposition Still Surges For September – Doc Kinne, KE1ML / M7RCK

Currently slated for September 10-12, the New England HamXposition is moving ahead at the Best Western in Marlborough.



Friday evening's DXCC dinner speaker will be Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA, who will speak of his recent DXpedition to Market Reef, Aland, and Brando Islands.

Ham Bootcamp will be an in-person affair this year on 10 September. It will include material and sessions geared to prospective hams, but current hams will find it interesting no matter what their license level.

The Flea Market will run Friday through Sunday. The Exhibition Hall will be available Saturday and Sunday. VE exams will be available. The NEQRP Symposium and the New England ARES Academy will be run as well.

Tickets are available now and can be garnered at <http://hamxposition.org/tickets>

BARC Meeting Calendar for 2021

There will be no August meeting. Beyond that, due to current and developing conditions, we expect to meet again on Zoom in the Fall at our regular time of 7:30PM on the Third Thursday of the month.

We are in the process of looking at and garnering physical meeting space hopefully for the Winter onwards, again, depending on developing conditions. Watch this space, and the BARC Website (<https://barc.org>) for up to the minute details.

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.

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[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

21-22 August	ARRL 10GHz & Up, Round 1
22 August	ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY
10 September	SPARC Article Deadline
10-12 September	New England Division Conference/ NE HamXposition
11-13 September	ARRL September VHF Contest
16 September	Possible BARC Meeting – Check website for details.
18-19 September	ARRL 10GHz & Up, Round 2
	▲ 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>.

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.

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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.

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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: Brendan Baldonado, NW1S
brendan.baldonado@gmail.com

Vice President: Joe Harris, N1QD
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Secretary: Joe Chapman, NV1W
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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
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)

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