



# The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

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

December 2021 - VOLUME 33, NUMBER 12

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



## The President's Pronouncements – *Brendan Baldonado, NW1S*



Happy December to everyone. We hosted a great event last month and it was so great to meet several of you in person. This time of year is for Thankfulness, Togetherness and Family. It has been a great pleasure to be part of the Ham family, you are an interesting and unique group that I have learned a lot from and had a lot of fun getting to know. I will say Happy Holidays and Good DX to everyone. I hope to see many of you at the Holiday Party in January.

## Message from the Editor – *Doc Kinne, KE1ML / M7RCK*

On one end of the scale, I was a bit disappointed as to the number of submissions this month. On the other end of the scale, it might be a “good” thing – it means that we’re busy with other things during this holiday season, which, again, may be a sign towards are slow return to a “new normal.”

However that doesn’t mean that BARC has not been active! In the last month we’ve seen the club to a POTA event, and we have spectacular evidence of new work being done on the W1BOS repeater site.

I’ll close by mentioning that this month holds over 100 holidays for various groups. For myself, I will wish everyone a Happy HumanLight, all our Radio Amateurs a happy 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Transatlantics tests, and to everyone a Happy, Happy Holidays!



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

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 ( - ) DMR CC1

## The SPARC

### BARC General Meeting – No December Meeting!

BARC will not be holding a regular meeting in December – traditionally there is just too much going on.

Do, however, put on your radars our holiday party in January!

### In this Issue of The SPARC

- Technician POTA Day Report
- AB1OC Wins NE Directorship
- Check your License. Now!

### 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)."



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### **Technician POTA Day – Brendan Baldonado, NW1S**



It was a brisk Saturday in November. The gate to the top of Chickatawbut hill wasn't open as I had hoped. After I parked my car near the road, I decided to make the climb towards the top of the hill and began making my way. I wanted to be in place before the start time, and as I rounded the last corner I found a nice spot to put the equipment down. This will be the place to set up. It was level and partly clear so I started assembling the radio.

First was the FT-897 and my trusty ¼ wave antenna. This hasn't been this equipment's first POTA activation and I doubt it will be its last. Within only a few moments I had a radio and antenna setup, and I had already heard my first call without even a CQ - K1BOS, John! I had heard John on the Waltham machine on my way towards the Blue Hills. He had heard of our POTA Day and wanted to make contact and I didn't want him to miss out. John had gone all the way to the Top of the Prudential center and

he was the first in the log. I ended up making 15 QSOs in about an hour and thus began the Boston Amateur Radio Club Technician POTA day. Slowly, as I continued to get the rest of the radio and equipment setup, another Ham would call on 146.52 MHz. A few Hams were trying to figure out where we were or let me know they were driving over and on the way. People started making their way to the site, a few even had to bushwack through the peak to find us.

The event was now in full swing. We had a few radios setup, snacks, and coffee to boot. I wasn't sure who would be interested in the event, or even who had heard there was an event to attend. My expectations were blown away. We had a decent turn out of hams and even some future hams! Of course those are the only two status' anyone can hold. Even more impressive was the age range and interest of visitors. We had three kids, two teens and a preteen. The youngest of them all, Tash, was already a Technician and was excited to try different antennas. He made a few contacts and demonstrated knowledge that I wasn't expecting. Tash had heard about the event from a family friend, The Jacksons. Steve and his two kids were a delight to meet and all very interested and fascinated in the operation of a portable Ham radio station. His daughter made her first QSO from my station to another POTA station nearby.



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About 15 people made the journey up Mount Chickatawbut. An excellent group of familiar call signs and a few unfamiliar ones. Several of us have talked over the radio for the last two years but now we got to meet face to face. Among them KC1HHO, Peter and N1QD, Joe Harris. Peter successfully made 10 QSO's for an official Park Activation as did David, KB1TOY. Our second longest contact was KC1MUU who summited Temple Mountain about 58 miles. We made contact on VHF FM and Single Side Band. He linked us up with KA1SU, Jim from Bow, NH. From the top of Chickatawbut to Bow, NH was a total of 65 miles and we also contacted using VHF FM and SSB.

As the sun began to set and the cold took over, our numbers thinned. It was a pleasure to see our hobby blossom and grab the attention of local hams and new younger hams

alike. I look forward to holding more events and BBQ's as summer comes back around.

### **Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, Wins NE Directorship – Doc Kinne, KE1ML / M7RCK**

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, of NH will take the Directorship reigns from Fred Hopengarten, K1VR. AB1OC won a three-way Directorship race for the New England Division by receiving 1147 votes over Tom K1KI's 1026 votes and K1VR's 1054 votes.

AB1OC has pledged to not only act as a voice for New England within the ARRL, but to showcase New England as an example to the country. We look very forward to seeing how that begins to work out in the next year.

Congratulations, Mr. Kemmerer!

### **Check Your License. Now! – Doc Kinne, KE1ML / M7RCK**

You never think it'll happen to you.

It was a regular Tuesday night like any other. I was net control for the Mass Rhode Island Phone Net on 3978 Khz on 7 December. As soon as checkins stopped, that started to change, though. Conditions on 75m started going into a hole. We had several pieces of traffic to pass, but at one point the only people that could hear each other – barely – was myself and KW1U, Marcia Forde. Or, more specifically, I could hear Marcia, but she could only half hear me. Thinking this might be the only traffic that got passed that night, I managed to tell her to send the piece of traffic she had for my station to me.

It's no secret that a vast majority of messages passed on amateur radio traffic nets are test messages. These are messages like, "Congratulations on your new amateur radio license," or "Congratulations on your new upgrade," or even, "Your amateur radio license expires soon. Hope you will renew." A lot of people may think – correctly – that these message are largely in the network to give us something to pass. You don't think they're important. And usually you could be forgiven thinking you're right.

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Until you're the recipient. That night on 7 December, KW1U had a message for me from KB1NAL in Norwich, CT. The message, barely getting through, read, in part: "NOTICED YOU ON PACKET X YOUR AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE HAD EXPIRED ON 24 AUGUST 2021 X HOPE YOU WILL RENEW 73."

And then 75m *died*. Completely. I told KW1U that I acknowledged message #4714, but she never responded. I tried to raise anyone on the frequency for the next 8 minutes to no avail at which point I closed the net.

I then pulled out my wallet. I carry my (US) license. Both my US and UK licenses are framed on the wall. And even with that, Lee was right. KE1ML's license had expired 24 August of this year. It was funny. My Elmer, the former WA2EXJ used to joke that he'd find it easier to believe that I was a murderer than I'd broken a Part 97 regulation, but here we were. I zoomed over to the FCC database and put in a renewal request hoping against hope that this would just be a simple administrative issue. Fortunately 15 hours later, it turned out to be exactly that, and I was legal again.

Do yourself a favor – check your license. Don't let it happen to you.

And thanks again to Lee, KB1NAL!

## **BARC Meeting Calendar for 2022**

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, W1JF. 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.*

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### **I See the Future**

<b>19 December</b>	<b>ARRL Rookie Roundup - CW</b>
<b>18-19 December</b>	<b>ARRL EME – 50 to 1296 MHz</b>
<b>1 January</b>	<b>ARRL Straight Key Night</b>
<b>2 January</b>	<b>ARRL Kid's Day</b>
<b>2-3 January</b>	<b>ARRL RTTY Roundup</b>
<b>15 January</b>	<b>SPARC Article Deadline</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.*

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).

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### **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
- 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 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).



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### BARC Officers and Staff

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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

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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)
Thu 8 pm	Wellesley Amateur Radio Society Net	28.3MHz
Sat 9 am	Northeast SATERN Net	7.265MHz
Sun 9:30 am	Yankee SSB Net	50.275MHz
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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