



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

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

March 2022 - VOLUME 34, NUMBER 3

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



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



This month we are just a few months away from Field Day. We are still hoping to get Chickatawbut Audubon Learning center as our location but with COVID they haven't begun to scheduled yet. We are looking for alternative location ideas. As the weather warms up we hope to host more outdoor radio events and encourage anyone planning to adventure out send the club a note! You may find a fellow ham that would love to join. A safe and prosperous rest of March to everyone and I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

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

This month feels either like a pause in our amateur radio activity, to some extent – there is only one large contest in April from the ARRL, for instance – or an interruption as yet another world crisis comes over us like a wave.

If it is a pause, let us use it to get ready for increased activity in the months to come. As amazing as it might seem at times, even the possible threat of WWII will not prevent Spring from arriving, and warmer weather from coming. With that warmer weather we have antenna maintenance to do, POTAs to plan, Field Day to prepare for.

At times like this some could look at activities such as planning POTAs and Field Day and wonder what we're playing at. From a psychological point of view, keeping long standing activities and traditions going as best as possible gives us stability in uncertain times. And I'm sure most would agree with me that it certainly seems to have been a long, long time since times have felt more uncertain. From an amateur radio standpoint, of course, our activities such as POTA and Field Day prepare us for when – and it will be a "when" – Amateur Radio its is communications knowledge will be invaluable.



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

Simplex: 147.420

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BARC General Meeting – Thursday, March 17, 7:30PM

BARC will be holding a General Meeting on Thursday, Feb 17th, at 7:30 p.m. on the Zoom teleconferencing platform. We will be hearing from Anthony Luscre, K8ZT, who is the Assistant OH Section Manager for Educational Outreach. He'll be speaking on "Successful Operating – Assessing Effectiveness of your Stationj."

To join the Zoom meeting above go to:

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

Meeting ID: 999 1873 2995 Password: BARC

In this Issue of The SPARC

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- Ukrainian Amateur Radio Silenced
- SPARC Your Knowledge: The Answers
- Great Hill Gang Birthed During Pandemic

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."



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SPARC Your Knowledge: The Questions – *Brendan Baldonado, NW1S*

SPARK your knowledge! Each Month we will include three questions from the Technician, General and Extra exams. The correct answers will be in a separate area of the Newsletter and a small explanation as to why.

Technician: What is a relay? [T6D02]

- A) An electrically-controlled switch
- B) A current controlled amplifier
- C) An optical sensor
- D) A pass transistor

General: Which sideband is most commonly used for voice communications on frequencies of 14 MHz or higher? [G2A01]

- A) Upper sideband
- B) Lower sideband
- C) Vestigial sideband
- D) Double sideband

Extra: Which amateur bands typically support long-path propagation? [E3B05]

- A) Only 160 meters to 40 meters
- B) Only 30 meters to 10 meters
- C) 160 meters to 10 meters
- D) 6 meters to 2 meters

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Ukrainian Amateur Radio Silenced – Doc Kinne, KE1ML / M7RCK

Ukraine UARL



Ukrainian Amateur
Radio League



This month was sadly special in my experience. I am a student of Amateur Radio history and licensing practices. Largely due to language restrictions, I tend to concentrate on ARRL and RSGB history.

Part of that history, of course, is the shutting down of Amateur Radio during the two World Wars in the 20th century. During those wars, it happened very quickly, despite HPM and the ARRL working to keep us on the air – and then get us back on the air – during WWI.

I remember the first Gulf War. I'd been an Amateur Radio Operator for just a couple of years at that point, but I remember

wondering, "Are they going to shut us down?" They didn't, of course. US (and for that matter UK) Amateur Radio hasn't been shut down since WWII.

That's why it struck me so hard a fortnight ago when the Ukrainian Amateurs were put off the air. In my own weird way, that was what told me that this was serious. I could certainly be wrong, but in my near 40 years as an Amateur, I don't remember a country being shut down. It was weird.

So, it is now illegal for Ukrainian Amateurs to be on the air. But it's never that simple. If you're an Amateur from the Donbas region you can be on the air since you have a special legal status since you've been occupied by Russia since 2014.

Even given that, the IARU Region 1 echoed a post put out by the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club saying that contacting an apparent Ukrainian station that is on the air may put lives at risk. "In the current situation, the best we can do is listen."

Nothing legally has changed between Russian Amateurs. Contacts with them are still very legal. Debates have erupted online whether it is *ethical* to work Russian stations, but that this point such matters are left to the individual amateur.

I think we can all come together in the hope that the situation improves for everyone by our next SPARC.

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SPARC Your Knowledge: The Answers – Joe Chapman, NV1W & Brendan Baldonado, NW1S

Technician: A

A relay allows a fairly low power energy source to drive an electromagnet that closes a switch designed to handle a much higher energy source; for example, a relay may only need 100mA to drive a relay that can handle 10A. Relays are used extensively in vehicles and in Aircraft; whenever you flip a switch that causes something to happen it will most likely control a relay.

General: A

As an agreed upon convention to keep bandwidth to a minimum and to make transmissions consistent the upper sideband is used for voice communications on frequencies 14 MHz or higher.

Quick Tip: Remember that the *higher* frequencies (smaller wavelengths) generally use the *upper* sideband. *Lower* frequencies (larger wavelengths) generally use the *lower* sideband.

Fun Fact: John Renshaw Carson invented SSB in 1915 (WW1), when the parts needed to make a single sideband radio were much cheaper for LSB at frequencies below 9MHz, and much cheaper for USB at frequencies above 9MHz. 9MHz is the split, and that's why.

Extra: C

If you're asking: "How typical is typical?" then you're overthinking it.

Without thinking about where we are in the sunspot cycle or what time of day or year it is, then which bands might potentially carry your signal the long way around the planet?

Any HF band or 160m might work.

It would be highly atypical for 6m or 2m to be open in such a way.

Great Hill Gang Birthed During Pandemic – Doc Kinne, KE1ML / M7RCK

Two years ago this month, everything shut down. We started distancing from each other in order to keep everyone safe. Amateur radio had some advantages during this time because we were used to talking to each other at a distance.

At least that's the accepted story. But it's not always true.

While hams are used to talking to each other at a distance, it's true, paradoxically, we also yearn for face-to-face communication. Some of us – myself included – get a special kick in finally linking the face to the voice and seeing just how wrong our mental images always turn out to be! Why let a little thing like a deadly global pandemic stop you?

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The Great Hill Gang, in its physical form, started in June of 2020 during the first Field Day That Wasn't. Always careful to adhere to the constantly moving state guidelines, they continued – and continue – to meet monthly at the summit of Great Hill south of Boston with a great view of the harbor! Before that they were just a few hams that met up on the Quincy 146.670 repeater.

An anomaly in an age where amateur radio gatherings had moved to Zoom, the Great Hill Gang's monthly meetings started to grow. They started putting out chairs and tables to handle the influx. As part of the physical infrastructure came the "brain infrastructure" as the group found itself helping new and old on virtually every aspect of Amateur Radio. Welcoming both Old Timers and Young Squirts there are those who have gotten their first contact from the summit of Great Hill through the Gang.

Many are saying now that we are slowly coming back to normal. Masks are going away and we are gathering together once more. Will the Great Hill Gang be a "sneeze in the pan," just something that came out of the COVID Pandemic? Not likely! Why stop a good thing? Their next gathering at the summit is on the 19th of March!

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.

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place via Zoom.

General Meetings (* Business/General Meetings)

March 17*	2022	Thu	7:30 pm
April 21	2022	Thu	7:30 pm
May 19	2022	Thu	7:30 pm
June 16	2022	Thu	7:30 pm - Elections

VE Sessions

None scheduled at this time.

BARC Net Preamble

The control operator for the BARC Net is Joe, W1JJE. 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

19 March	Great Hill Gang Meetup
10 April	ARRL Rookie Roundup - Phone
16 April	SPARC Article Deadline
21 April	BARC April Meeting

▲ 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.co

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)	3.565
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	(NTS)	
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)
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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