



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

September 2023 - VOLUME 35, NUMBER 9

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



From the Editor – Joe Chapman, NV1W



Last weekend I had the pleasure of joining N1QD, K1SU, and WA1GXC at the KB1EKN and KB1ISG residence in Hingham for the ARRL September VHF and Worked All Europe contests. Above 50 MHz FT8 came through for us in a half-hearted manner; the WAE contest was SSB only and we at least managed to put our serial number into the twenties. The big feature of the afternoon was a prolonged thunderstorm accompanied by something like an inch and a quarter of rain in an hour. As I write this we expect a visit from Hurricane Lee in a few days which looks to be annoying and messy, especially for those in New England who have already been dealing with severe flooding over the past few weeks.

I somehow managed to make it through Field Day this year without seeing a piece of equipment that I just had to run out and buy, but in amateur radio thrift can be elusive. As we set things up for September VHF I couldn't help but notice that, unlike my older model Buddipole mast, N1QD's 7 meter Mastwerks mast does not delight in spinning around randomly in the slightest breeze. Now I just need to come up with a flimsy excuse for ordering one!

In this Issue of The SPARC

- Wire antennas
- Public service opportunities
- Special event stations
- Upcoming meetings and events



BARC General Meeting, Thursday, September 21, 7:30 pm

The next BARC General Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 7:30 pm, at Artisans Asylum in Allston and on the Zoom teleconferencing platform. As always, the meeting will be preceded with a half hour of social time beginning at 7:00.

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

Simplex: 147.420

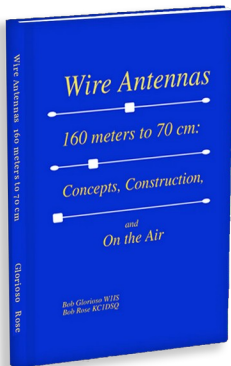
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BARC's Online Discussion Group – Joe Harris, N1QD

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.

Book Review: Wire Antennas... – Joe Chapman, NV1W



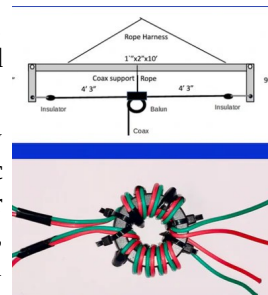
Bob Glorioso, W1IS, knows a lot about antennas and his island is #7 on Club Log's DXCC most wanted list. Bob Rose, KC1DSQ, also knows a lot about antennas, and thus far has resisted the urge to change his name to "Robert Democratic People's Republic of Korea." I had the pleasure of hearing their talk on wire antennas at HamXposition last month; you can find that presentation on their website at <http://ocfmasters.com> and much of the material in their book *Wire Antennas, 160 meters to 70 cm: Concepts, Construction, and On the Air*.

For me, both at my home station and in the field, contacts are usually made on a wire. A wire dipole is a classic; it's something we've all been tested on, though that doesn't mean physics doesn't have some tricks up its sleeve, or that there aren't misconceptions with varying levels of acceptance, or that the process of going from the Platonic ideal of a dipole to something you build, toss up in a tree,

and connect to your field rig is without peril.

The first project is a 6 meter dipole "for attic, tree, or house" followed by a portable 2 meter/440 MHz J-pole, both eminently practical designs with good tips for building and tuning them.

This is followed by an excursus on theory and some general topics: the end effect, velocity factor, and the famous $468/f$ formula; gain of dipoles; baluns; the design of harmonic antennas; and how to make a capacitive load. That latter one is a key to some of their surprising (to me, anyway) multi-band antennas. The chapter on baluns is especially useful, with detailed instructions and wiring diagrams. Although they don't mention it, you can find many kits for these designs at their website, <http://ocfmasters.com>.



Projects follow: a dual band 40-15 meter dipole, and off-center fed dipoles for 160, 80, and 40 meters, all using capacitive loads to support multiple bands.

Chapters are devoted to C-poles, essentially dipoles that are wrapped around in a rectangular configuration, the ever-popular end-fed half-wave, beams (from wire and the occasional cookie rack), verticals, and loops. Finally, there is a list of 52 rules of thumb, from the need for an antenna analyzer to "For every antenna in a tree, there exists a deranged squirrel insidiously hatching a diabolical plot for its **Total Destruction!**"

In short, a fine book; fun to read and I look forward to trying out some of the designs.

Robert Glorioso W1IS and Robert Rose KC1DSQ, Wire Antennas, 160 meters to 70 cm: Concepts, Construction, and On the Air. 2023, 151 p. ISBN 978-1-329-52854-3. Available from Amazon or <http://ocfmasters.com>. \$34.95.

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New Course from HamRadioPrep – Joe Chapman, NV1W

Our friends at HamRadioPrep have just announced a new course: *HF Masterclass*. Unlike their licensing courses, this one aims to lead someone with a General or an Amateur Extra license from the first steps of buying a radio and assembling a station through becoming a competent operator on the HF bands. You can read more about it at <https://hamradioprep.com/hf-masterclass/>.

As with all of HamRadioPrep's courses, you can use the coupon code **bostonarc** to receive a 20% discount. BARC also receives a commission for every sale that uses our coupon code, so you help the club as well.

VOTA Massachusetts Looking for Volunteers – Larry Krainson, W1AST

[VOTA in this case means the ARRL Volunteers on the Air program, not a citizen from Dorchester who fills out a ballot. —NV1W]

Are you interested in becoming an activator for the ARRL VOTA Fall operating week? The dates for the fall schedule are November 1 through 7.

There are currently 14 ops signed up and room for more.

We're looking for people that can spend time getting on the air and making contacts. All modes of operation are welcome. During the Spring VOTA, Massachusetts made over 9000 QSO's. We'd like to beat that this time around. Would you like to be part of that?

To find out more, contact ARRL VOTA MA State Manager Larry Krainson, W1AST, at W1AST@arrl.net by October 1st.

Special Event Stations of Note – Joe Chapman, NV1W

K1W, Isles of Shoals, NH, September 16 or 17 (h/t *Phil, K9HI*): The Port City Amateur Radio Club, W1WQM, of Portsmouth, NH, will be operating from White Island, Isles of Shoals, during the New Hampshire QSO Party, September 16–17. The exact schedule depends on the track of Hurricane Lee; they plan to operate one day on 20 and 40 meter CW and SSB. The island is an absolute bonanza for award chasers:



- IOTA NA-217
- POTA K-8006 (White Island State Park and Historical Site)
- Lighthouse ARLS USA 406
- US Islands NH022S (White Island)

Nothing (yet) on the club website <https://w1wqm.org/>; see the K1W qrz.com page for updated information.



Route 66 On the Air, September 9–17. This is a special event indeed, with 20 clubs participating this year along old Route 66 from Chicago to Los Angeles. I have fond memories of the first 100 miles (leaving Chicago), which was on the way to my grandparents' house; my brother, sister, and I probably asked "Are we there yet?" a few hundred times on that stretch of road. You can find the full scoop (on the special event, not my origin story) at https://w6jbt.org/?page_id=15.

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Cystic Fibrosis Cycle for Life – Dave Gilman, KC1DDH

The 26th annual Cystic Fibrosis Cycle for Life will be held on Saturday September 30, 2023.

The Cystic Fibrosis foundation has raised millions of dollars toward finding a cure for this debilitating and often deadly disease and they are once again asking for our help.

The Massachusetts Cycle for Life consists of 3 routes. 12, 30 & 65 miles traversing several Metro-West towns.

I am reaching out to you today to initiate recruitment of Amateur Radio personnel to provide SAG vehicles and rest stop communications.

If you are able to help out please fill out this survey form and save the date: <https://forms.gle/r3qjetZ4NPH6BKcCA>.

I am also always looking to recruit new people so please share this email and event with anyone you know that may be interested in this, or other Amateur Radio Public Service events.

Thank you,
Dave Gilman KC1DDH
Coordinator, course safety & communications
Cycle for Life Massachusetts
KC1DDH@Gmail.com

BARC Meeting Calendar for 2020

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings and VE sessions will take place at Artisans Asylum.

General Meetings

September 21	2023	Thu	7:30 pm
October 19	2023	Thu	7:30 pm
November 16	2023	Thu	7:30 pm

VE Sessions

October 9	2023	Mon	7:30 pm
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Member News – Joe Chapman, NV1W

This space is reserved for your news! Send it to NV1W at joechapman@alum.mit.edu.

Technician Classes in the Fall – Joe Chapman, NV1W

Robert, W1ZQI, is putting together BARC's first Technician class, to be held this fall at Artisans Asylum. Details are still being worked out, but the current plan is to have two evening classes per week for four weeks in September and October and to finish up with a VE session.

Details will be published to the Groups.io mailing list and information will be available on www.barc.org. If you're interested, send a message to w1bos@arrl.net and we will make sure you don't fall through the cracks.

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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. Even Priscilla Presley, N6YOS, at least if Graceland weren't a little far, even for tropo! 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

16–17 September	ARRL 10 GHz & up — Round 2
17 September	Flea at MIT, Cambridge
21 September	BARC General Meeting, Artisans Asylum, Allston, and Zoom, 7:30 pm
23–24 September	CW Worldwide RTTY Contest
24 September	North American Sprint, RTTY
30 September	Cystic Fibrosis Cycle for Life (public service event)
7 October	Deadline for articles for the October SPARC
7–8 October	ARRL Collegiate QSO Party
9 October	BARC VE Session, Artisans Asylum, Allston, 7:30 pm

▲ Note change from usual date and/or location

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>.

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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 Joe Chapman, NV1W, at 617.267.6349 or nv1w@arrl.net.

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 ‘n’ kinks, photos, schematics, or other ham related information. Photos of you operating or your shack are especially welcome. Send your submissions to the Editor, Joe, NV1W, at nv1w@arrl.net. Articles for the October issue must be received by October 7.

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 Joe Chapman, NV1W, nv1w@arrl.net.

BARC Volunteer Exam Sessions

The Boston Amateur Radio Club offers license exams quarterly. The next session will be held on Monday, October 9, at 7:30 pm. Test sessions are held at Artisans Asylum, 96 Holton St., Boston, MA 02135.

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, or Joe Chapman, NV1W, nv1w@arrl.net.

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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

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ethan.kc1oip@gmail.com

Public Information Officer: Geri Duff, KB1ISG
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
Sun–Fri 9:45 pm, Sat 10 pm	Heavy Hitters Traffic Net (NTS)	MMRA-linked repeaters: 146.610, 146.670, 146.715, 146.820, and all 222 and 440 repeaters
First Mon 8:30 pm	EMA Section ARES Net	146.610 and all MMRA links
Mon 7 pm	Two Meter SSB Net	144.244 USB
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)
Tue Thu 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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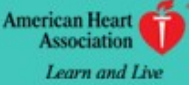
Call 911

2



**Push hard and fast in
the center of the chest.**

Learn more at handsonlycpr.org



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