



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

May 2025 - VOLUME 37, NUMBER 5

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message From the President – Brendan Baldonado, NW1S



Summer is already kicking off into high gear. Lots of planning and things happening with Boston Amateur Radio Club. Just finished up the New England QSO party. 8 people ended up showing up for some really fantastic weather, although kind of crummy bands. It was a casual get together and we made about 30 contacts. We're also just getting back from a Tuesday night at STARS in Natick. We talked a lot about new ideas, attracting new people into the hobby. Field Day planning is underway and it is going to be a fun one this year. Looking forward to seeing everyone at a BARC event this year.

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BARC General Meeting, Thursday, May 15, 7:30 pm

The next BARC General Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 7:30 pm, at Artisans Asylum in Allston and on the Zoom teleconferencing platform. This month's speaker is Peter KC1HHO, presenting Introduction to National Traffic System and the Radiogram. This will be an interactive talk so be sure to attend in person if you can. 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

2025 Boston Marathon – Patrick Mannion, W1PAC

On Patriots' Day 2025, I woke up at sometime around 2:45am, not that I wanted to be up that early, I just happened to wake up then. Nevertheless, just after 4am, I was out the door of my house and on my way to a Dunkins on Route 1 in Saugus. There I would meetup with Jim, KB1KQW, the Course Coordinator for the Boston Marathon for the past decade or so and a good friend of mine. Also joining us was another Patrick, KC1UIT.

From there, we made the trek to a Babson College parking lot in Wellesley and began to distribute some jackets for early course volunteers. By 6:30am I was off to Framingham to retrieve a jacket and then began working my way down course to deliver volunteer jackets to my station and others in Natick and Wellesley.

I was on station at Medical Tent 6, stationed at Wellesley College (right before the famous "Scream Tunnel") just sometime after 7am. There I met with M06B or "Mike Zero Six Bravo" or better known as AB1N, Adam. He would be my partner for the day along with hams from the nearby hydration station, "Hotel One One Left and Right", NQ2U, Matthew and KC1UIT. I was "Mike Zero Six Alpha".

My job was relay medical statistics from the station back to net control and maintain a strict listening watch on my frequency which was Romeo Two. From that listening watch, I would relay observations from H11 about runners to be on the lookout for to my station captain, George, a firefighter from Maine who also happens to be a ham, KB1WKU, although that was not his role this year or in years past.

Another duty of ours at the station was to communicate between us and the sweep buses picking up runners who had dropped out of the race on our dedicated simplex frequency, Romeo Seven.

After a rather uneventful day, which is a good thing, I made my way to W1M Course Net Control in an undisclosed location and watched them do their thing on the various frequencies for the race, which included the W1BOS repeater, as it was known for the race, Romeo Five. I didn't do any net controlling but it is interesting to see the other side. I was joined by friends from Philly, Charlie, K3CL and Jonathan, N3JEC along with newly minted ham and friend of K3CL, Tiffany, KE2FMJ (her vanity didn't arrive in time for the event) from NYC.



After winding down operations at net control and helping to stash gear, we went off to a BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse to wind down and commiserate after a long day.

I was not the only BARC member who participated, it takes a village and if you look at the Groups.io group for the club, you'll see pictures from other BARC members who worked along the various segments of race, from Start to Finish and Transportation.

All in all, a good time was had at the 129th Boston Marathon, and I look forward to the running of the 130th Boston Marathon.



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Minutes of the April, 2025, General Meeting – Joe Chapman, NV1W

A General Meeting of the Boston Amateur Radio Club was held on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at the Artisans Asylum in Allston and simultaneously on the Zoom teleconferencing platform. Members attending: K1SU, KB1EKN, KC1AOJ, KC1PWO, KC1UPQ, KC2PSC, KE1L, N1QD, NW1S, W1JJF, W1PAC, W1TJF, W1ZQL. Guests: Margaret, Victoria. The meeting was called to order by President Brendan Baldonado, NW1S, at 7:35 p.m.

Officer reports:

- President (NW1S): Reported that summer field day is being planned and will be discussed later in the meeting.
- Vice President (N1QD): Reports the DMR repeater will be shifted to analog mode for the Boston Marathon from 4/18 through 4/21. Repeater equipment upgrades will not be done until after the Marathon.
- Secretary (NV1W): No report submitted.
- Treasurer (KB1EKN): The general account has \$8,095, the repeater account has \$1,924, and the A2 account has \$13,813. Total is \$ 23,832.

Old business:

- Shirley, KE1L, reported on the antenna work at A2. As reported last month, the antennas have been approved by the building owner, Harvard. Shirley has obtained competitive quotes for the required equipment and operators to move the antenna and supporting materials to the roof. There was discussion about logistics and the technical requirements for mechanical and electrical securement. The club requested the Antenna Committee to provide a budgetary estimate of the total costs before approving the expenditure.

New business:

- Brendan, NW1S, reports there is a meeting of local radio clubs planned for May 6 at the New England Sci-Tech in Natick and BARC has been invited to join. The meeting will address attracting and retaining new people to the hobby. All are welcome.
- Brendan, NW1S, reminds the club of the upcoming New England QSO Party on May 3–4.
- Scott, K1SU, reports that plans are underway for Summer Field Day on 6/27–29/2025. The club will return to the Hale Education facility in Westwood as in previous years and a deposit has been made to secure the facility. This will be the 4th year at Hale and Scott reports that planning should be straightforward. A meeting is scheduled for May 8 to review logistics. This year the club plans to set up a GOTA station.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

— *Respectfully submitted, Jerry Jennings, KC1PWO.*

BARC Meeting Calendar for 2025

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

General Meetings

16 January	2025	Thu	7:30 pm
20 February	2025	Thu	7:30 pm
20 March	2025	Thu	7:30 pm
17 April	2025	Thu	7:30 pm
15 May	2025	Thu	7:30 pm
19 June	2025	Thu	7:30 pm
18 September	2025	Thu	7:30 pm
16 October	2025	Thu	7:30 pm
20 November	2025	Thu	7:30 pm
18 December	2025	Thu	7:30 pm

VE Sessions

13 January	2025	Mon	7:30pm
14 April	2025	Mon	7:30pm
14 July	2025	Mon	7:30pm
13 October	2025	Mon	7:30 pm

2025 Boston-area Public Service Event Calendar

The following events will be looking for ham radio volunteers. For additional details, please contact Ethan KC1OIP, BARC's public service event coordinator.

- Boston 10K - Sunday June 22nd
- Head of the Charles - October 17th - 19th
- Cycle For Shelter - Sunday, September 14
- Boston Half Marathon - Date TBD

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.

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.

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Member News – Joe Harris, N1QD

This space is reserved for your news! Send it to N1QD at 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

15 May	BARC General Meeting, Artisans Asylum, Allston, and Zoom, 7:30 pm
16 – 18 May	Dayton Hamvention
18 May	Flea at MIT
24-25 May	CQ WPX Contest, CW
7 – 8 June	ARRL International Digital Contest
7-8 June	Museum Ships Weekend
14 – 16 June	ARRL June VHF Contest
15 June	Flea at MIT
19 June	BARC General Meeting, Artisans Asylum, Allston, and Zoom, 7:30 pm
28 – 29 June	ARRL Field Day, Hale Education, Westwood

▲ 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.

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. Articles for the June issue must be received by June 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.

BARC Volunteer Exam Sessions

The Boston Amateur Radio Club offers license exams quarterly. The next session will be held on Monday, April 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 CSCEs 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

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

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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emgmgt@comcast.net

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Volunteer Exams:

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Joe Chapman, NV1W, nv1w@arrl.net

Public Service Coordinator: Ethan Hansen, KC1OIP

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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