



# The SPARC

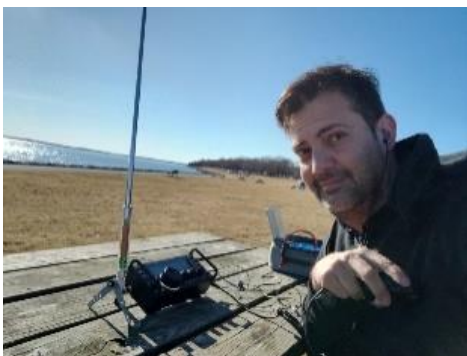
Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

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

November 2024 - VOLUME 36, NUMBER 11  
www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



## Message From the President – Brendan Baldonado, NW1S



*Happy November BARC! With Halloween behind us we enter into the Holiday season, and colder weather. Although I can't remember the last time I saw 70 degrees on Halloween! We begin planning for Winter Field Day soon so if you want to participate just let us know! This month we also would like to host an event where we ask you the members what you want to see the club do more of. We do our best to host On The Air events like POTA, we are likely to return to a speaker series where we have someone come and give an interesting talk to the club but we are curious what our paying members may want to see happen. It may be something a different club does or something you always wanted to try. Let us know! As people return home, travel to see family and enjoy spending time with family, don't forget to introduce cousins, relatives and young*

*ones to the mystery of Radio. Check into a local net, here in Boston or when you travel and don't forget you can send Holiday Themed radio grams to non-hams! Talk to an officer about getting connected to a relay station for that. A Happy and Warm Holidays to everyone far and wide.*

## In this Issue of The SPARC

- Holiday Party
- Head of the Charles Event Report
- October Meeting Minutes
- Herter Park POTA Event Report
- Winter Field Day



## BARC General Meeting, Thursday, November 21, 7:30 pm

The next BARC General Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 21, 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

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

## ***The SPARC***

### **BARC Holiday Party! – Scott Gaudet, K1SU**

Hello Everyone,

I am excited to announce that the BARC Holiday Party has been scheduled for Saturday, December 7th at 1pm! The location has been confirmed, but we still have much to plan and coordinate.

To get started on making this event special, I would like to invite everyone to a planning meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, November 26th at 7:00 PM EST. We will discuss food options, decorations, and other details that will make our celebration memorable. *Editor's note: the Zoom invite will go out on the club's groups.io mailing list.*

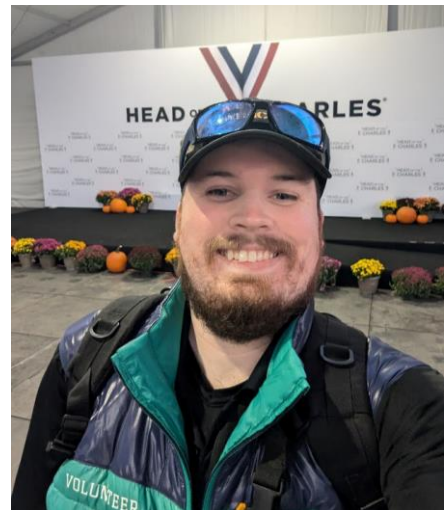
If you are willing to lend a hand or have any ideas, please join us! Your input and participation are crucial in making this event a success.

### **2024 Head of the Charles – Patrick Mannion, W1PAC**

This year I volunteered for my fifth Head of the Charles Regatta, providing radio communications of course. The event is one of the foremost rowing races in the world. It is essentially the Boston Marathon of rowing. Compared to the Marathon, the Regatta is also a good starting point for public service communications as it more “laid back” than the Marathon as it is spread out over three days and certain times of the day can be slow compared to the steady stream of runners in the Marathon.

Also compared to the Marathon, you as a radio communicator are the main point of response to incidents that happen at the first aid tent or if you're out on a first aid walking team, which is something else the Marathon also doesn't do.

So if you're itching for a beginner's course of public service communications, I highly recommend taking on a volunteer role with the Head of the Charles Regatta.



### **Minutes of the October, 2024, General Meeting – Joe Chapman, NV1W**

A General Meeting of the Boston Amateur Radio Club was held on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at the Artisans Asylum in Allston and simultaneously on the Zoom teleconferencing platform. Members attending: AC1JL, KB1EKN, KB1ISG, KC1PWO, KE1L, N2TIQ, NT5SM, NV1W, NW1S, W1PAC, W1TJF. Guests: K1KI, KC1VOP, KC2PSE. The meeting was called to order by President Brendan Baldonado, NW1S, at 7:30 p.m.

Following a round of introductions, Tom Frenaye, K1KI, gave a presentation on his candidacy for New England Director of the American Radio Relay League.

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### **Officer reports:**

The President and Vice President had no report.

Secretary (NV1W): The website will be updated for 2025 renewals on November 1. The Volunteer Exam (VE) team will be going through some changes in 2025 to prepare for changes at the ARRL VEC and to introduce the use of ExamTools for administering exams. The ARRL VEC will no longer be printing paper exam booklets, which will first apply to the July 2026 Technician exam update. Volunteer Examiners are always needed; contact Joe, NV1W, at [joechapman@alum.mit.edu](mailto:joechapman@alum.mit.edu) if you are interested.

Treasurer (KB1EKN): The general account has \$7591, the repeater account has \$715, and the A2 account has \$13,913. Our rent at A2 is paid through December. **A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the Treasurer's report.**

### **Old business:**

Brendan, NW1S, will ask Scott, K1SU, to be webmaster for the club.

Mark, KB1EKN, reported on the status of the new VHF repeater antenna, which has been ordered.

### **New business:**

Holiday party:

- Shirley, KE1L, will investigate the availability of the A2 classroom for this year's holiday party. A date of Saturday, December 14, was proposed.

Artisans Asylum:

- Shirley, KE1L, reported that there is still no progress on antennas.
- Regarding the APRS node, the main obstacle is that the wifi at A2 is unreliable; every hour you lose connections for a minute or two.
- We are proposing a wired connection for the APRS node. I.T. at A2 is not opposed. Shirley, KE1L, will be making a proposal and expects approval, perhaps by the end of the month.

Repeater fund:

- **A motion to move \$1000 from the general fund into the repeater fund, to replenish money spent replacing the VHF antenna, was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.**

Winter Field Day:

- This year's Winter Field Day is January 25–26. We intend to use the same site and setup as last year.
- Shirley, KE1L, will start planning.
- A discussion was had about planning for adverse weather.
- **A motion to allocate \$500 for Winter Field Day was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

— *Respectfully submitted, Joseph Chapman NV1W, Secretary.*

## ***The SPARC***

### **An October POTA Outing at Herter – *Patrick Mannion, W1PAC***



On October 12, 2024, I joined fellow BARC members plus a special guest from Pennsylvania, Tim, N3DL for a POTA outing at Herter Park. I brought my trusty Yaesu FT-891 along with Chelegance MC-750 antenna and setup on a bench nearby the rest of the group while watching the setup for what would be next week's Head of the Charles Regatta.

I started out on 15 meters and it was slow going but I made contacts, albeit unsure on a few. However, once the rest of the group finished up, I switched to 20 meters and was able to finish the outing. I finished the outing with an adult beverage from the beer garden in Herter Park with my fellow BARC members. All in all I had a good time and I'm looking further to other outings such as Winter Field Day and hopefully, springtime POTA!

### **Winter Field Day – *Scott Gaudet, K1SU***

Winter Field Day is an annual amateur radio event where we take our radios, antennas, and gear into the field for 24 hours of operating and fun. And once again, BARC will be participating in this exciting activity on the weekend of January 24-26, 2025! We'll be setting up camp at AMC Ponkapoag and spending a day (and night) operating radios, making contacts, and enjoying the camaraderie with fellow amateur radio enthusiasts.

This event is a great opportunity for us to get out into the field, practice our operating skills, and make new contacts. Whether you're an experienced operator or just starting out, Winter Field Day is a fun and relaxed environment where you can learn from others and show off your skills. We'll have antennas set up in various locations around the campsite, so even if you don't have a lot of gear, there's still plenty to get involved with.

If you're interested in joining us for Winter Field Day, or just want to learn more about this fun event, please reach out to me directly at [k1su.scott@gmail.com](mailto:k1su.scott@gmail.com). We'd love to have you join our team! Whether you can bring your own gear for POTA, or just want to come along for the ride, we're happy to have you on board. Let's make some contacts, have some fun, and enjoy another great Winter Field Day with BARC!

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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**

|            |      |     |         |
|------------|------|-----|---------|
| October 14 | 2024 | Mon | 7:30 pm |
|------------|------|-----|---------|

## **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**

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 16 – 17 November   | ARRL November Sweepstakes – SSB  |
| <b>21 November</b> | <b>BARC General Meeting, Artisans Asylum, Allston, and Zoom, 7:30 pm</b> |
| 23 – 24 November   | CQWW CW Contest  |
| 7 December         | SKYWARN Recognition Day  |
| <b>7 December</b>  | <b>BARC Holiday Party, Artisans Asylum, Allston, 1pm</b>                 |
| <b>19 December</b> | <b>BARC General Meeting, Artisans Asylum, Allston, and Zoom, 7:30 pm</b> |
| 1 January          | ARRL Straight Key Night  |
| 4 – 5 January      | ARRL RTTY Roundup  |
| <b>13 January</b>  | <b>BARC VE Session Artisans Asylum, Allston, 7:30 pm</b>                 |

**▲ 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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## ***The SPARC***

### **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 December issue must be received by December 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, 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, October 14, 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).

## ***The SPARC***



# 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:

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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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