



The SPARC

Amateur Radio - Communicating Worldwide for A Century

Newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club

December 2010 - VOLUME 22, NUMBER 12

www.barc.org - w1bos@arrrl.net



Message from the President -- Tom Bertolino, KB1P, President

This month marks the start of the club's membership renewal drive. There are two methods available to you to renew your membership. You can go to BARC's web site, <www.barc.org>, and pay using PayPal, or you can print the renewal form that is attached to the electronic The SPARC and mail it in with your check. This is the first month that the club's Membership Information-form will be sent out with the electronic The SPARC. The form will be attached to the December, January, and February newsletters. If you have renewed your membership, just disregard the renewal forms.

The SPARC is going to exclusive electronic delivery beginning with the January issue. We will be making some changes to the format to make it easier to read on your computer. The SPARC has been published in a two-column format. To read an article you have to move down one column then move back up the page to the top of the second column and back down the page again. Starting in January we are changing from the two-column format to a single column format. You will be able to read an article without having to move up the same page. It might take a couple of months to get it right so be patient with us.

If you missed the November General Meeting you missed a great presentation by Bruce Blain, K1BG, on the do's and don'ts of buying on eBay. Thank you Bruce and welcome to the club.

We are in the middle of the Holiday Season - a time during which our thoughts turn toward family, friends, and good will. It's a time when we do not hesitate to drop a dollar into The Salvation Army kettle or to give willingly to some other charity. It's a season where holiday parties mean celebrating with family and friends we may not have seen since last year. If you plan to celebrate do so with good judgment. Don't turn this festive season into one of sadness.

Hope to see you all at the Holiday Party. If not, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

It's Time for Membership Renewal

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.

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2011, a Membership Information form is included with this issue of the newsletter. Be sure to complete the form when submitting your dues as the data is necessary for statistical purposes and to notify you with important information. To assist the Treasurer with his burden, please return it promptly with your dues.

BARC accepts PayPal. If you want to renew your membership on-line, just go to <www.barc.org/membership.html> or click on the membership link on our home page. You can use this to pay for membership or make donations with a credit card (even if you do not have a PayPal account), from your PayPal funds, or from your linked bank account. Our PayPal address is <w1bos@arrrl.net>.

BARC Newsletter Is Green -- and Saves Money

Effective with the January 2011 issue, this newsletter, the official source of BARC news (and other interesting tidbits), will be distributed exclusively online. It will be a significant saving of costs, effort and trees. Readers will be notified monthly by email to link to a web page where the earliest posting can be read. Of course, this makes it necessary for all who will receive *The SPARC* to provide their best email address. We thank you for your cooperation.

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The Spirit of Christmas Past -- Tom Bertolino, KB1P

It's December 1971, South Viet Nam, Quang Tri Province, part of the rocket belt about 15 - 20 km northwest of Hue. This is where elements of the Delta Company 2nd Bn. 327th Inf, 101st Airborne Div were on patrol. It's the middle of the monsoon season in this hilly jungle area.

It was a difficult time to be a combat soldier in South Viet Nam. We spent Thanksgiving Day on patrol and missed the traditional turkey dinner. Morale was low. It was the holiday season. This will be the first holiday season away from home for many soldiers in this "draft" Army. We had been soaking wet in the middle of the jungle for over a month. We were eating cold "C" rations and fighting a war that no one wanted. We wondered how everyone was doing in the real world. (We called the States the real world because we thought we were living a bad dream.) How are the folks back home? Are they safe, are they dry, and what are they doing to get ready for the holidays? We worried about our families back home.

We got our first break in the middle of December when we found out that we were being sent to help guard a Fire Base later in the month. At least we would have a chance to dry out, eat a hot meal, and enjoy the "comfort" of a bunker to keep us out of the rain. The plan was that we would be picked up by helicopters, weather permitting, on the 22nd and flown to a landing zone just outside of the Fire Base. All we had to do was get to the pick-up zone on time. There was no doubt in our minds that we could do so and we did.

We arrived at the Fire Base on time, and we were assigned a section of the perimeter to secure. During our briefing by the base commander we were told that our unit could enter the base's lottery. The prizes were MARS calls back to the states on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We all entered the lottery and started to think about the holidays back home with our families. The biggest problem the troops had was deciding whom they were going to call if they won. Unit morale was starting to get better. We began to share stories about our last holidays back home. We all agreed on one thing, that is, when we told our stories to our family and friends we would avoid any talk about our upcoming tour in Viet Nam.

The drawing was held on the morning of the 24th. Since my squad was on a security patrol outside the base, I did not find out that I won the Christmas Eve MARS call until that afternoon. I was happier than a pig in ?!%@. I was going to call my wife whom I married before I went to Viet Nam. Since my departure she had been living with her parents. The call was planned for 2100 hrs. I had no idea what time it was in the states or for that matter what day it was. I didn't care. My only worry was that the base might be attacked when I was on the phone with my wife. It was the longest seven hours I ever spent waiting for that call. When the time came for the call, I was in my bunker, it was raining and it was so dark that you could not see three feet in front of you. Almost on time the TA-312 in the bunker rang. It was an Amateur Radio operator on the phone. He was somewhere in the States. He wanted the phone number I wanted to call. While he was dialing the number he explained the radio procedures used during the call and the call would only last for 3 minutes. The phone was answered after the 4th ring. It was my mother-in-law. It was probably the only time I was glad to hear her voice. The ham explained that he was calling for me and this call was for my wife. My mother-in-law put my wife on the phone. Until this day the only thing I remember about the call is my wife saying "over."

I didn't know how much that phone call meant to my wife and our families when my wife explained to them that I would be on a Fire Base for Christmas. It was the next year's holiday season when I found out. We were all at my parent's house celebrating, when someone brought up my call from the Fire Base. They said it made their Christmas because they were all worried about how I was getting on and what I was doing during Christmas. After hearing from me they felt that I was safe for now being on a Fire Base and that I would have a good meal on Christmas.

I do not know who the ham was, but he made Christmas, 1971, a happy one for one grunt and his family. Thank you whoever you were, and thanks to all those hams who took the time to relay phone calls to lonely GIs everywhere.

Your Testing Is Needed for the New 70cm Repeater Frequency -- Bob Salow, WA1IDA

We have now been assigned a new frequency pair for our 70cm repeater. Your help is needed to verify the coverage and signal quality. At several times of the day, please try to make contacts and get signal reports. Make notes of your location, the type of radio, the power used, and the reported signal quality. Send this information to Tom Bertolino, KB1P, at **kb1p@arrl.net** or call him at 781.608.6186.

The new frequency is: 443.550 MHz (+), PL 110.9 Hz. Check it out.

Minutes of the BARC Business Meeting: December 2, 2010 --Recorded by: Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ

Present were:

Tom Bertolino, KB1P, President
Jim Clogher, N1ICN, Treasurer
Hank Buccigross K1QK, Executive Officer
Arthur Ashley, N1NHZ, Executive Officer
Mike Ardai, N1IST

Linda Blair, NA1I, Vice President
James Bradley, KB1JKJ, Secretary
Bob Salow, WA1IDA, Executive Officer
Joe Flaherty, W1JJF

19:02 PM; Meeting was brought to order at 19:02 by the President.

Treasurer's Report: Jim, N1ICN, reported that the bank balance was \$ 3,803.46. Tom presented the 2009 Balance Sheet which was reviewed and discussed. It was noted that there were a number of onetime items purchased.

Secretary's Report: Jim, KB1JBJ, reported that there was nothing to report.

Membership Services' Report: Linda, NA1I, reported that she was not getting the list of new hams, so that she can send out new membership packages to these hams. Bob, WA1IDA, explained that the problem is with AARL site and has been corrected.

Linda, NA1I, will send out a one page note to new hams, welcoming them into the world of ham radio and BARC. She will include the URL to the latest *The SPARC* newsletter.

Repeater Report: Tom, KB1P reported that 145.230, is working fine and that Monday Night Net has not noticed any problems.

On the 440 side, Mike, N1IST, reported that the new frequency pairs (443.550 / 448.550, CTCSS 110.9) have been programmed into the repeater and the cans have been re-tuned. The receiver still needs further internal tuning.

Mike, N1IST, reported that the club purchased and owns the 2 meter repeater and antenna; the feed line is part of the building services. The 440 repeater was donated and the club purchased the power supply; he was not sure about the antenna. Mike is also putting together an inventory of the club's equipment at the repeater site, so we can look into the possibility of insuring with ARRL.

Public Service: The following organizations have requested support for their events next year.

- *MS Walk – 10 April* – (Boston/Cambridge)
- *BAA 5K/1 mile – 17 April* – (Boston)
- *MS Journey of Hope – 21 May* – (Natick)
- *Run of the Charles – 30 April* – (Charles River = Needham to Boston)
- *BAA Half Marathon – 9 October* – (Boston)

There was discussion about supporting the Bike not Bombs Bike Ride, no decision was made, because they have not asked for our support. We will revisit this if a request is made.

Events: Tom discussed the clubs upcoming ***SKYWARN Recognition Day*** Station at BHO on December 4. We will setup 3 HF stations on Friday, December 3. Friday setup will start at 0900, and on Saturday BARC will operate from 0900 to 1500.

Old Business:

Review the Bylaws and Articles of Organization and possibly recommend any changes: Linda, NA1I, submitted updated Bylaws and Articles of Organization for review. Discussion followed and it was decided to merge the two documents into one. , Linda will work on merging the two documents and will resubmit at the next Business Meeting.

Determine 2011 Field Day site: Possible locations are: *Discussion tabled until we could talk to Mark about the availability BCFM December's Holiday Party.*

Develop relationship with Town of Brookline – Police, Fire, Emergency Management, CERT. Bob, WA1IDA, reported that he is working with Bob DiLibero, K1OP, and the Brookline CERT to schedule a Licensing Class next year.

The SPARC

Minutes of the BARC Business Meeting: December 2, Continued.

New Business:

SPARC

Publishing (Submitted by Bob, WA1IDA) Bob discussed making sure that *The SPARC* is published in a timely manner. Discussion followed and it was decided that time sensitive material would also sent out electronically by email, and we would look for a backup editor to assist the editor when needed.

Format (Submitted by Tom, KB1P) It was discussed and decided to change the newsletter to a one column paragraph format for better reading electronically.

Change in the way how we send the SPARC to new Hams: See Membership Discussion.

General Meeting guest speaker schedule: Tom suggested putting together an agenda for meetings with speakers. There was some discussion about Phil Temples, K9HI, and his position as Programs & Activities coordinator; Tom volunteered to talk to Phil to see if he still wanted to serve in this position; as he was elected as the ARRL Section Manager for Eastern Massachusetts.

The Meeting Adjourned at 2052

SKYWARN Recognition Day -- Hank Buccigross, K1QK

Saturday December 4, was SKYWARN Recognition Day. As we have for the past 8 years BARC operated from the Blue Hill Observatory on Great Blue Hill in Milton. The weather was brisk and clear much different from our first year when we battled a foot of snow and high winds. Several members assisted in set up and tear down so the operation went smoothly. As he has since the first year Mark, KB1EKN, coordinated the event. A combination of poor propagation and severe QRM limited the number of contacts. Nevertheless "a good time was had by all".

The amount of QRM generated by the various pieces of equipment atop Great Blue Hill is making it more and more difficult to operate HF stations there. The club will give some thought to identifying other potential spots near the observatory site where the conditions will be more suitable for a station.



Mark KB1EKN and Hank K1QK at HF Stations



Joe N1QD at the UHF/VHF station



Hank K1QK



Mark KB1EKN

Also attended but no photo available were; Bob WA1IDA, Tom, KB1P, Nathaniel KB1QHX, Joe W1JJF, and Jim, KB1JKJ.

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>.

Repeaters: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

443.550 (+) CTCSS 110.9

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.

Bruce Blain	K1BG
Chris Danis	N2YYZ

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@arrrl.net.

BARC Volunteer Exam Sessions

The Boston Amateur Radio Club holds monthly VE sessions on the second Monday of each month.

The July, August and October exams are omitted. 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 below

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@arrrl.net
Tom Bertolino, KB1P, 781.395.5538 kb1p@arrrl.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@arrrl.net; or Bob Salow at wa1ida@arrrl.net or 508.650.9440.



WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

HAM RADIO OUTLET

224 N. Broadway - Ste. D12
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(603) 898-1041 Fax

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SALEM, NH • SAN DIEGO, CA • SUNNYVALE, CA • WOODBRIDGE, VA

Free TA-33 Antenna --Frank Baker, W1IB

At my home 176 Sydney Street in Dorchester is a TA-33 antenna free to anyone who can use it. It was taken down from the roof of the house and is stored on the ground. Contact my brother Richie at (617) 436-3183 when someone wants to pick it up. I do not plan on returning to the cold wx. My permanent home is sunny Florida. If you have any questions regarding the TA-33, contact me via e-mail w1ib176@gmail.com, or (954)418-4344



BARC Officers and Staff

President: Tom Bertolino, KB1P;
781.608.6186; kb1p@arrl.net

Vice President: Linda Blair, NA1I
617.500.4406; na1i@arrl.net

Secretary: Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ;
978.663.7114; kb1jkj@arrl.net

Treasurer: Jim Clogher, N1ICN,
617.364.4658; n1icn@arrl.net

Volunteer Exams:
Jim Clogher, N1ICN,
617.364.4658; n1icn@arrl.net
Tom Bertolino, KB1P;
781.608.6186; kb1p@arrl.net

Membership Services: Linda Blair, NA1I
617.500.4406; na1i@arrl.net

Public Service: Tom Bertolino, KB1P;
781.608.6186; kb1p@arrl.net

Newsletter Editor: Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ
978.663.7114; kb1jkj@arrl.net

Programs & Activities: Phil Temples, K9HI;
617.744.9780; phil@temples.com

I See the Future

16 Dec	BARC Holiday Party (General Meeting omitted)
10 Jan	BARC VE Session (by reservation)
20 Jan	BARC General Meeting
14 Feb	BARC VE Session (by reservation)
17 Feb	BARC General Meeting
19 Feb	AARC Flea (Marlboro)
26 Feb	HAM-CON (Colchester VT)
3 Mar	BARC Business Meeting
5 Mar	MtTARA Flea (Feeding Hills)
14 Mar	BARC VE Session (by reservation)
17 Mar	BARC General Meeting
3 Apr	FARA Flea (Framingham)
10 Apr	MS Boston Walk (Rp)
11 Apr	BARC VE Session (by reservation)
17 Apr	BAA 5K/1 mile races (Rp)
17 Apr	MIT Flea (Cambridge)
21 Apr	BARC General Meeting
29-30 Apr	Near-Fest (Deerfield NH)
20-22 May	Dayton Hamvention (Trotwood OH)

(Rp) = BARC 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.

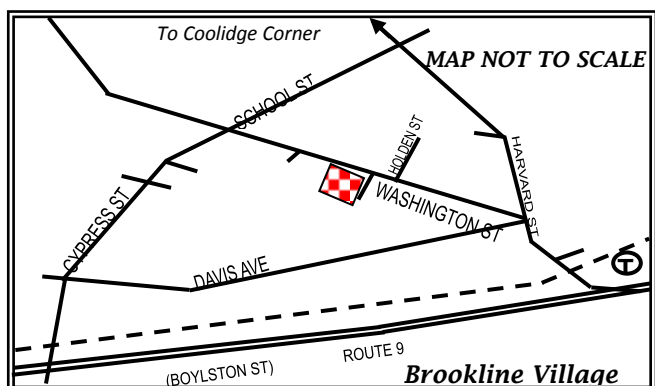
The Boston Amateur Radio Club is a non-commercial association of persons interested in the Amateur Radio Service. The Club is organized for the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communication and education, for the establishment of emergency communications in the event of disasters or other emergencies, 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.

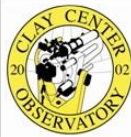
The Club is open to all persons interested in Amateur Radio without regard to race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, disability, or sexual preference. Our General and Business meeting locations are handicap accessible. Other meeting and activity locations may be handicap accessible by 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 HandiHams system.

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





**The Clay Center Observatory
Welcomes BARC members**

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

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@arrl.net>.

- **MS Walk – 10 April** – (Boston/Cambridge)
- **BAA 5K/1 mile – 17 April** – (Boston)
- **MS Journey of Hope – 21 May** – (Natick)
- **Run of the Charles – 30 April** – (Charles River = Needham to Boston)
- **BAA Half Marathon – 9 October** – (Boston)

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

Repeater: 145.230 (-) CTCSS 88.5

Simplex: 147.420

443.550 (-) CTCSS 110.9

Boston Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 15585
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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 on our website. At the door your cost is a \$35.00, with any excess, the tax and the gratuity paid by the club. Please bring your family and friends – with a \$5.00 discount for each. Contact Mike, N1IST, at <n1ist@arri.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.

Also on tap is the awarding of the **“BARC Ham of the Year,”** the winner having been chosen by the members for outstanding contribution to the club and to the Amateur Radio hobby.