



# The SPARC

**Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century**

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

November 2010 - VOLUME 22, NUMBER 11

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



## Message from the President

- Tom Bertolino, KB1P, President

*It's November already where has the year gone? Is it me? Are there still 365 days in a year? It seems, as if it was only a couple of weeks ago I was having a great time at Field Day. How time flies. Now, the holiday season is upon us and BARC is planning its Holiday Party. We invite all members, their families, and friends to celebrate the holidays with us. This year's party is being held at the Stockyard Restaurant, on December 16th. Details about the party can be found in the attached flyer.*

*BARC is changing the way it is sending out its inserts. In the past we used postal mail to send every club member the Holiday Flyer and the Club's Membership Information Form. If you receive The SPARC electronically, the Holiday Party Flyer and the Membership Form will now be part of the electronic delivery of The SPARC. If you decide to attend the club's Holiday Party this year or in the future you can RSVP either by: printing the flyer attached to the newsletter and mail it with your check, or going to the club's web site [www.barc.org](http://www.barc.org), printing the flyer and mailing it in with your check, or by calling the point of contact (Tom, KB1P at 781-608-6186).*

*Also included in the Holiday Party Flyer is the "BARC Ham of the Year" nomination. If you do not plan to attend the Holiday Party but want to nominate someone for the Ham of the Year you will need to print the form, cut off the nomination part of the flyer, make your nomination, and mail it in.*

*The Membership Information Form will part of the December, January and February electronic newsletters. Again this means you will have to either print and mail your membership renewal in with your check or go to the BARC web site <http://www.barc.org> and renew electronically. If you have already renewed don't get upset when your electronic The SPARC contains another renewal form. Don't disregard it – use it to sign up a new member. The renewal form will be included with all electronically-transmitted copies of the SPARC for the above months.*

*If you are a club member who has elected to receive The SPARC by postal mail, you will receive these inserts by mail with your monthly newsletter.*

*This is a significant change in the way the BARC communicates with members. We hope the transition is painless.*

*December's Public Service event is Skywarn Recognition Day. The event is held on Great Blue Hill in, Milton, MA. The date is Saturday December 4th. The POC for this event is Mark, KB1EKN. If you want to help set-up, or just come by, contact Mark at [emgmgt@comcast.net](mailto:emgmgt@comcast.net) for more information. I hope to see you at the event.*

*I would like to thank Bob Phinney, K5TEC, for making the Clay Center available for our October General meeting. If you missed the meeting you missed Bob's excellent briefing and his informative tour of the Clay Center. Thanks again Bob.*

*Again this year I would like to remind you that the holiday season is also the time when many members of our armed services get a chance to visit family and friends, so if you a meet a service member or just walk by one in uniform (no matter what your politics) please made it a point to thank them for their service and sacrifices. Believe me, it will mean a lot to them.*

*Happy and safe Holiday season to everyone.*

## November Meeting Notice

**--Buying on the Internet - One Ham's Experience**

*Our November General meeting should be of interest to everyone who craves a good deal. Bruce Blain, K1BG, has gathered the experience of EBay for years and he will share his insights at our meeting on **Thursday, 18 November at 7:00 pm**. See Page 8 for more information.*

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## BARC Officers and Staff

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617.744.9780; phil@temples.com

## I See the Future

13 Nov	FARA Flea (Bourne)
18 Nov	BARC General Meeting
20 Nov	CAARA Flea (Rockport)
2 Dec	BARC Business Meeting
4-5 Dec	SKYWARN Recognition Day – BARC Station at BHO <b>(Rp)</b>
13 Dec	BARC VE Session (by reservation)
16 Dec	BARC Holiday Party <b>(General Meeting omitted)</b>
10 Jan	BARC VE Session (by reservation)
20 Jan	BARC General Meeting
14 Feb	BARC VE Session (by reservation)
17 Feb	BARC General Meeting
3 Mar	BARC Business Meeting

**(Rp)** = Repeater(s) may be used.

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 New England and some of New York, 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.

## No Dues Increase for 2011

The BARC Executive Committee decided to have no increase in the dues structure for 2011. The basic full year membership fee for regular members continues at \$25.00. Junior, senior and family memberships are set accordingly. There is also an adjustment for the latter half of the year.

**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 Special Service Club, and is a member of the Council of Eastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Clubs (CEMARC) and the New England Spectrum Management Council (NESMC). The Club is also an associate member of the Courage Handi-Hams system.

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## **BARC To Operate SKYWARN Recognition Day**

-- **Mark Duff, KB1EKN**

On **Saturday, 4 December 2010**, SKYWARN Recognition Day, BARC will participate for the eighth consecutive year from the Blue Hill Observatory in Milton. Our operating hours will be from 0900 to 1500. Mark your calendars now for a fun event.

Fun – you want some fun? How about an antenna held 200 feet aloft by a kite in 2004? Then there was the gale-force snowstorm in 2003. There are antennas to be installed and HF/VHF/UHF stations to be operated. We have the opportunity to meet with visitors to demonstrate and explain the relationship between weather observation and ham radio. All this will be at the weather station with the oldest continuous weather records in North America.

On a good day the visibility is over 100 miles from the Blue Hill Observatory. We invite you and any other hams to help and participate. Access to the top of the hill is restricted, so contact Mark, KB1EKN, at [emgmt@comcast.net](mailto:emgmt@comcast.net) for more information.

## **Quarterly Business Meetings**

-- **Bob Salow, WA1IDA**

We have Business meetings quarterly. Unless circumstances warrant, BARC Business meetings will be held on the first Thursdays of December, March, June, and September. The next such meeting will be on 2 December 2010 at the Brookline Police Dept. All members are urged to attend and participate in club affairs. This is where club functions are discussed and decided, and your help is needed to guide us.

A short opening period of each General meeting will continue to be used to bring any immediate business matters to everyone's attention.

To provide continuity of club business between meetings we have a virtual business meeting via an email list. Any member interested in the affairs of the club can ask to be on this virtual meeting list – just give your name, call and your email address to President Tom Bertolino, KB1P.

## **ARES Manual Downloadable**

The entire ARRL *ARES Field Resources Manual* can be downloaded at [www.arrl.org/files/file/ARESFieldResourcesManual.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/ARESFieldResourcesManual.pdf).

## **Daylight Savings Time Gone**

By the time you read this, Daylight Savings Time has ended. In addition to your clocks, don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and other battery-operated devices.

## **BARC Volunteer Exam Sessions**

The Boston Amateur Radio Club holds monthly VE sessions on the second Monday of each month. Sessions are held at 7:00 pm at Brookline Police Headquarters, 350 Washington St in the Community Room across from information desk. A map is shown on page 5

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 ID (picture ID preferred)
- 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.

For further information, contact:

Jim Clogher, N1ICN, 617.364.4658 [n1icn@arrl.net](mailto:n1icn@arrl.net)

Tom Bertolino, KB1P, 781.608.6186 [kb1p@arrl.net](mailto:kb1p@arrl.net)

## **Business 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 x 2 in. (business card)	\$15 per issue
1 col x 2 in. (business card)	\$75 per 6 consecutive months
1 col x 2 in. (business card)	\$125 per 12 consecutive months
1 col x 4 in. (1/2 column)	\$30 per issue
1 col x 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 Tom Bertolino, KB1P, at 781.608.6186 or [kb1p@arrl.net](mailto:kb1p@arrl.net); or Bob Salow at [wa1ida@arrl.net](mailto:wa1ida@arrl.net) or 508.650.9440.

## It's Time For the BARC Holiday Party

One of our most successful club events has been our Holiday Party in December. From the earliest days of BARC, our members, family and friends have had a wonderful time at our purely social get together. We have selected the famous Stockyard Restaurant in Brighton again this year, and we expect to have a great time with its great food. The Stockyard has an excellent reputation and has been carefully scouted by our devoted mastication team. The location is accessible by public transportation. In the past parking has been a problem. There is free parking at the restaurant and on-street parking on Guest St perpendicular to and across Market St.


Mark the date: **Thursday, 16 December**. The December General meeting is omitted.

This notice may not give you much time to decide, but you can see the informative flyer which accompanies this issue or on our website. In advance the cost is \$30.00, but at the door it will be \$35.00. Any excess restaurant costs, the tax and the gratuity are paid by the club. Please bring your family and friends – with a \$5.00 discount for each. Contact Mike, N1IST, at <n1ist@arrl.net> to be counted. Menu selections need not be made in advance – just place your order at the table. A cash bar will provide fortification, but you will be responsible for your own bar bills.

Have you ever entered a room full of strangers and tried to sort them all out? Families and friends will be joining us at the party, and as a courtesy to them, members are urged to wear name badges to facilitate making introductions, conversations and all around holiday good cheer to our guests.

As has become our custom, the Holiday Party is where we award the **“BARC Ham of the Year.”** The winner is chosen by your nomination from among the members. This means, of course, that it is up to you to recommend whom you feel most deserves the award this year. We want to recognize a BARC member for outstanding contribution to the club and to the Amateur Radio hobby. The rules stipulate that the award cannot be given to someone who has won in the past five years.

**WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION**



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Salem, NH 03079  
(603) 898-3750 • 800-444-0047  
(603) 898-1041 Fax

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## Previous winners were:

- 1992 Mike Ardai, N1IST
- 1993 Lajos Gergely, AA1BW/HA0DR
- 1996 Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ and Bob Cassell, N1ENS
- 1997 Terry Koen, N1IWF and Arthur Ashley, N1NHZ
- 1998 Mike Kass, N1YER and Bob Wondolowski, N1KDA
- 1999 Paul Carter, N1TMF & Mike Koenemund, KB1CKF
- 2000 Mark Duff, KB1EKN
- 2001 Frank Murphy, N1DHW and Bob Salow, WA1IDA
- 2002 Jim Clogher, N1ICN
- 2003 Dick Doherty, KA1TUZ
- 2004 Blake Haskell, K1BTH
- 2005 Arthur Ashley, N1NHZ
- 2006 Jim Clogher, N1ICN
- 2007 Eric Falkof, K1NUN
- 2008 Tom Bertolino, KB1P
- 2009 Hank Buccigross, K1QK

It is important that you return the two coupons on the Holiday Party flyer – or at least the “BARC Ham of the Year” nomination if you are not able to attend the party. The return date is set to allow enough time to notify the restaurant of the expected attendance, and for the award to be engraved for the Ham of the Year.

## Your Personal Ad Could Have Been Here

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 Tom Bertolino, KB1P, at <kb1p@arrl.net>.

## BARC Growth

It's a rare month when we fail to add or upgrade a few members. Periodically we publish their names so that you can give them a special welcome. There may also be some upgrades and long lost members who rejoin, so greet them, too.

Ted Slater

N6QXA

Please welcome new BARC members and congratulate the new upgrades. Make it a point to introduce yourself when you see them at a meeting. In addition, we would like to note here all call sign changes. If you fit any of these categories, please promptly notify the Keeper of the Database, Bob Salow, WA1IDA at: 508.650.9440 or email: <wa1ida@arrl.net>.

## **Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy**

-- Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

One thing that I find amusing about Morse code is that the more people claim that it's dead, the more people there are that rise up to defend and promote it. Note that I said "defend and promote it," not actually use it, but that topic is for another column.

Having said that, let me direct you to a new tome on our ancient art, *Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy* by Carlo Consoli, IK0YGI. This book is available as a free download in the original Italian, <[www.qsl.net/ik0ygj/enu/ZART\\_ita\\_v20100826.pdf](http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygj/enu/ZART_ita_v20100826.pdf)> and in an English translation, <[www.qsl.net/ik0ygj/enu/ZART\\_r20101008m.pdf](http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygj/enu/ZART_r20101008m.pdf)>.

What makes this book different from others is that instead of concentrating on the mechanics of learning and using Morse code, the author spends a good deal of time talking about the psychology of learning this skill. To succeed in learning Morse code, Consoli advises that we need to change our approach to learning:

*"When learning CW, therefore, we must establish a new component in our self-image and, when doing so, we need to be relaxed. Always practice during the same time of day and in a place where you can experience positive feelings of comfort and pleasure. When we make a mistake we are always ready to blame ourselves. This is the way we learned from our environment during childhood, often accepting any fault as our own error or weakness.*

*"This potentially destructive mechanism can be used to build a positive self-image, rather than demolish it. A mistake must be considered a signal, pointing us in the right direction. If you fail, let your mistake pass away, with no blame or irritation. Learn CW in a relaxed mood, enjoy the pleasure of learning something new, repeat your exercises every day and be confident in the self-programming abilities of your self-image. Just a few minutes a day: you can take care of your 'more serious' stuff later on."*

Consoli also has some interesting things to say about getting faster. He agrees with me that it's essential to abandon pencil and paper and start copying in one's head. We also agree that at this point, you need to start using a paddle instead of a straight key.

He has analyzed the situation a lot more than I have, though. When hams ask me how I learned to copy in my head, all I can do is to relate my own experience, which is that one day, I just went cold turkey. I put down the pencil and paper and never copied letter-by-letter ever again.

Unfortunately, that doesn't seem to work for a lot of operators. If that doesn't work for you, Consoli says that what you need to do is to program yourself to copy in your head. You do this, he says, by relaxing and visualizing. Visualize yourself as a high-speed operator, and one day, you will be one.

That seems to have worked for him. He is a member of the Very High Speed Club (VHSC), First Class Operator's Club (FOC), and has been clocked at copying over 70 wpm.

Will it work for you? I'm not sure, but if you haven't been successful with other methods to improve your code speed, then Consoli's methods are certainly worth a try.

## **Tips for New Contest Operators**

-- ARRL Contest Update, 13 October 2010

The ARRL November Sweepstakes is a common first contest for new HF operators since even small stations can make a lot of contacts around the US and Canada. For those new testers, it can be a challenge to navigate the rules and log submission process. To address those needs, the ARRL has released a first version at getting all the rules - contest-specific, general, and HF - into one convenient package. It's available on the *Sweepstakes Web page*

<<http://arrrl.org/sweepstakes>> as an "Operating Guide" and includes a "how to play" overview, a number of references to contest operating information, log sheets and entry forms, and examples of known-good Cabrillo headers for each operating category. Eventually, there will be one of these for each ARRL contest.

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## **2nd Amateur Radio Station to be Activated on ISS**

-- <http://www.issfanclub.com/node/29606>

The original VHF and UHF Ericsson handheld radios in the Russian segment of the ISS originally used for ARISS have been approved by NASA for use in the US segment of the space station. When the Ericsson radios are installed in the Columbus module it will become the second Amateur Radio station aboard the ISS. A new power cable for the Ericsson radios is being delivered to the ISS.

ARISS members Kenneth Ransom and Steve Ponder met with Astronaut Paolo Nespoli for a training session on how to install the hardware in the Columbus module during Expedition 26 currently scheduled for December 13. Paolo is looking forward to doing the installation work and is excited about using the equipment.

The second station is planned to initially use the same frequencies currently used by the Kenwood D-700 amateur radio transceiver aboard the ISS. Studies are underway to determine a compatible operating plan which would allow both stations to operate simultaneously.

The AMSAT News Service thanks the ARISS team for this information.

PY4MAB - Mon, 2010 - 11 - 01 09:04 - ISS Amateur Radio -

**Repeaters: 145.230 (-)CTCSS 88.5**


**Simplex: 147.420**

**444.050 (-)CTCSS 110.9 Hz**



## Daylight Savings Time Gone

By the time you read this, Daylight Savings Time has ended. In addition to your clocks, don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and other battery-operated devices.



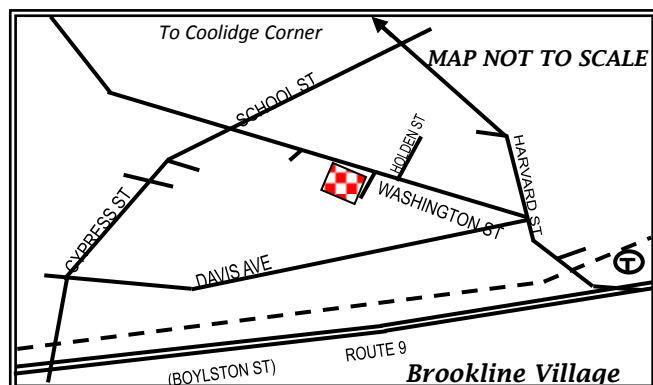
**The Clay Center Observatory  
Welcomes BARC members**

[www.claycenter.org](http://www.claycenter.org)

Public Astronomy Nights, Astronomy Day Events,  
Amateur Radio Classes, Amateur Radio Youth Club,  
Community and Adult Education, Weather Festival,  
Science Lecture Series, Educational Outreach

*20 Newton St., Brookline, near Larz Anderson Park*

## Direction to the Brookline Police Headquarters, 350 Washington Street, Brookline MA



## Looking Ahead At Public Service

-- **Bob Salow, WA1IDA**

When hams engage in public service as mandated by the FCC Rules, the benefits go well beyond just following the rules. We can enjoy our hobby - have fun! We protect the health and safety of event participants. We support worthy charities. We learn to work within an organized effort. We experience the technical aspects of operating under adverse conditions. We practice communicating under emergency conditions. We can demonstrate these qualities to the communities we serve and thus promote our service for their acceptance.

Throughout the year BARC coordinates numerous public service events. Most of these are open to hams who are new to helping at such events as well as experienced hams. For 2011, we have already been tasked with several events, and more are expected. Feel free to contact Tom Bertolino, KB1P, at 781.608.6186 or <[kb1p@arri.net](mailto:kb1p@arri.net)>.

➤ **SKYWARN Recognition Day – 4 December 2010 –**  
(Blue Hill Observatory)

Other events may jump in on short notice. Among our skills is the ability to apply our technical, organizational and staffing quickly and proficiently. Join our team and join in the fun and learning.

## Greater Boston Net Directory

Daily 5:30 pm	Eastern Mass/Rhode Island Phone Net (NTS)	3.915
Daily 7 and 10 pm	Eastern Mass/Rhode Island CW Net (NTS)	3.658
Daily 8 pm	Eastern Mass 2M Traffic Net (NTS)	145.230 (PL 88.5)
Daily 8 pm	Slow Speed CW Net	28.160
Daily 10:00 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 9 pm	BARC Club Net	145.230 (PL 88.5)
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	HHTN Swap Net	146.640
Thu 8:30 pm	AMSAT Net	146.640
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 Newsline)	145.470

*It's that time  
of the year!*

# BOSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2010 Holiday Party

*Here's why you must not pass this up:*

1. Past experience has shown that you are guaranteed to have a good time,
2. You will be among the members and friends of the *Boston Amateur Radio Club*.
3. The BARC gourmet and gluttony departments have praised it far and wide.
4. Good food at a reasonable price.
5. You get to vote on the BARC "Ham of the Year," and watch the winner squirm.
6. It's for you, your family and your friends (if any).

*Here's what's goin' down:*

**Where:**

Stockyard Restaurant  
135 Market Street  
Brighton MA 02135  
(suspended.)

*Free parking in the adjacent lot or on Guest St.*

**When:**

Thursday, 16 December 2010  
7:00 pm  
(The regular club meeting is  
○

T buses #86 and #84 stop nearby.

*Food ?? Of course !!*

The coupon below will guide you to dinner choices you make at the table. There is no need to decide now.

*Cost ?? We know you'd ask !!*

It's a bargain at **\$30.00** per person (tax and gratuity included). Reserve seats for yourself, your family and your friends by sending your check, payable to BARC, with the coupon below, and get it in the mail quickly. Take a \$5.00 discount for each of your guests. If you must delay, there will be a \$5.00 per person surcharge added at the door.

**Nominate your choice for the 2010 BARC Ham of the Year on the other**

Send both coupons below to:

Mike Ardai, N1IST  
41 Williams Street  
Malden MA 02148

Send before 15 November 2010

Send before 15 November 2010

Send before 15 November 2010

A party? Of course we'll be there!

Make menu selections at the table.

Body Count: \_\_\_\_\_

Southern Fried Chicken	Clam Chowder, Soup d'jour
Steak Tips	House Salad, Caesar Salad
Sugared Salmon	Brownie Sundae, Chocolate Cake
Veggie Stir Fry	Coffee, Tea

*You will be responsible for your own bar bills*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**2010 BARC Ham of the Year**

I nominate: \_\_\_\_\_

Because: \_\_\_\_\_



Mark, KB1EKN and Hank, K1QK



Hank, K1QK, Bob, WA1IDA,  
and John, K1BBN



Tom, KB1P and Nathaniel KB1QHX

## Blue Hill Observatory Fall Open House

*Photos taken by Mike Simonds, KZ5H*



Club Setting up HF station



Troop 25 Stopping by BARC's Booth

Boston Amateur Radio Club  
PO Box 15585  
Boston MA 02215-0011  
Forwarding Information Requested

***The SPARC***

First Class Mail  
Time Sensitive Do Not Delay



### November meeting notice

#### Buying on the Internet - One Ham's Experience

Have you seen something on EBay or just been referred to EBay for an item you wanted, but couldn't figure out how to make it yours? Our November General meeting should be of interest to everyone who craves a good deal. Bruce Blain, K1BG, has gathered the experience of EBay for years and he will share his insights at our meeting on **Thursday, 18 November at 7:00 pm.**

Bruce has been a ham for over 41 years and is now an Extra Class. He is presently the VP of Sales for Microwave Networks, a commercial maker of microwave radio equipment. He gave a well received presentation at a BARC meeting about ten years ago on buying used ham equipment.

We usually meet on the third Thursday of each month, except July, August and December (that's party time) at the Brookline Police Headquarters, 350 Washington St, Brookline. Meetings begin at 7:00 pm.

Talk-in on the Boston repeater, 145.230 MHz ( - ), CTCSS 88.5 Hz. See the map on page 7.

**Repeaters: 145.230 (-)CTCSS 88.5**

**Simplex: 147.420**

**444.050 (-)CTCSS 110.9 Hz**