



# The SPARC

**Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century**

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

February 2023 - VOLUME 35, NUMBER 2

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



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



The Boston Amateur Radio Club had been making some serious progress with our many projects and the club is becoming an active and exciting place to be in the last few months. We have been slowly moving stuff into our studio at the Artisans Asylum in Allston. We have an antenna on the roof and we have made our first Digital, CW, SSB and Repeater Contacts from our very own Club Shack!

Our next meeting will be the creation of a new Membership Category, and what's next at Artisans Asylum. We intend to host the meeting from the Artisans Asylum so please come on down and see your club Shack!

In other news Winter Field Day was a great success. We have applied for an ARDC Grant, and we have hosted two VE

Sessions since the pandemic. None of this would be possible without the wonderful volunteer teams BARC has or without great participation from our growing members. Thank you everyone for your help and efforts! Let's keep this ball rolling!

I would also like to mention that we've received many generous donations this year (in addition to the ones associated with Artisans Asylum and the shack project), for which the club is extremely grateful.

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

February is always a weird month. Everyone knows it is the month with the shortest number of days, and sometimes that causes problems. It did with me this month, and I apologize for that. Joe Chapman's email for last Thursday's meeting took me completely by surprise and, through no fault of his own, of course, was a few hours late for me.

But good things happened this month as well! I am very happy and gratified that my reminder to the club yielded submissions to the SPARC, and I trust you all will be happy as well.

Believe it or not, warmer days are coming, and activities of all types in radio are ramping up. Let's enjoy them!



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

**Simplex: 147.420**

**449.175 ( - ) DMR CC1**

## ***The SPARC***

### **BARC General Meeting – Thursday, March 16, 7:30PM**

BARC will be holding a General Meeting on Thursday, March 16, at 7:30 PM on the Zoom teleconferencing platform and, simultaneously, at Artisans Asylum. Directions to Artisans Asylum can be found at:

<https://www.barc.org/directions-to-artisans-asylum-allston/>.

To join the Zoom meeting above go to:

<https://zoom.us/j/99918732995?pwd=cFhSbmwySUQ2Q0i90eGVUNFNhQ0N4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 999 1873 2995      Password: BARC

### **In this Issue of The SPARC**

- A Report from Artisans Asylum
- Classes Solicited for BARC's Artisan Asylum Activity
- Winter Field Day Wrap Up
- Jamming the Jammers

### **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)."



### **A Report from Artisans Asylum – Brendan Baldonado, NW1S**



Nicole and I visited the Harvard recycling center and picked up a large white take and a small desk for free!

We then went back and found platforms to raise up computers and put a shelf over the trails and power supplies.

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The antenna appears to have survived the winter storm and wind. Also while using my laptop and a lot of boot strapping we got the donated FT-847 on FT8.

Here is W1PAC operating on the radio. We got Argentina, Brazil, a specialty call from Italy (II0LOVE), Slovenia and even FN42!

Marty Shell, AC1LL, stopped by checked out the shack. He looked around for some SSB QSOs but didn't find much.

We did heard the pile up for Bouvet island on CW.. but not Bouvet it's self.

We then opened up the donated FC-20 antenna tuner and believe that we have it working again.



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### **Classes Solicited for BARC's Artisans Asylum Activity – *Brendan Baldonado, NW1S***

One of the things that having access to Artisans Asylum will enable us to do is classes. Not only will we have the space, but we'll have critical infrastructure available and in place to effectively do this. Not only will there be potential for practical demonstrations with live equipment, but internet communications will also be available for a wide audience.

If you have any thoughts as to what you may want to teach, or, as importantly, if you have any thoughts as to what classes you may like to see, please email Greg Kenley at <[gkenley@gmail.com](mailto:gkenley@gmail.com)> and Brendan Baldonado <[nw1s.brendan@gmail.com](mailto:nw1s.brendan@gmail.com)>.

### **Winter Field Day Wrap Up – *Scott Gaudet, K1SU & Mindy Hull, KM1NDY***



So it was an amazing weekend and we all enjoyed the company with like minded people

Setting up the hex beam and 80m antenna went pretty smoothly on Friday. Was able to operate POTA and settle in for a long weekend. As always we had the pizza that Mindy brought. It was definitely used all weekend.

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Saturday we put a 40m antenna up and set up the computers for WFD as 2:00 came we jumped on the bands right away and began making contacts. We did absolutely fantastic and when I was leaving I believe we scored very well doing QRP. Five watts on QRP, and ten watts on SSB did an awesome job. There were a lot of pile ups and we've all seen how frustrated it can get at times. Joe, Shirley and Harris were our CW operators and did a



great job in raising our score.

Mindy and Marc thank you so much for getting the cabins for the event, as well as picking up the pizza, soda and water.



Jerry Jennings, thank you so much for purchasing lunch for the group. Now, we have to get you over that mic shyness.

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Mike Davis and Jim, thank you for being sherpas and getting all of our firewood

Jim, thanks for tendering the fire in our cabin. I finally know what it feels like to try to sleep in 90 degree weather in the winter.

Harris thanks for picking up the bagels and coffee.

Whoever brought the fuel for the Jet Boil thanks. It was great having something warm

David and Mike thanks for making the trip and operating and giving us some q's

I am sure I am missing someone for something, so here is your thank you!

Let the planning for summer field day begin, and let's make it the best one yet.



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### **Jamming the Jammers – Christine Shustak, N1AUP**

New hams have a lot to learn when they start out in our hobby.

They have to learn how to assemble a station, tune an antenna for best SWR, install an effective ground system, understand how to work DX who are listening “5 up”, and even navigate the complexities of DMR.

But there is one very important thing that new hams need to understand; how to deal with jammers or intentional interference.

We’ve all heard the interactions.

“Yeah Phil. I just love the new Kenwood, especially &\*\$&%^58\$...”

“Bob. Some idiot is jamming you. When I get my hands on the jerk, \*&\$%\*\$&^%....”

“Phil. He’s jamming you too. Hey idiot. I’m \*&&%^&\$.....”

“Bob. I’m going to have to call it quits. That jammer is covering you up completely.”

This is absolutely the wrong response. Jammers do what they do because they want to exert control. They want to feel the power of making people miserable. They want the satisfaction of controlling a frequency, and controlling behavior. If you confirm to them that they are being successful, they are going to continue doing it, and will probably escalate their efforts.

How should you respond to interference? Don’t respond at all.

You want the jammer to question whether he is having any effect on anything or anyone. Think about if you were jamming someone you hated. How would you react if no one was acknowledging that you were having any impact? You’d wonder if your radio was working, if you had enough power to cover anyone up, if your radio settings were correct! When people ignore jammers it takes away all of the positive reinforcement that comes from jamming. Eventually, the jammer will be identified by the repeater trustees, and the problem will go away.

Smart hams don’t even comment on repeater problems on the actual repeater. Who know if the noise is an antenna problem, intermod from a paging base, repeater components shorting out, or a jammer. Even if it’s likely not a jammer, why do anything that might give a jammer the satisfaction that he or she is winning? So here’s how to proceed.

If something is trashing the other side of your conversation, don’t even mention it. If you have to, fake the conversation as if nothing is wrong.

“Phil. Went out to feed the cows and \*\*\$&&%^&\$....”

“Yeah Bob. Those cows keep you busy. Did you kiss them goodnight?”

“Every night. Bossy &&^\$&\*^\$\*#^#....”

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“I know you love those cows, Bob. I got a phone call. Let me catch you later. N1AUP out.”

Then call Bob on the phone, report what happened if you don’t want to leave him hanging. *Never* mention anything about it on the air where the jammer might hear. Report the interference to the repeater board members via phone, email or snail mail, so they can start DFing the culprit, to put an end to the disruption. Do *not* mention it on the air.

Again, *never even acknowledge* the interference, even if you think it’s not jammer related.

The good news is that most hams are well mannered, polite, and respectful, but some hams do have mental health issues. And with the proliferation of cheap, Chinese radios sold on Ebay and Amazon, it’s easier than ever for non-hams to access our frequencies. Adhering to proper protocol will help to keep problems at bay, and minimize disruption to our hobby.

## **BARC Net Preamble**

The control operator for the BARC Net is Joe, W1JFF. 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**

<b>4-5 March</b>	<b>ARRL International DX – Phone</b>
<b>16 April</b>	<b>ARRL Rookie Roundup - Phone</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.*

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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)

## ***The SPARC***

### **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
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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