



The SPARC

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

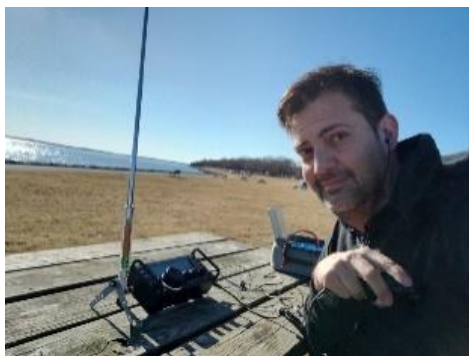
Serving Hams in the Greater Boston Area

March 2026 - VOLUME 38, NUMBER 3

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrl.net



Message From the President – Brendan Baldonado, NW1S



A warm March to everyone reading this. We have had some interesting weather so far this year; Skywarn has been active and we have seen snow, ice pellets and temps over 50° already! By now we have had our first Club POTA. Hopefully the weather cooperated and we all had a fun time hanging out and playing radio and being social. We will plan to have more events like that throughout the upcoming year. The next big event the club participates in is the NE QSO Party coming up in May. Look forward to seeing as many members especially new members as possible for the upcoming events!

In this Issue of The SPARC

- January Meeting Minutes



BARC General Meeting, Thursday, March 19, 7:30 pm

“Anatomy of a VHF/UHF Repeater Site” with WB2IKT

The next BARC General Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2026, 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 George Sullivan WB2IKT, presenting “Anatomy of a VHF/UHF Repeater Site. Zoom meeting info will be posted on www.barc.org.

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

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC

Minutes of the February, 2026, General Meeting – Joe Chapman, NV1W

A General Meeting of the Boston Amateur Radio Club was held on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at the Artisans Asylum in Allston and simultaneously on the Zoom teleconferencing platform. Members attending: AC1JL, AC1UT, KB1EKN, KB1ISG, KC2PSC, KE1L, N1QD, NV1W, NW1S, W1ZQI. Guests: KS2G, Lauren. The meeting was called to order by President Brendan Baldonado, NW1S, at 7:30 p.m.

After introductions, Mel, KS2G, gave a presentation on “Basics of HF Operating.”

Officer reports:

- President (NW1S): Have not yet talked with an electrician about grounding at Artisans Asylum. Did reach out to Dan, KZ2X, about the packet node.
- Vice President (N1QD): Nothing to report.
- Secretary (NV1W): We have 144 members, with 32 in the grace period who still need to renew for 2026.
- Treasurer (KB1EKN): Issues with Artisans Asylum are finally straightened out. The checking account has \$10,350. The repeater fund has \$1925, excluding \$500 to be transferred into the account per a vote at last month’s meeting. The A2 account has \$13,358, with the January–March payment still to be made. We sent \$200 to the Bare Cove Fire Museum for the Winter Field Day operation (this would have been used for wood at the AMC Ponkapoag site).

New business and announcements:

- Shirley, KE1L, announced that she is working on possible club projects including an analog QRP radio build (the LARCSet from htsignals.com), also a design for a low-cost keyer in the \$25–30 range.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

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

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!

The SPARC

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.

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.

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC

I See the Future

19 March	BARC General Meeting, Artisans Asylum, Allston, and Zoom, 7:30 pm
28 – 29 March	CQWW WPX Contest, SSB
13 April	BARC VE Session, Artisans Asylum, Allston, 7:30pm
16 April	BARC General Meeting, Artisans Asylum, Allston, and Zoom, 7:30 pm
19 April	MIT Flea Market
20 April	Boston Marathon (Rp)
24 – 26 April	Eastern VHF/UHF/Microwave Conference, Windsor CT
1 – 2 May	NEAR-Feat, New Boston, NH
2 – 3 May	New England QSO Party
15 – 17 May	Dayton Hamvention, Xenia, OH
17 May	Flea at MIT
21 May	BARC General Meeting, Artisans Asylum, Allston, and Zoom, 7:30 pm

▲ *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>.

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.

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 April issue must be received by April 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.

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
brendan.baldonado@gmail.com

Vice President: Joe Harris, N1QD
n1qd@n1qd.org

Secretary: Joe Chapman, NV1W
nv1w@arrl.net

Treasurer: Mark Duff, KB1EKN,
emgmt@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor *locum tenens*: Joe Harris, N1QD
n1qd@n1qd.org

Volunteer Exams:

Jim Clogher, N1ICN, n1icn@arrl.net

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.

The SPARC is published monthly by the Boston Amateur Radio Club. The design and content are Copyright 2025, all rights reserved. Permission is hereby granted to reprint or distribute by electronic or other means any material herein, provided this publication and the issue date are credited. Such permission is limited to use for non-commercial purposes for the benefit of the Amateur Radio community. Permission for other purposes must be obtained in writing.

145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1

The SPARC

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)
Mon Wed Fri 6 pm	The 6 O'clock Net	145.130 (PL 107.2)
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	50.272
Sun 8 pm	Algonquin Amateur Radio Club Net	446.675 (PL 88.5)
Sun 8:30 pm	NSRA Net (with Newsline)	145.470 (PL 136.5)
Sun 7 pm	CAARAnet	145.130 (PL 107.2)



**Hands-Only™
CPR**

1



Call 911

2



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

Learn more at handsonlycpr.org



145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5/100.0

Simplex: 147.420

449.175 (-) DMR CC1