



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century
Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

October 2025 - VOLUME 37, NUMBER 10

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message From the President – Brendan Baldonado, NW1S



Happy Halloween from the Boston Amateur Radio club! We had a good turnout at our last meeting and we're hoping to keep the momentum going! The holidays will break it up a little but we have the holiday party and Winter Field Day fast approaching so look forward to those! We continue our ham radio basics series with more speakers covering new ham topics. I know I have learned and enjoyed the talks a lot. Looking forward to a great winter.

In this Issue of The SPARC

- September Meeting Minutes
- 2025 Event Calendar
- 2025 Public Service Events



BARC General Meeting, Thursday, October 16, 7:30 pm

The next BARC General Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 7:30 pm, at Artisans Asylum in Allston and on the Zoom teleconferencing platform. BARC is continuing its Ham Radio Basics series. Our speaker will be BARC's own Vice President, Joe N1QD giving a presentation on DMR. Learn about digital voice for ham radio, and how to program radios to use the club's DMR repeater

Are you new to Ham Radio or DMR? Come to the October BARC meeting!

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

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

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

A General Meeting of the Boston Amateur Radio Club was held on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at the Artisans Asylum in Allston and simultaneously on the Zoom teleconferencing platform. Members attending: AC1JL, AC1RV, K1OP, K9HI, KB1EKN, KC1TFJ, KC1WRM, KC2PSC, KE1L, N1ICN, N1PHL, N1PNG, N1QD, NV1W, NW1S, W1PAC. Guests: KB1NCR, W1DYJ (speaker), Tommy, Jason. The meeting was called to order by President Brendan Baldonado, NW1S, at 7:33 p.m.

Following introductions, Phil, K9HI, announced that the ARRL is starting an effort to get the HOA bill passed. You can support this effort by going to arrl.org/hoa and entering your call. This will generate a physical letter that they will hand deliver to your representative and senators. You do not have to be an ARRL member to participate.

A presentation on FT8 by Larry, W1DYJ, followed.

Officer reports:

- President (NW1S): Artisans Asylum was not logging our payments. This is now sorted out. Our new member services contact is Amber Halt.
- Vice President (N1QD): Gave a recap of Field Day.
- Secretary (NV1W): Excluding honorary members we have 130 members, of which 33 are new this year.
- Treasurer (KB1EKN): The repeater fund has \$1925. The checking account has \$9231, not including \$575 we received today. The A2 account has \$12,192, and the total is \$23,348. Next month we should vote on moving \$500 from the checking account to the repeater fund. Hale Education has not yet cashed our check for Field Day; we will ask Scott, K1SU, to look into it.

Old business:

- Antenna committee (from Shirley, KE1L): No updates on the electricians. Other groups have added 40 and 80 meter OCF dipoles on the roof. Nothing has been done on grounding.

New business and announcements:

- Mark, KB1EKN, asked about the state of the club's insurance. Brendan, NW1S, described the policy we have through the ARRL.
- Mark, KB1EKN, asked if we want to do SKYWARN Recognition Day at the Blue Hill Observatory this year. A considerable amount of work is involved, and it only results in about four hours of operating. Others asked if we might consider doing the event, but scaling the effort back. This was tabled until the October meeting.
- **A motion to participate in Winter Field Day 2026 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.**
- **A motion to allocate \$500 for the Holiday Party was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.** Details will be worked out later.
- Mark, KB1EKN, made announcement about a private service for BARC's founding President, Bob Salow, WA1IDA (SK) that he will be attending.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

— *Respectfully submitted, Joe Chapman, NV1W.*

The SPARC

BARC's New Discord Server! – Patrick Mannion, W1PAC

Hello All! 🙌

👤 Guess what! 🧑

🔊 BARC has its own Discord server!

🐦 What is Discord you might ask? It's a chat program that allows instant messaging, voice and video calls. The server is broken up in various chat rooms and we have a lot, however, the general chatroom is called #general and after that it branches off into various other chat rooms for more specialized content such as ones for POTA, ARES and various digital modes.

If you want to join, you can use it right in your favorite browser or use the Discord software, it's available for desktop on all 3 major operating systems such as Windows, Mac and various Linux distributions. It's also available for iOS and Android phones.

Just go to <https://discord.com/download> and download it.

To get to our server you'll need an invite link which is: <https://discord.gg/F6hqmgFMjW>

We've set it to never expire, but if it accidentally does, just let us know in the groups.io and we'll generate a new one.

Hope to see you on there!

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 – November 9th

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.

The SPARC

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, W1JJF. 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 October	BARC VE Session, Artisans Asylum
16 October	BARC General Meeting, Artisans Asylum, Allston, and Zoom, 7:30 pm
17 – 19 October	Head of the Charles Regatta
19 October	Flea at MIT
25 – 26 October	CQWW SSB
1 November	FARAFest flea market, Bourne MA
1 – 3 November	ARRL Sweepstakes, CW
9 November	BAA Half Marathon
15 – 17 November	ARRL Sweepstakes, SSB
20 November	BARC General Meeting, Artisans Asylum, Allston, and Zoom, 7:30 pm
28 – 29 November	CQWW CW

▲ *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 November issue must be received by November 8.

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, October 13, 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.

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 or www.NE1AR.org.

BARC Officers and Staff

President: Brendan Baldonado, NW1S
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Vice President: Joe Harris, N1QD
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Secretary: Joe Chapman, NV1W
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emgmgt@comcast.net

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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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2



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