



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

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

April 2023 - VOLUME 35, NUMBER 4
www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



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



Spring is here and Summer is just around the corner. Lots of things are going on here at the Club. We have a vote to change to the By-laws coming up, Field Day and of course Artisans Asylum. The by-laws change will soon increase the access the general membership of the club has at our studio shack in Allston. While we don't normally host meetings across the summer months we are hoping to host several OTA events including parking lots on the air from A2. Keep your eyes posted to the website and the calendar for those events.

The Marathon is just a few days away as I write this, so our repeaters and the downtown Boston area will be filled with excitement and Hams volunteering to benefit our city and our hobby. This is a Volunteer recognition Year for ARRL and

Volunteers On The Air events are scheduled all year. We thank all of the BARC volunteers in leadership roles, supporting roles and those who help in the community with ARES and EmComm. *Thank you!*

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

The last three or so years for the Boston Amateur Radio Club have been a time of transition and turn-around, which has been wonderful to see.

Time has been very fluid for all of us lately, but I think perhaps three years ago I came to my first BARC meeting in several years. As fate would have it, it was a general election meeting. The same people had been in office for over a decade, more or less, and they were exhausted. As I sat and watched, votes were being considered to make BARC a “repeater club,” an organization that would exist just to maintain the repeater. Aghast, KB1ZFP put himself up for the office of Vice President. We'd been official members of the club for less than three months at that point. The exhausted leadership grabbed at this life-ring and held on tight. Knowing he couldn't do it alone, I put myself up for Secretary (an office I've held in several organizations through the years). My original plan, interestingly enough, was to see if Joe Chapman wanted to split the Secretary and SPARC Editor duties, but Joe was as tired as everyone else and before I knew it, I was running for Secretary & Editor.



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With no President, KB1ZFP was the defacto President – a situation that BARC was not unfamiliar with. We started well. Summer brunch informal meetings, similar to what had been held years ago, were held. The website was worked on. We transferred messaging programs, regained some use of the PayPal account, and in general worked on the club's internet infrastructure. Little did we know what was coming.

A couple of months later, the world crashed as COVID hit. We, like every other organization in the Western world, turned to Zoom to keep going, and really that worked out very well. The club had been having programs getting speakers for its meetings for some time. Zoom made that easier and for the next several months we had some very good speakers of all types at our virtual meetings.

At the same time, KB1ZFP was diagnosed with terminal liver disease and we thought that he had about 18 months left. At that point, while not generally known, I was doing everything as KB1ZFP's strength would increasingly fail and he'd enter hospice. Indeed, this is why at the end of the year KB1ZFP did not stand for office again, and I would leave the Secretaryship. I kept up as SPARC editor, however.

NW1S became President (the first we had in some years), and with this infusion of new blood – really a wonderful mix of old and new – BARC started rising as at the same time the world came out of its unprecedented enforced slumber. KB1ZFP stabilized (no one has any sort of explanation for that at all), but is still very largely home bound, and I remain taking care of him full time.

While during the pandemic being home bound was no disadvantage at all – hey, everybody was doing it! - now there are distinct problems with it as far as the club is concerned. The SPARC needs an editor who is more involved, and can be more involved, with the day-to-day activities of BARC. Due to my situation, we're not going to hamfests, Artisans Asylum, meetings, or other gatherings. I really think the SPARC needs someone who can do that now that BARC, and its members, have restarted that with gusto.

And so, come the elections of the summer, I will be stepping down as the SPARC editor.

Editing and producing the SPARC is not hard. Indeed, I think it will be easier for someone who can participate in the real-world activities that have now returned to both the world in general, and the world of BARC in particular. The SPARC Editor is not an elected position, but appointed. For some years it was the duty of the Secretary, but I would strongly urge that we *not* go back to that model. Editing the SPARC is a magnificent opportunity to make a real difference in BARC. While the foundations are strong and easily transferred, one has a great deal of leeway in what can be done with the newsletter.

Interested people should contact me via the email at the back of the SPARC. I am more than happy to answer questions and will not be running away after the summer no matter what happens. I'll put my two cents in with regard to recommendations to the Board as the summer comes.

We've learned that it takes a village to keep BARC going, and that we go better with that village. This is your chance to be part of it!

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BARC General Meeting – Thursday, April 20, 7:30PM

BARC will be holding a General Meeting on Thursday, April 20, at 7:30 PM on the Zoom teleconferencing platform and, simultaneously, at Artisans Asylum. We will discuss the options for those BARC members who will be community members of Artisans Asylum through BARC. There will be an update on our arrangement with A2 and the antenna project. Finally there will be a report and discussion regarding the upcoming Field Day!

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=cFhSbmwySUQ2Qi90eGVUNFNhQ0N4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 999 1873 2995 Password: BARC

In this Issue of The SPARC

- Three Hams Named to Artemis II Moon Mission
- ARRL's Volunteers on the Air Comes to MA
- The Flea at MIT Returns

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."



Three Hams Named to Artemis II Moon Mission – Doc Kinne, KE1ML / M7RCK

Since the days of the Space Shuttle program – specifically 1983 with Owen Garriott, W5LFL – Amateur Radio has been part of the multinational space program. Following Owen's example, more than 20 Space Shuttle missions had active, licensed Amateur Radio operators on board. These astronauts came to comprise the Shuttle Amateur Radio

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Experiment, which lasted right through 1999. Amateur transmissions continued on MIR both with American and Russian hams, Amateur radio would become an official part of the ISS as well. Indeed, it was almost as if if you were an astronaut you *needed* to have an amateur radio license!

Wonderfully, we now know that this tradition will continue during the Artemis moon flights.

Artemis II will see the first return of humans to the vicinity of the moon for more than a half century. The mission, due to launch in November 2024, will be a ten day trip to lunar orbit and back in order to test the Space Launch systems rocket, the Orion's life support system, and validate the techniques and capabilities that will be needed for a more permanent return to the Moon.

Named to the crew on 3 April 2023 were Commander Reid Wiseman, KF5LKT, Pilot Victor Glover, KI5BKC, and Mission Specialist 2 Jeremy Hansen, KF5LKU. Mission Specialist 1 Christina Hammock Koch had planned to study and take her exam in 2019, but her flight was suddenly moved up six months and she had to begin immediately preparing instead of studying for her Amateur Radio exam..



As humans return to the Moon, Amateur Radio will go with them. While bouncing signals off the moon from Earth have been taking place for decades, 2020 saw the first Amateur Radio transmission from lunar orbit take place with the SSDV signals from LO-94.

The Lunar Gateway is a proposed space station in lunar orbit that may launch in late 2024. In 2019 amateur radio organizations in Germany, Canada, and the US were working on proposals to put an Amateur Radio on this lunar space station.

Amateur Radio in space may be poised to take a giant

leap forward.

ARRL's Volunteers on the Air Comes to MA – Doc Kinne, KE1ML / M7RCK

The League has started a year-long celebratory operating event recognizing ARRL Volunteers. Called Volunteers on the Air, you can get full details regarding it at vota.arrl.org. Points will be garnered in various ways including contacting ARRL Volunteers or members on the air, or contacting portable W1AW stations.



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This last ways is where it gets interesting. There will be week-long activations of portable W1AW/# stations in all 50 states as well as several US territories and possessions. Each state will be activated twice during the year-long event.

Well, who will be running these portable W1AW stations? It turns out that we, the members will! Interested in *becoming* W1AW for a while? There still may be time to sign up! Contact Larry, W1AST at W1AST@arrl.net.

The Flea at MIT Returns – Doc Kinne, KE1ML / M7RCK



One of the things that the pandemic truly robbed from amateur radio operators was the ability to congregate and get together. Yes, we could (and did!) get together via radio and computer, but somehow we hams like to see each other. For me one of my best experiences after talking to someone on the air for a period of time is to finally physically meet them, and usually mentally be forced to say, "Wow! You are *nothing* like how I pictured you!" It continually amazes me how much of a mental picture we build up of people only to have it just completely changed by reality.

One of the best ways Boston hams got to do that in the summers was the Flea at MIT. Taken down by the college during the pandemic, the Flea at MIT returns again this year on the 3rd Sunday of each month from

April to October at the Albany St. Garage between Main Street and Mass Ave in Cambridge.

Famed for having nearly anything electronic or...nerdy...over the years objects both big and small can be found at the Flea, including, one time, famously, a Gemini test capsule.

The only question I've ever had was where I'd ever put it!

See w1mx.mit.edu/flea-at-mit for more information.

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

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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

20 April	BARC General Meeting
28-29 April	NEAR-Fest (near-fest.com)
7 May	SPARC Article Deadline
18 May	BARC General 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

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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 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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Treasurer: Jim Clogher, N1ICN,
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SPARC Newsletter Editor: Doc Kinne, KE1ML / M7RCK
kinnerc@gmail.com

Volunteer Exams:
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Public Service Coordinator: Ethan Hansen, KC1OIP

Public Information Officer: Geri Duff, KB1ISG
781.749.7664; geriduff52@juno.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.

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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 Newsline)	145.470 (PL 136.5)
Sun 9 pm	CAARAnet	145.130 (PL 107.2)

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