



# BARS

## Billerica Amateur Radio Society

NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

IN THIS ISSUE

## A HamSCI Experiment

by Jesse Creamer, W1DEA

At the July Billerica ARS (BARS) club meeting we were lucky to have Stan Pozerski, KD1LE from the Nashoba Valley ARC (NVARC) speak on HamSCI and the upcoming eclipse. HamSCI stands for Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation and their goal is to advance the field of radio science, check them out at <http://www.hamsci.org/>.

In case you didn't know, on August 21, 2017 there will be a total eclipse that will cause a shadow that will traverse the United States from Oregon to South Carolina over a period of 90 minutes. During this upcoming eclipse HamSCI is coordinating an experiment between themselves, the ARRL and the scientific community to collect data in hopes of furthering understanding of D- and E-layer propagation.

NVARC is going to participate in this experiment and they are recruiting other clubs/hams to get involved in the gathering of data. During the eclipse there is going to be a QSO Party as well as the use of beacons and WSPR monitoring and/or transmitting stations to collect data in hopes of analyzing how the eclipse affects propagation.

Want to get involved? BARS is hoping to also get involved with this and cooperate with NVARC during the experiment. Learn more by visiting the NVARC website and checking out Stan's slide presentation at [https://www.n1nc.org/Events/2017/HamSCI/NVARC\\_and\\_the\\_Eclipse.pptx](https://www.n1nc.org/Events/2017/HamSCI/NVARC_and_the_Eclipse.pptx) or email Jesse Creamer, W1DEA at [w1dea@arrl.net](mailto:w1dea@arrl.net).



### Liberty or Death

Liberty or Death, that was the theme for the 9<sup>th</sup> annual 13 Colony Special Event that took place during the period of July 1 1300Z – July 6 0400Z, 2017.



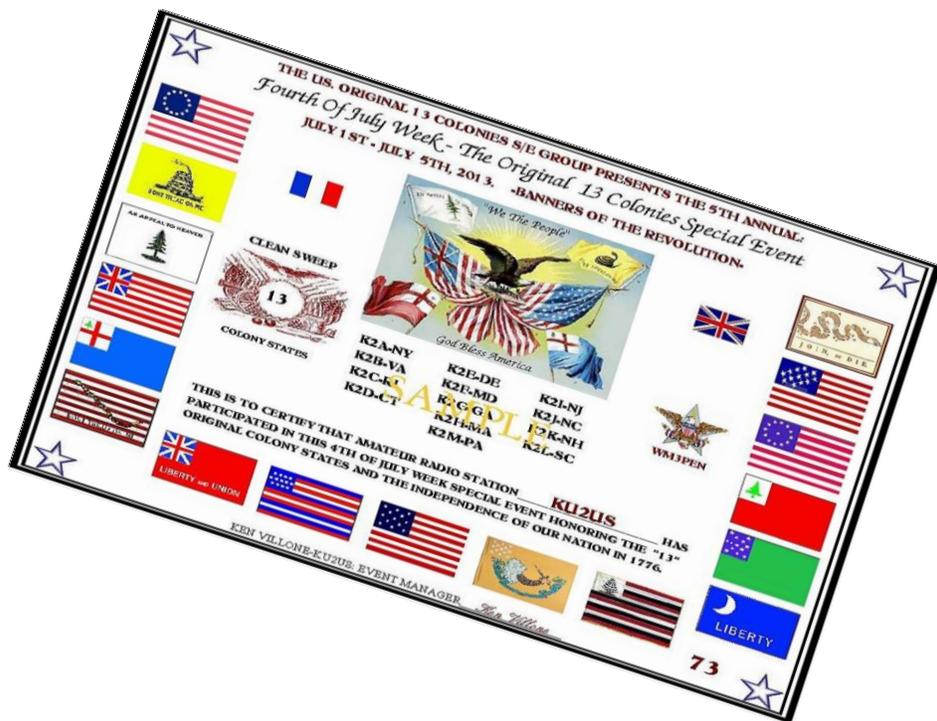
### BARS Field Day 2017

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### Solar Eclipse QSO Party

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## Liberty or Death

by Jesse Creamer, W1DEA

Liberty or Death, that was the theme for the 9<sup>th</sup> annual 13 Colony Special Event that took place during the period of July 1 1300Z –July 6 0400Z, 2017. Tens of thousands of hams attempted to work as many of the 13 colony special event stations as well as WM3PEN operating from Philadelphia, PA and GB31COL operating from Durham, England.

Operating was a bit of a challenge as propagation was not favorable but that didn't stop Henry (WA1VAB) who took to the air and worked a number of the colonies on CW while Niece (KA1ULN); Kayla (W2IRY) and Jesse (W1DEA) worked a clean sweep of all 15 event stations on SSB.

Don't worry if you missed this year's event, you will have another chance to give it a shot next year!

## BARS Field Day 2017

by Kayla Creamer, W2IRY



supplying the power all weekend.

We had a few new Field Day operators over the weekend. Mark Sullivan made his first HF contact and John Fisher made his first Field Day contact with some help from Niece Haynes. Chelmsford resident, Dan Burns, stopped by to visit and ended up making a couple of contacts while he was there. While not a new operator, this was Henry Christle's first Field Day in 40 years! He snagged several CW contacts throughout the weekend.

BARS Field Day 2017 came to a close on June 25. We had an excellent turnout this year, with over 30 visitor sign ins throughout the weekend. Thanks to everyone who came out, whether it was to set up, operate, socialize or just check out what was going on. It wouldn't have been Field Day without all of you!

First and foremost, thanks to Nan Araway for the use of her lovely home in Chelmsford, as well as making sure that everyone who attended was well fed throughout the weekend. We operated two stations QRP and made 226 QSO's on solar and battery power, which wouldn't have been possible without Jay Vicory's help in





## BARS Field Day 2017 (Continued)

There were a couple of special visitors this year. We had a visit from Kevin Fallon with Billerica Emergency Management (EMA). Kevin hopes to talk with the club about how we can tie in our services with Billerica EMA. We also had a visit from Heather Barker with the Chelmsford Independent/Billerica Minuteman. If you didn't see it, there was a great photo gallery posted to the Billerica Minuteman website. If you missed the photos, you can check them out at [goo.gl/qMRBEu](http://goo.gl/qMRBEu). For Billerica residents, you may have also seen that there was a front page article in the Minuteman about BARS Field Day in the June 29 edition! It's pretty awesome to see Ham radio on the front page of the newspaper.

Overall, we had a great Field Day weekend. Thanks again to everyone who came out. If you didn't make it this year, hopefully we'll see you at next year's Field Day!

## From the President's Shack

from the President of BARS, Tom Walsh K1TW

Here we are at mid-summer of 2017 and I am feeling confident about the direction BARS is heading. We just concluded a really exciting field day, the best in years for the club. What is really awesome was showing just how much can be accomplished using simple wire antennas and QRP (low power). I had a blast operating after midnight and making Q's with the West Coast and around the country. Yes, it can be done with easy up antennas and 5 watts. What fun!

Have you noticed something else about BARS this year? We did not take the usual BARS summer hiatus but are continuing to meet and enjoy radio throughout the summer months. So far the response is great. We had a great turnout for the July meeting on how to participate during the August 21 solar eclipse. It is our goal to emphasize learning as part of our club activities. There is always something new to try or learn in this hobby. For instance, I've never used WSPR, but after seeing Stan (KD1LE) show us in July just how easy it is to get on WSPR, it's now on my list of things to do. I hope I can be ready in time for the eclipse. Stan laid it out in five or six easy steps.



The learning and the fun continues every day. Why should we stop just because its summer? Do you have questions about the hobby? BARS is here to help. We have a mix of new members and experienced hams. Our goal is to create a friendly, supportive environment to advance your enjoyment of amateur radio. All we ask in return is your curiosity and involvement as we pursue new adventures.

A really good place to start is by coming to meetings of course. Between meetings join us on Wednesday at 8 PM for the BARS net on the Billerica Repeater, 147.12. Many weeks we discuss technical topics on the net so don't be afraid to come and ask questions on things you need help with. There is always something special in each net so join the fun.

Finally, thanks to all the folks who are stepping up and helping out. We need your involvement. Please consider helping. I hear people say they don't have time. Really? If we all said that, there'd be no club at all. I guarantee I can find some way for you to contribute to this great club no matter how little time you may have. Remember the old adage that many hands make light work? We demonstrated this principle at Field Day this year. We had many hands and the result was astonishing. Let's keep the energy going.

73,

Tom K1TW

# Solar Eclipse QSO Party

by Jesse Creamer, W1DEA

On August 21, 2017, there will be a partial solar eclipse beginning about 1600 UTC in Oregon and ending about 2015 UTC in South Carolina. The Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) will be conducting a QSO party between 1400-2200 UTC to generate observations of propagation before, during and after the solar eclipse.

This is your opportunity to participate in the collection of data and have fun at the same time! The SEQP will take place on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 meter bands and modes will be CW, Digital and Phone. If you are feeling adventurous, set your station up outdoors where you can observe the eclipse and operate at the same time!



So, get on the air and have some fun! If you want to know more about the QSO Party check out the website at <http://hamsci.org/seqp>.

## Boxboro Convention

The Boxboro Committee is still looking for a few more great speakers to round out our popular program of talks and forums. If you have a forum topic, or know of someone who does, please contact Phil Temples <[kghi@boxboro.org](mailto:kghi@boxboro.org)>, or sign-up on the website at <<http://boxboro.org/forums-and-classes/speaker-signup>>. Speakers will receive a \$10 lunch voucher and reserved (close-in) parking.

Boxboro is also seeking volunteers to staff our ticket booths, assist with presentations, and help with parking. You can sign up as a volunteer at: <<http://boxboro.org/volunteer>>. Volunteers who work at least three hours will receive a \$10 lunch voucher.

## Upcoming Events

Event	Date
August BARS Meeting – Ice Cream Social! Gary's Ice Cream, additional parking across the street at the Chelmsford Bible Church	August 2, 2017 6:00 – 8:00 PM
BARS Meeting – QSL Card Sort with Eric, KV1J. Pizza for all who show up to help.	September 6, 2017 7:00 PM
Boxboro – New England's Premier Amateur Radio Convention, Boxboro Regency Hotel & Conference Center	September 8, 9 and 10th

**BARS**  
Billerica  
Amateur  
Radio  
Society

Billeric ARS  
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Nutting Lake, MA 01865

[www.w1hh.org](http://www.w1hh.org)  
[fb.com/barsw1hh](https://www.facebook.com/barsw1hh)

**Next Meeting: August 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6:00 – 8:00 PM!**

**Topic: Ice Cream Social at Gary's Ice Cream  
Across from the Chelmsford Bible Church  
128 Gorham St., Chelmsford MA**

**Club Net: Wednesday Nights – 8PM Start**

**Join us on the Billerica Repeater, 147.12, for the  
Weekly BARS net (except on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday  
of the month which is club meeting night)**

**Weekly Club Breakfast: Saturday at 8:15 AM**

**Stellio's Family Restaurant  
293 Boston Rd.  
North Billerica MA**

**VE Session: August 10<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 PM Start!**

**Chelmsford Bible Church  
128 Gorham St., Chelmsford MA**