



NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

# BARS Billerica Amateur Radio Society

FEBRUARY 2019

## From the President's Desk

from the President of BARS, Andy Wallace, KA1GTT

BARS is a great club, and one thing that makes it so is our sense of camaraderie. On Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019, we did not have our usual meeting at the Church but instead had another celebratory dinner at the Great Wall Chinese Restaurant in Bedford. We have been doing this for many years and the turnout this time was great, 23 folks! We also had Jim, N1HTS, as master of ceremonies for the Yankee Swap, always a lot of fun. It's a riot seeing what people want, or even more funny, don't want. I had a gift purchased for the swap last year but had to sit out this time since I somehow misplaced it in the move. Yet somehow, I wound up with a 1950s Boonton pulse generator that wound up in the Swap. Oh well, I can't resist giving another boat anchor a good home!

Your Board of Directors met recently . One item of discussion was to resume publishing a BARS newsletter – that is why you are reading it now. This job can't be done entirely by the BOD and we would love to have input from the membership. We would love to know what material you would like to see here. We'd also love submissions of material from you. It can be a technical article, a story of a memorable operating experience, pictures of a ham radio project, musings of what you enjoy about the hobby, etc. Please contribute! Look for an announcement soon about how to contact your Editor.

Thank you all for filling out the club survey at <https://goo.gl/forms/UXCVxvocINpAkIY72> over the past few months. The BOD discussed some of the results and we will be working hard to use this survey to direct the Club toward what *you* want. Please fill out the survey if you have not done so. As President, I am encouraged by the number of people willing to devote time helping BARS. This is the second term for me and I feel it is important to get volunteers and spread the load among strong shoulders. BARS is more than just a social event once a month. We need people to help reach out to new hams, to find and encourage speakers for meetings, and to organize operating events. Speak up if you have a skill to offer!

Thanks, everyone. Andy KA1GTT

## Next BARS meeting: 7:00 PM Wednesday, February 6, 2019

Mike, K1TW, ARRL New England Division Vice Director / Tom K1TW, ARRL Section Manager

Mike is just back from the first meeting of the new ARRL Board meeting. He will have a lot of interesting news to share with our members about the ARRL following the Board meeting. This is an opportunity to ask Mike questions about the ARRL, tell him what you like or want to see changed. The new Board is already making big news by withdrawing the December 18 "Petition for Rulemaking" to the FCC, which sought to amend the Part 97 Amateur Service rules to incorporate the provisions of the Amateur Radio Parity Act (ARPA). The ARRL Board of Directors decided that the organization needs to "review, re-examine, and reappraise ARRL's regulatory and legislative policy with regard to private land use restrictions". Bring your questions to Mike on this and other pressing interests you have regarding ARRL. <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-board-of-directors-issues-statement-on-amateur-radio-parity-act>

Background Note: Every year, about one third of the Director positions stand for election. In total, of the six Directors slots up for election, five new folks will be representing their Divisions after the election. This year, we elected a new Division Director, Fred Hopengarten K1VR to represent the New England ARRL Division. Fred replaces Tom Frenaye, K1KI who has served New England for many years.

But wait there is more.

Tom K1TW, the ARRL section manager for Eastern Massachusetts will also be on hand to update folks on happenings in Eastern Massachusetts. Tom manages a staff of 11 volunteers who in turn guide close to 100 section volunteers involved in activities ranging from emergency communications, traffic handling, nets, technical volunteers, government liaison, and club support. Among the biggest topics in Eastern Massachusetts to discuss is the "Proposed MA Legislation Seeks to Require "Hands-free" Cell Phone Use While Driving". <https://ema.arrl.org/2019/01/23/proposed-ma-legislation-seeks-to-require-hands-free-cell-phone-use-while-driving/>

# Seeking 160m Experiences

from Henry Christle, WA1VAB

I have never TX'd on 160m, but recently I have listened using a non-resonant wire and discovered 160m is one way to survive solar cycle 24-25 and I am currently learning everything I can about constructing a 160m antenna to install the summer of '19. I'm interested in hearing your 160m antenna experiences and will certainly share knowledge details I acquire going forward.

In '54 solar cycle 19 nurtured my amateur fascinations. Cycle 24 continues to remain weak. The past 18 months I operate every morning and evening on low end of 40-80m and participate on NTS and discovered winter propagation is forcing some net schedules to QSY to 160m, and it makes a difference. 160m is noise free, signals weaker 80-40 when hot, but no QSB. Sound is in the clear.

73, Henry WA1VAB [hgcseior@gmail.com](mailto:hgcseior@gmail.com)

## Custom Badge Vendor Review

from Andy Wallace, KA1GTT

Your President needed a new plastic badge for travelling the meetings and ham fleas and I found a nice vendor on Ebay:

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/Custom-Engraved-Name-Badges-Name-Tags-FREE-SHIPPING-/221170821575>

They also have a website, [www.ulekstore.com](http://www.ulekstore.com)

For \$8.95 shipped I got a 2"x3" engraved badge with magnetic attachment. (Why poke holes in your shirt?) We had a few exchanges in ebay's email system with proofs being sent - very nice, you get to see the design before committing. I changed some fonts and wording and in a few days I received the badge. It's super! The engraving is very precise, and ULEK says they can do logos as well so I may try that on a badge in the future. For something as humble as a badge it's nice to treat yourself to a nice one.

Let the pictures speak for themselves. Andy



## Your Article Here!

Do you have something you want to share with members of the club? If so, send it to Paula KC1EDA [cognosco@fastmail.fm](mailto:cognosco@fastmail.fm).

## Get-on-the-air Events

BARS is a "get-on-the-air" (GOTA) club. We encourage members to participate in the varied events on HF and VHF. Here are some popular suggestions for February. Note:

1. If ten meters should open up during the weekend, the Ten-Ten contest is both easy and fun.
2. Several state QSO parties are great this month.
3. And the big Event is the ARRL DX contest where you can work DXCC in a single weekend.

Date	Event	URL
0001Z, Feb 2 to 2359Z, Feb 3	10-10 Winter QSO Party	<a href="http://www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules">http://www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules</a>
1400Z-2400Z, Feb 2	Minnesota QSO Party	<a href="http://www.woaa.org/docs/mnq/p/MNQP%20Contest%20Rules.pdf">http://www.woaa.org/docs/mnq/p/MNQP%20Contest%20Rules.pdf</a>
0000Z, Feb 16 to 2400Z, Feb 17	ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx">http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx</a>
1500Z, Feb 23 to 0159Z, Feb 24.	South Carolina QSO Party	<a href="http://scqso.com/rules/">http://scqso.com/rules/</a>
1500Z, Feb 24 to 0059Z, Feb 25.	North Carolina QSO Party	<a href="http://ncqso.org/rules/">http://ncqso.org/rules/</a>

Enjoy and get on the air!

More events can be found every week on the WA7BNM contest calendar  
at <https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php?mode=custom&week=current>

## BARS Membership

Bruce, W1LUS, our BARS Treasurer reports that as of December we have 53 total members.

## 2019 BARS Member Dues

The BARS Board has changed the policy on member dues. A \$15 annual BARS membership now runs from January 1 and expires on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Any renewal or new membership made after September 1 will be valid until December 31 of the next year. Memberships allow us to

- Pay our bills;
- maintain our great web page;
- fund field day;
- and bring the membership a great variety of informative meetings and speakers.

Memberships not renewed by January 1<sup>st</sup> have lapsed. Please renew now for 2019 if you have yet to do so.

## Treasurers Report

The Treasurer's report for Jan 2019 is that after paying \$60 for our P.O. Box rental fee we have \$773.92 in the bank.

## VE Report

The December 13 VE exam session was held at the Chelmsford Bible Church. Six people were there for testing. When all was said and done there was one new Technician, two General upgrades, and one Extra upgrade. There wasn't a BARS VE session in January 2019. The next BARS VE exam will be held on February 14, starting at 7:00 PM, at the Chelmsford Bible Church. Thanks to the following VEs that participated in conducting the exam session Bruce W1LUS, Gary W1GFF, Delfin KB1SHF, and Antonio KB1KDS

## BARS Needs You!!!

We are looking for a few good hams to act as net control on the regularly scheduled Wednesday night nets! All it takes is one night a month; if you are interested contact John KC1FTJ [hampman@aol.com](mailto:hampman@aol.com). Also, the club needs volunteers for light tasks of ~ 1 hour a month. Are you able to pitch in? Contact Andy, KA1GTT

## Wednesday Night Net

Join us on the Billerica Repeater for the weekly BARS net (except on 1st Wednesday of Month which is club meeting night)

Repeater info:

147.12 MHz  
+600 kHz (normal) offset  
Encode CTCSS 103.5 Hz

## Club Meetings

First Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM at Chelmsford Bible Church, 128 Gorham St., Chelmsford MA

Park in back and enter by rear door

[Chelmsford Bible Church Hall, 128 Gorham St, Rear Door, Chelmsford MA 01824-3220 \(map\)](#)

Next Meeting will feature both Mike Raisbeck K1TW, ARRL New England Division Vice Director and Tom Walsh K1TW, ARRL Section Manager for Eastern Massachusetts. Mike will speak about the ARRL Board meeting held on January 18-19. Tom will speak on ARRL programs and activities taking place in the section.

## VE Sessions

VE sessions are held every month on the 2nd Thursday at 7:00 PM at Chelmsford Bible Church, 128 Gorham St., Chelmsford MA

Park in back and enter by rear door

[Chelmsford Bible Church Hall, 128 Gorham St, Rear Door, Chelmsford MA 01824-3220 \(map\)](#)

## Club Breakfast every Saturday

On Saturday mornings around 8:15AM, we also meet weekly for a casual, social breakfast at Stelio's restaurant. [Stelio's Family Restaurant, Billerica, MA \(map\)](#)

## BARS Leadership Team

President: Andy Wallace, KA1GTT  
Vice President: Kayla Creamer, W2IRY  
Treasurer: Bruce Anderson, W1LUS  
Secretary: Paula Crock, KC1EDA  
BoD: Mike Raisbeck, K1TW  
BoD: Henry Christle, WA1VAB  
Ex Officio: Tom Walsh, K1TW