



# The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

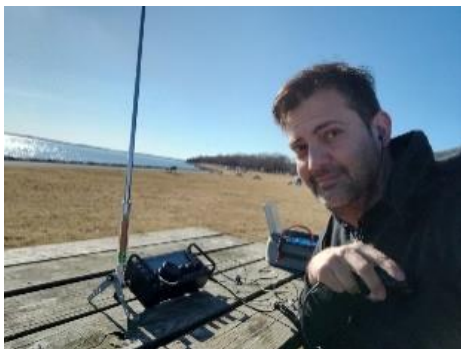
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club  
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

April 2024 - VOLUME 36, NUMBER 4

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



## Message From the President – Brendan Baldonado, NW1S



*A Happy and Joyful April to everyone in the club. The season of spring will soon be in full bloom and the weather hopefully will begin to improve. Like the weather, Hams spring up from Repeater nets and basement shacks to come outside and play! Hopefully we will see a resurrection of fun "On The Air" activity, such as Parks on the Air, or beer gardens on the air, maybe even a fox hunt or two in the mix. Tis the season to dust off the field kits and get out on the air. The coming months meeting will begin to focus on Field Day plans and hopefully a few other social radio events to hold us over until June. The first edition of our QDX class is now live and available for purchase so look for the details in the newsletter and a big thank you to all who helped make it possible. Look forward to hearing you all on the bands!*

### In this Issue of The SPARC

- QDX Class Announcement
- Meet the Ham
- Upcoming meetings and events



## BARC General Meeting, Thursday, April 18, 7:30 pm

The next BARC General Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2024, 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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## ***The SPARC***

### **QDX Class Announcement– *Brendan Baldonado, NW1S***

I am excited to announce that the Boston Amateur Radio Club is teaching a QDX building class. What is a QDX, you ask? Well it's a digital ham radio transceiver, small enough to fit in the palm of your hand, that operates at 5 watts on the 10 meter amateur radio band. This class is going to be geared towards Technician class licensees, newer hams with limited experience in soldering, antenna concepts and digital modes. So, if that sounds like you, we encourage you to take the class.

This offering of the QDX build class has been sponsored by an Amateur Radio Digital Communications grant, and the materials cost, a \$110 value, has been completely covered by that grant. The class still has a nominal fee of \$75 which is being donated to Artisans Asylum for their continued support and help of the Boston Amateur Radio Club.

The class will be on Thursday evenings, beginning on April 18th, for 5 sessions.

A quick class description: This class is a brief introduction to basic electronic circuits, building toroids, soldering, building antennas, and operating on amateur radio digital modes. We will be building a QRP Labs 10m QDX-M single band radio and a QRP Guys No-Tune end-fed half wave antenna. The class will consist of five sessions, every Thursday at 6pm, beginning on April 18th, held at the Artisans Asylum Holton St. building.

During the class we will:

- Build a small portable antenna
- Learn about some basic electronic components
- Learn how to solder
- Learn to make toroids
- Build a small 5 watt radio for the ten meter band
- Learn to operate on digital modes

While this class does not have any prerequisites, we are building a radio for use on amateur radio frequencies, so a Technician class amateur radio license is preferred (but not required) to take the class and keep the radio. Be advised that in order to transmit using your radio outside of class meeting times, you will need an amateur radio license issued by the FCC.

For more information on licensing and a schedule of test sessions contact the Boston Amateur Radio Club at [w1bos@arrl.net](mailto:w1bos@arrl.net).

The class listing is here if you wish to sign up:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/boston-amateur-radio-club-qdx-build-class-tickets-872148779477?aff=oddtcreator>

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### **Meet the Ham – Samir Parikh, K1SIP**



*Editor's Note: Starting this month, we are introducing a new column, creatively called "Meet the Ham" where Samir Parikh, K1SIP, will spotlight a member of the Boston Amateur Radio Club via an interview conducted by email. If you'd like to be featured in a future issue of The SPARC, or would like to nominate someone, please reach out to Samir at siparikh@gmail.com. Since this was Samir's idea to start this, we figured who better to aim the spotlight on for our inaugural column than Samir himself!*

**Can you please tell us a little bit about yourself, such as where you live and when you were first licensed?**

My name is Samir Parikh and I live in Winchester, MA. I got my Technician license September 2023 as KC1TKS and then converted my call sign to K1SIP about a month later. I upgraded to General and Amateur Extra in January 2024.

**What got you interested in amateur radio? How did you get started?**

I have to admit that initially, it was the allure of being able to use ham radio as a means of backup communication in case we ever lost cellular or internet service. My interest was first drawn to the General Mobile Radio Service since obtaining a license didn't require taking an exam. But the more I looked into ham radio, I became more intrigued at the various options, bands and flexibility that the amateur radio service offered.

No one in my family nor any of my friends are licensed so I really wasn't sure what I was getting myself into or what it would take. I bought a copy of the "ARRL Ham Radio License Manual" and downloaded the "HamStudy" app on my phone which is what I used to study for the test.

**What was your first radio or rig?**

I did a lot of research into what VHF/UHF radio I should I get. After a lot of back-and-forth, I ended up purchasing the Explorer QRZ-1 which is offered through the QRZ Jumpstart Program for new hams. It's a 5 watt HT which is what I initially used to get onto some of the local repeaters.

**How are you involved in the hobby today?**

One of the things I quickly learned about amateur radio is that it really is a "hobby of hobbies". There are more aspects to it than I have time to learn about. During my relatively short period as an operator, I've been involved in some of the local nets, such as the BARC Club Net on Monday nights, the Eastern Mass 2M and Heavy Hitters Traffic Nets, the Minuteman Repeater Association "Technical Information and Other Stuff" net on Tuesday evenings and some other club nets throughout the week as time permits. I also try to join the monthly ARES nets when I can.

I am also trying to get actively involved in the Parks on the Air (POTA) program. Thanks to BARC, I got my first taste of trying to activate the Charles River State Reserve back in October 2023 and since then, I've been able to activate 9 local parks and have hunted over 100.

I also volunteered for the Boston Half Marathon last November as a spotter which was a lot of fun.

**What are some things you would like to try that you have never done with amateur radio?**

The list of things that I would like to try or look into is enormous: building my own end-fed half wave or random wire antenna, APRS, digital modes like FT8 or FT4, making a contact via a satellite repeater, learning CW, antenna modeling, ...I just wish I had more time!

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### **What is your current rig and antenna system that you use today?**



At home, I have an AnyTone AT-778UV II radio connected to an Ed Fong J-Pole antenna in my attic. That is what I primarily use to get on any of the local repeaters or nets. For mobile operations or park activations, I'm currently borrowing Brendan's (NW1S) Yaesu FT-897D transceiver powered by a 10Ah LiFePO4 battery. I use either a 10m or 20m HamStick in a mag mount on the roof of my car. Once the weather improves, I'm looking to buy a vertical antenna of some sort that I can setup up outside by a picnic bench or other spot for POTA activations.



### **What advice would you give to new hams?**

Find a local club, such as ours or any other local club, and get involved. If they have an email distribution list or reflector, sign up! It was BARC that introduced me to things like POTA, the community service opportunities and Winter Field Day.

Get on the air! It can be difficult making that first QSO, be it on a local repeater or on HF, but once you make your first contact, it quickly becomes addicting. If you're an experienced ham hearing who you may think is someone just getting started, please be patient with them, even if it's during a contest.

Don't stress out about equipment and radios. Until you start operating, you won't really know what you need or what the various options, filters and other features really provide. The most important thing is to get active and get involved. It's the people that really make this such a great hobby.

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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](mailto:BostonARC+subscribe@groups.io).

### **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.

### **BARC Meeting Calendar for 2024**

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

#### **General Meetings**

April 18	2024	Thu	7:30 pm
May 16	2024	Thu	7:30 pm
June 20	2024	Thu	7:30 pm
September 19	2024	Thu	7:30 pm
October 17	2024	Thu	7:30 pm
November 21	2024	Thu	7:30 pm
December 19	2024	Thu	7:30 pm

#### **VE Sessions**

July 8	2024	Mon	7:30 pm
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## ***The SPARC***

### **Member News – Joe Harris, N1QD**

This space is reserved for your news! Send it to N1QD at [n1qd@n1qd.org](mailto:n1qd@n1qd.org).

### **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.*

### **I See the Future**

13 April	BAA 5K (Public Service Event) (Rp)
15 April	Boston Marathon (Public Service Event) (Rp)
<b>18 April</b>	<b>BARC General Meeting, Artisans Asylum, Allston, and Zoom, 7:30 pm</b>
21 April	Flea at MIT
21 April	ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB
25 – 26 April	NEAR-Fest, Deerfield Fairgrounds NH (Th-F) ▲
4 – 5 May	New England QSO Party
<b>16 May</b>	<b>BARC General Meeting, Artisans Asylum, Allston, and Zoom, 7:30 pm</b>
19 May	Flea at MIT

**▲ Note change from usual date and/or location**  
**(Rp) = BARC Repeaters will be used for these events**

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](mailto:nv1w@arrl.net).

### **Two Ways to See Yourself in Print! (well, PDF) – Joe Harris, N1QD**

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, N1QD, at [n1qd@n1qd.org](mailto:n1qd@n1qd.org). Articles for the May issue must be received by May 4.

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, N1QD, at [n1qd@n1qd.org](mailto:n1qd@n1qd.org).

### **BARC Volunteer Exam Sessions**

The Boston Amateur Radio Club offers license exams quarterly. The next session will be held on Monday, July 8, 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](mailto:n1icn@arrl.net), or Joe Chapman, NV1W, [nv1w@arrl.net](mailto:nv1w@arrl.net).

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# NEW ENGLAND SCI-TECH

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).

## **BARC Officers and Staff**

President: Brendan Baldonado, NW1S  
[brendan.baldonado@gmail.com](mailto:brendan.baldonado@gmail.com)

Vice President: Joe Harris, N1QD  
[n1qd@n1qd.org](mailto:n1qd@n1qd.org)

Secretary: Joe Chapman, NV1W  
[nv1w@arrl.net](mailto:nv1w@arrl.net)

Treasurer: Mark Duff, KB1EKN,  
[emgmt@comcast.net](mailto:emgmt@comcast.net)

Newsletter Editor *locum tenens*: Joe Harris, N1QD  
[n1qd@n1qd.org](mailto:n1qd@n1qd.org)

Volunteer Exams:

Jim Clogher, N1ICN, [n1icn@arrl.net](mailto:n1icn@arrl.net)  
Joe Chapman, NV1W, [nv1w@arrl.net](mailto:nv1w@arrl.net)

Public Service Coordinator: Ethan Hansen, KC1OIP  
[ethan.kc1oip@gmail.com](mailto:ethan.kc1oip@gmail.com)

Public Information Officer: Geri Duff, KB1ISG  
[geriduff52@juno.com](mailto: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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