



NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

BARS Billerica Amateur Radio Society

APRIL 2019

From the President's Desk

from the President of BARS, Andy Wallace, KA1GTT

Greetings, everyone. I hope that you are all looking forward to warmer Spring weather. We are well on our way to it! And there are fewer SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) days for us, too, since the changeover to Eastern Daylight Time!

At our March 6 meeting, I brought up the subject of ARRL Field Day 2019 and BARS' involvement. Many hands went up when I asked if there was interest in us participating this year. We last did FD in 2017 with 50+ visitors and participants. For 2019, Field Day (always the 4th full weekend in June) is 6/22-23. That date will come up fast.

Please see the ARRL Field Day webpage at: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day> as well as their "What Is Field Day" pdf flyer at: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2019/2019%20FD%20Flier%20-%20What%20is%20FD.pdf> for info. But their summary on the first page states the FD mission well:

Field Day is ham radio's open house. Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio.

If you want to see how BARS accomplished this in 2017, please see our Vice President, Kayla Creamer W2IRY's website gallery at: <http://www.kaylacreamer.com/2017/07/01/2017-bars-field-day-ma-event-photography/> We went all out that year with banners, two QRP (low power) HF stations, a solar panel battery bank, feasts indoors and out, an article in the Billerica Minuteman, and two members getting their picture in QST. Wow!

Field Day is a massive communications drill. From the ARRL webpage, the objective is:

To work as many stations as possible on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meter HF bands, as well as all bands 50 MHz and above, and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries.

As your President and trustee of the W1HH club callsign, it is imperative for me to ensure that BARS accomplish a Field Day where our cooperative spirit shines. To that end, I have asked for people interested in a BARS field day to email me immediately at ka1gtt@arrl.net. We need a Field Day Chair volunteer, a leader who can organize planning and operating this fun and educational experience. Even if you don't have the ambition to be Chair, there are a million tasks large and small which need people to do, so speak up! And this applies to the BARS "regulars" for which we are always grateful at FD. If you plan to be there, please email me now and let me know. From there your Board and I can go through the list of volunteers and begin calling meetings and discussions to plan what kind of FD your club can accomplish this year.

Thanks, everyone. Andy KA1GTT

Proud to be a Ham!

from Don Melanson, KA1MAP

As we all look back in the years past ever remember why you became a Ham Operator?

For me it was all my CB buddies moving up to Ham Radio. There was no more "breaker 21" for me anymore, but the best thing was when they all said "it's time for you to become a Ham Operator". It was kind of scary knowing things were about to

change. I had to learn CW at 5 words per minute and take a Tech test at the Federal Building in Boston just to talk in the 19/79 repeater. There was no more "Blue Dolphin, or Teacher, just for a few, it was now KA1AAI or KA1F, W1DFG, and all I could do is listen, so KFP5147 retired and things were about to change. The letter A became a dit da and a thing called a resistor had color code bands on it and I needed to know what the colors meant and why.

We all have our own stories and walk down memory lane every time we get together for coffee, climbing towers, Field Day events, Ham Fests for a few, but to me the most important was the push and support I got from my fellow hams to get a ticket and get on the air. Please remember that the little support to a person trying to upgrade goes a long way. It's like walking the path with them and the only support a ham has is a fellow ham. Yes, we are a unique group of people.

Along the way we also have fun with our hobby like driving to Mount Washington with Bob Reiser AA1M to work HF at 6288 feet on a beautiful day. At the bottom was 89 deg F and sunny, but as the elevation changes so may the weather as you see by the photos.



Sorry Bob, I should really check the weather, but I don't think there will be a next time for me. They told us at the bottom it was a little windy and 200 foot visibility. It was more like 75 miles per hour winds and sometimes less than 20 feet. There were times when even the line on the road disappeared and I just stopped driving until we saw the line again. So the last 4,000 feet up and the first 4,000 feet down was not very relaxing, just ask Bob.

Then it became Bob's turn with me. I got the invite to work CO on a Light Ship in Boston Harbor. I jumped at the opportunity. It was the Nantucket Lightship LV-112. Built in 1936 and decommissioned in 1975 her homeport is now Boston Harbor and she's the largest Lightship ever built. Read more about her at www.Nantucketlightshiplv-112.org.





It became a contest between us of getting the most contacts. Bob on CW and me on phone. Someone won by 2 contacts!!!

It's fun talking to people about how you work Japan on a piece of wire at 100 watts, but I really don't understand how.

All I know is I did it, I have the QSL card for it and proud to show it off.

But it wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for all you hams. All of us helped people in some way or other, whether pushing and encouraging fellow hams to take the test for the next upgrade, learn code at a faster speed, become a VE, assist another Ham Operator with their station, or assisting in emergency communications where and when needed.

So again, we are a very special and unique group of people Proud to be called a Ham Operator. 73s

Don KA1MAP.

"A Picture an Experience Is Worth a Million Words"

from Henry Christle, WA1VAB

Amateur Radio is relaxing fun like fishing -- what you find depends on where you look, and the lure, and the time of day. This is due to propagation variables.

Quoting Clinton DeSoto 1936 remarks in his book 200 Meters and Down:

...three tenets of amateur radio are Clubs, Messaging and Technology". It explains my continued fascination with amateur radio for 73 years, a ham for 66 years. The three tenets encompass "Public Service."

In 1954 I enjoyed the tail end of great solar cycle 19, with crystal-controlled TX on 80/40m and a 1930's BC-348Q receiver, it was rare to call CQ longer than 5 minutes before a reply. I could fill up a log book page a day, with QSO's with Ops running the same primitive hardware that I was. We Novices were assigned narrow band allocations, so no shame in learning errors.

In 1978, cycle 21 was beautifully strong, QSB was virtually unknown, CW NTS traffic work was a breeze. It was riveting for me, a boredom free resource to focus on improving my CW speed.

Now it's 2019, cycle 24, the weakest in 100 years, (<https://www.skyandtelescope.com/astronomy-news/the-weakest-solar-cycle-in-100-years/>), although ending cycle 25 is not promising improved solar activity.

Currently we are experiencing the same weak propagation conditions that Hiram Maxim, and the developers of shortwave communications worked with. In the early 1900's shortwave communications, QSB was extremely unpredictable. Thousands of amateur clubs were trying to resolve the problem of reliable radio messaging. Hiram Maxim's Club demonstrated the way used today with organized radio relay organization for messaging, and his club dominated the day and became a legal identity to promote growth under the name American Radio Relay League, commonly referred to as the ARRL.

Frequently, this winter have I have observed 80m HF Communications between two specific points within EMA (Eastern Massachusetts Area) is totally and randomly impossible and little improved on 160m. To pass messages to these normally very strong stations requires relay (QNR) using a third station who can copy both stations trying to communicate. Hiram Maxim followers knew that "club and technology" devotion was required to relay shortwave messages. Today the ARRL National Traffic System (NTS) continues to exercise this vibrant relay system, and reliably delivers messages to end points anywhere in the US within 24-48 hours routinely, 7 days a week via volunteer amateurs. Thousands of dedicated, skilled, disciplined operators coalesce around a national and global network of Net Control Station (NCS) volunteers for the express purpose of moving messages between two points. World Navies and Merchant Marines have relied on HF networks for a hundred years to manage communications between ships and shore.

In 1912 the Titanic's maximum radio range was 300-400 miles; this was and is achieved by organized and efficient RELAY among networked ships and land stations, like WCC on Cape Cod. The ARRL club incorporated Relay in its name recognizing the importance of relay thus the American Radio RELAY League.

Public service and messaging are two of the main tenets of Amateur Radio. Vulnerable cell towers, Cisco routers, email etc., dominate the communications providers. There is duplicity in the hardware for these services; Puerto Rico for example has an identical backup radio communications system, stored in a building adjacent to the active station. When the last hurricane destroyed the antennas, they were back on the air after installing the duplicate backup antenna. The problem with power lines was not wire, wire was stored, but the stored poles could not be found. Amateurs responded, traveling to Puerto Rico to assist.

We amateurs know there are more long-term threats to non-shortwave communications than temporary power outages waiting to spring.

I am looking forward to this years Boxborough Convention (thank you Mike Raisbeck – K1TWF for your big contribution to ham radio in NE helping to bring about this ARRL convention), where I will participate in the NTS group meeting again, led by Marcia Forde – KW1U.

Amateur radio is the most entertaining and useful hobby technology in my lifetime. If anyone would like a legal electronic digital copy of Clinton DeSoto's book, please contact me at hgcsenior@gmail.com.

Visit <https://ema.arrl.org/> and learn more about Eastern Massachusetts Section in ARRL.

Do enjoy the hobby!

Henry – WA1VAB

A 2018 November Sweepstakes – An Excuse for a Portable Adventure in Vermont

from Leandra MacLennan, AF1R

I've been dabbling in some radio contests over the last six months. I was a rover for the June VHF contest and a rover for the CQ VHF contest, made a few contacts for the all Germany contest, and spent two hours working NY stations during the NY QSO party. I only have a small, 9000 square foot suburban lot, with very little room to put up an HF antenna. I wanted to try the ARRL phone Sweepstakes contest on November 17-18, but with my small lot and compromise antenna and being in the well populated ARRL section of Eastern Massachusetts, I did not think my station would stand out.

The object of the Sweepstakes contest is to contact North American stations, with each station worth 2 points, with a multiplier of the number of ARRL sections contacted. Many of the Top Gun stations try for the Clean Sweep award where the object is to contact all 83 sections in the 30 hours of the contest. These competitors would be looking for the rare states to complete their 83 sections.

I remembered growing up in Vermont where I was constantly getting comments over the air, from the hams I talked to, about how thrilled they were to contact a Vermont station. I looked up the Sweepstakes (SS) results from the last two years. In 2016 and 2017 there were only 4 Vermont stations, and only one in class A (150 watts, single operator, no spotting assistance) in 2016 and only two class A stations in 2017. So, I thought I could be much more popular if I operated from rare Vermont! And if I operated from Vermont, surely I could find a location where I could have room to put an 80 meter dipole high in the trees.

So, where could I operate a portable station in Vermont? November is much too cold to go car camping. I don't own an RV and didn't want to just drive up and operate for a couple of hours out of my car. I wanted to make a serious effort for this contest, not just a couple of hours. So I searched the Internet for B&Bs and Airbnb where there might be some possibility of putting up an antenna and operating a radio for the weekend. I found a B&B near Wilmington, Vermont, Shearer Farm B&B, which looked like a good possibility. It was a working farm 3 miles off the main road. With some trepidation, I wrote them an e-mail to ask if they would let me come up, put up an antenna in their trees and talk on the radio all weekend. They said sure, come on up!

I couldn't turn down this opportunity. Now I had to go up to Vermont for Sweepstakes! It was early October. OK, now how do I plan for this event? I've never done a full weekend competition by myself, and I've never operated my own HF 100 watt station as a portable for a weekend. There were no ham radio stores, or hardware stores near the B&B so there was no running out to buy a part I forgot to bring. I had to bring everything I needed, and backups in case something broke.

I knew the secret to doing well would be operating on 80, 40, and 20 and maybe 15 if it opened, so I needed a multiband antenna for rapid band changes. I didn't have time to make one, so I bought a NI4L 80-10 Windom. I don't throw well, so I bought one of the fancy slingshots to get the antenna rope high into the trees. I didn't have time to make coax cables either, so I bought a variety of lengths of RG-8X cables. I had been using a 12V switching power supply, but during the NY QSO contest I discovered it made a lot of noise on 40, 15 and 10 meters. I didn't want to take a chance on buying another noisy switcher, so I bought a linear Astron. I had 1200 feet of rope purchased from Davis Rope at the 2017 New England Convention. My 40-10 meter end-fed antenna would be back up. I loaded N3FJP's SS contest software on two laptops. I packed these, my Yaesu FT-991, my Elecraft KX2 (as backup), my antenna analyzer and various tools into five large storage boxes.

I took a vacation day on November 16, the Friday before the contest weekend, so I could get up there early, put up my antenna Friday afternoon and wait for the contest to begin. Friday morning I reviewed my checklist of gear, filled the back of my car with everything I thought I would need and headed up to Vermont. Little did I know that Murphy would sneak a ride up with me, too.

I arrived at the B&B and was greeted by Bill, who was plowing the 8 inches of fresh snow in the driveway. Patti enthusiastically welcomed me inside, informed me I could have the dining room and dining room table all weekend for my radio gear since I was the only guest and told me to make myself at home.

Continued after the Puzzle Page

Ham Search

Puzzle created by Kelley

N B I O T V Y D B E A M M X Q X K U F U
 I R U P R I R R A D I O Z L P O T I V L
 S A G E Z W K X I C R T V I Z J H K R X
 C X W T B P U A R S W F L E Y G E X H X
 M O K A I Q L O E Y A J T K R X E G B L
 T A D Y G L P C I O V E M A J D R O X S
 N R N R P H O H F G E D R M U M O B T W
 T Q A T O D E V I E C E R X W T A V E O
 I U B N E T W Q L Q T M G E E M N N Q R
 M M E U S N M G P S R K J V P X K O C M
 S Q D O N M N C M Z U F Y X X P Z N W N
 F Y I C E K I A A L H J H L O E O V T E
 J W S T C H H T Q L T X U G Y I Y U V H
 M B E A I X B G P V L T N H P A N I G U
 O R H M L R D Y W G M S U Z N I I O A N
 D S U N N U D S S E K Z I R N D F V T F
 H X W E R G O A Q B F E F G J N Z U C K
 H X N Y Q P T N C P Q P E B N S F A L Q
 E W S U I X N Z Y T D Q O K E A C Z X Q
 E P R N A W A J C A S C Q E A G L G M W

AIRWAVE
 AMPLIFIER
 ANTENNA
 BEAM
 CALLSIGN
 COAX
 COUNTRY
 DIAL
 DXCC
 HAMSTER
 LICENSE
 METER

MICROPHONE
 MORSECODE
 QTH
 RADIO
 RARE
 RECEIVE
 SHACK
 SIDEBAND
 SIGNAL
 TOWER
 TRANSMIT
 TUNING

I immediately noticed that the only trees near the B&B were three scrawny apple trees, with tangled branches, that were less than 20 feet high. And the trees were lined up west to east. So much for putting the antenna 30 feet in the air, facing west to east. And there was 8 inches of fresh snow on the ground. And the temperature was in the 20's, with a gusty, strong, frigid wind. Perfect conditions for erecting an antenna! No problem, with my slingshot, I'll quickly get ropes in the trees for the antennas before dark. After moving my 5 boxes of gear and two bags of clothes into the B&B, I grumbled about the cold and the wind, found my heavy mittens and my gators (for the snow) and prepared to work outdoors.

I grabbed the slingshot and the rope and went outside to inspect the trees. Up close they were a massive tangle of tiny branches with no substantial branches more than 15 feet off the ground. I thought I'd try to see how high I could get a rope over the first tree. I tried the slingshot for the first time. The weight went 6 inches. I tried again. The weight went 8 inches. I tried again. 8 inches. I inspected the reel, confirmed it was in free wheel (casting) mode and tried again. The rubber broke. So much for the slingshot and quickly getting ropes in the trees. By this time it was sunset and getting dark and cold quickly. I had a broken slingshot and not even a single rope in a tree. I spent the next 2 hours in the dark, with a headlight and frozen fingers, running inside to get warm, trying over and over, to throw weights in the trees, in an attempt to get ropes over the higher branches. I finally got ropes into two trees and gave up for the night.

The next morning I discovered the two trees I thought would be far enough apart for the 120 foot Windom were only 100 feet apart. I needed to get a rope in a third tree to get the antenna in the air. The middle tree was lined up with the other two, so I used it as a center support. But it took three tries to un snag the branches that engulfed the balun in the middle of the tree as I attempted to hoist it up. There were many branches touching the antenna and balun. I wishfully hoped this wouldn't be a problem. I finally got the antenna 10 feet in the air at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday afternoon, just two hours before the start of SS at 4:00 P.M.

I nervously connected my antenna analyzer and scanned 0 to 30 MHz. This was a brand new antenna and the first time I erected it.

80M – the SWR dip was at 4.3 MHz. Everything below 3.85 MHz was greater than 5:1 SWR. Bad.

40M – the SWR dip was at 7.3 MHz. It was less than 2:1 across the band. Manageable.

20M – SWR was greater than 5:1 across the band. 20M was unusable!

15M – SWR less than 2:1 across the band

10M – SWR dip was around 29.7 MHz, with the low end of the phone band around 3:1

This was terrible. As I feared, the low antenna height and the tree branches were affecting the resonance of this antenna. I

needed 80M for the close-in evening contacts and 20M for the daytime. I had no backup antenna for 80M, but I did have my end-fed 40-10M antenna. Outdoors again. I spent another hour trying to get a rope into yet another tree (tree #4) and finally got this antenna, connected to 200 feet of coax, 10 feet in the air after another hour of effort. I checked this antenna with my analyzer. 40M and 20M SWR was less than 2:1 across both bands. Now I had coverage for 20M.

It was now 3:00 P.M., an hour before the start of the contest. I hadn't even turned on my radio to see if it would work. I connected the radio, power supply and computer and all came up properly. I wanted to see if I could get a signal out, so I tuned around on 20M looking for a CQ. At 3:50 I heard K0GV calling CQ and answered his call. He came right back to me! Success! I could get a signal out! Darryl in Minnesota was also checking out his rig just before the contest. We both were watching the clock count down for the starting time of the contest and we agreed to be each others' first contact. We made small talk to fill in the time. Darryl literally counted down the seconds, and 15 seconds after the top of the hour, gave his contest exchange. I returned with my exchange. I had my first contact in the log!

I was only running 100 watts into a wire antenna ten feet off the ground, so I knew I would not have much luck parking and barking, so I had to resort to pounce mode. But I discovered I had to compete in the pile ups and my signal was no match for the stations running a full gallon. At the end of the first hour I only had 10 contacts. I figured out what I had to do. I had to pick and choose the stations calling CQ and find the right time to get in. There was no way I was going to break into the big pileups, so I skipped over them. I often found another station calling CQ only a few KHz above the pileup who had no pileup and I quickly snagged him. The ARRL sections were multipliers, so I was constantly on the hunt for new sections. When I heard them I would make an effort to get them. If they were rare, and had a pileup I'd be persistent and wait for the right opportunity to get them. I heard a station in North Florida which was a new section for me. It had a huge pileup, and there was no way for me to get in. But I continued to listen for an opportunity. I was disappointed when he announced he was going QRT to take a phone call. The frequency went quiet. I wanted his section, so I stayed on frequency and hoped he would return. Two minutes later he was back and I got him on his first CQ. There was a pileup calling him when we were done.

I only averaged 9 contacts per hour. I would have some quick runs, and then I would hit a dry spell where it just seemed like I could not get a signal out. About a quarter of my contacts asked for multiple repeats. I could hear well, but I had a hard time getting a signal out. It took me 2 minutes to repeat my exchange multiple times to make a NH contact on 40M, yet I got San Diego on 20M with no repeats of my exchange. I tried parking and barking, but after 8 calls with no replies I gave up.

I missed a lot of opportunities on 80M because most of the contest activity on 80M was between 3600 and 3850 KHz which I could not work because the SWR on my antenna was too high. I tried the LDG automatic tuner I bought with my FT-991, but I

discovered it wouldn't talk to my radio. I had to make do with the tuner in the FT-991, which couldn't handle the high SWR below 3850.

The north-south orientation of my antennas hindered my ability to work the central states. I got 17 stations in Maryland-DC, 8 stations in North Carolina, 10 stations in the 3 Texas sections, 4 stations in Tennessee (one TN station said I had a great signal), and a contact with most of the states along the east coast. Somehow I was able to work Manitoba, New Mexico, Western Washington, Oregon, and three sections in California, too. I never heard another Vermont station, though.

My personal goal was to work 100 stations. At 11:00 A.M. Saturday morning I met that goal. But I didn't want to quit. I wanted to see how many more I could make. The SS contest ran for 30 hours, and Patti told me I could stay as late as I wanted on Sunday, but I wanted to take down my antennas in the daylight. At 1:30 P.M. on Sunday I made my last contact, in Delaware, a new section and multiplier for me. It was hard to push the button to turn off the radio and shut down the computer.

I finished after 14 hours of activity. My radio and computer worked flawlessly. I'm sure I could have made a lot more contacts with a better antenna system and a wide range antenna tuner. But I had fun and I'm satisfied with my first time effort.

Taking down the antennas was easy compared to the effort to put them up. I had to fight with the apple tree that had the balun, though. When I loosened the rope to drop the balun, it didn't move. The tree wouldn't give it up. With much persuasion, I finally got my antenna out of the tree.

When I paid Patti for my B&B stay she asked me what my plans were for a better antenna for next year's visit to the B&B!

In the final ARRL audited results I ended up with 9912 points which:

- placed me first of three Class A (single operator, less than 150 watts, no spotting assistance) contestants in Vermont
- placed me 3rd overall of 6 contestants in Vermont (the two stations that did better were in the Unlimited class)
- placed me 21st of 58 Class A contestants in New England Division

-Leandra, AF1R

2018 ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone) Select contest

[+ Scores Table Key](#)

Displaying entries for **Class=A** and **Section=VT**

Entries 1 to 3 of 3 listed

#	Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Section	Check	Hours	160	80	40	20	15	10	Club	Ops
1	AF1R	9,912	118	42	A	VT	74	12			31	54	33			AF1R
2	K1EP	9,540	106	45	A	VT	71	5			35	33	37	1	Yankee Clipper Contest Club	K1EP
3	W1ECH	140	10	7	A	VT	55						10			W1ECH

Select Entries to List

Class: **A** and Section/Division: **Vermont** and Club: **N/A**

or Call sign:

Choose Sort Order

Sort by: then then

Select and Sort Entries to Display

2018 ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone) + Scores Table Key

Displaying entries for **Section=VT**

Entries 1 to 6 of 6 listed

#	Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Section	Check	Hours	160	80	40	20	15	10	Club	Ops
1	W1SJ	246,178	1,483	83	U	VT	69	24		574	435	474			Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont	W1SJ
2	AA1SU	20,748	182	57	U	VT	97	6		136	39	7			Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont	AA1SU
3	AF1R	9,912	118	42	A	VT	74	12		31	54	33				AF1R
4	K1EP	9,540	106	45	A	VT	71	5		35	33	37	1		Yankee Clipper Contest Club	K1EP
5	K1BIF	1,656	36	23	B	VT	12	2						36	Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont	K1BIF
6	W1ECH	140	10	7	A	VT	55						10			W1ECH

2018 ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone) + Scores Table Key

Displaying entries for **Class=A** and **Division=NE**

Entries 1 to 25 of 58 listed

Prev - Next
Page: 1 2 3

#	Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Section	Check	Hours	160	80	40	20	15	10	Club	Ops
1	KC1SQ	61,650	411	75	A	ME	69	12		210	108	83	10			KC1SQ
2	K1TR	49,000	350	70	A	NH	98	8		59	156	136				K1TR
3	AA1JM	41,426	269	77	A	CT	88	17		136	50	74	9			AA1JM
4	N1ALO	34,364	242	71	A	EMA	77	16		82	65	95			Yankee Clipper Contest Club	N1ALO
5	W1DAD	32,154	233	69	A	NH	77	9		105	72	56			Yankee Clipper Contest Club	W1DAD
6	WA1LAD	31,464	207	76	A	RI	94	15		63	62	72	10			WA1LAD
7	KD1O	28,968	213	68	A	ME	93	17		85	49	79				KD1O
8	W1OP	26,840	220	61	A	RI	25	5					220			N1DM
9	WB2VVV	25,134	177	71	A	RI	74	10		75	29	58	15		CTRI Contest Group	WB2VVV
10	N1VH	20,904	156	67	A	EMA	15	13		70	51	32	3		Yankee Clipper Contest Club	N1VH
11	KB1VUN	19,372	167	58	A	NH	70	10			131	34	2			KB1VUN
12	N1IMW	19,256	166	58	A	NH	91	6		112	30	24			Granite State ARA	N1IMW
13	AK1K	16,704	174	48	A	NH	62	18		103	49	21	1			AK1K
14	N1YKH	15,444	99	78	A	CT	97	11		34	19	44	2			N1YKH
15	K1YWW	15,244	103	74	A	EMA	15	12		52	2	36	13			K1YWW
16	N1STN	14,790	145	51	A	ME	94	8		68	51	26				N1STN
17	N1GSA	13,310	121	55	A	CT	98	9		47	1	73				N1GSA
18	KE5ISO	11,074	113	49	A	ME	06	14		34	55	22	2			KE5ISO
19	AC1J	10,878	103	56	A	NH	00	7							Granite State ARA	AC1J
20	K1MC	10,504	101	52	A	EMA	59	9			49	52				K1MC
21	AF1R	9,912	118	42	A	VT	74	12		31	54	33				AF1R
22	K1EP	9,540	106	45	A	VT	71	5		35	33	37	1		Yankee Clipper Contest Club	K1EP
23	W1ZFG	8,686	101	43	A	CT	71	8		27	48	26				W1ZFG
24	W1TI	8,080	101	40	A	EMA	89	9		5	96					W1TI
25	W2LP	8,064	96	42	A	ME	04	5		34	43	19				W2LP

Get-on-the-air Events

Don't let April Fool you! It is a great month to Get-on-the-Air with a lot of State QSO Parties. QRP-To-The-Field (QTF) is also this month and a huge fun event for portable operations. And we even peek ahead to the first weekend in May for our very own New England QSO party!

Date	Event	URL
1400Z, Apr 6 to 0200Z, Apr 7	Mississippi QSO Party	http://www.arrlmiss.org/2018 - _2018_MSQP_Rules.pdf
1400Z, Apr 6 to 0400Z, Apr 7 and 1400Z-2000Z, Apr 7	Missouri QSO Party	http://www.woma.org/in dex.php/missouri-qso- party
1400Z, Apr 13 to 0200Z, Apr 14	New Mexico QSO Party	http://www.newmexicoq soparty.org/
1800Z, Apr 13 to 1800Z, Apr 14	North Dakota QSO Party	http://www.kgoyl.net/Q SO.html
1800Z, Apr 13 to 0359Z, Apr 14 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 14	Georgia QSO Party	http://www.georgiaqsop arty.org/
0800-1800 local, Apr 20	QRP to the Field	http://www.zianet.com/ grp/qrpttf/2019/ttf.htm
1300Z, Apr 20 to 0200Z, Apr 21 and 1300Z-2200Z, Apr 21	Nebraska QSO Party	http://www.qcwa.org/ch aptero25-rules-ne-qso- party-2018.pdf
1600Z, Apr 20 to 0400Z, Apr 21	Michigan QSO Party	http://www.miqp.org/Ru les.htm
1600Z, Apr 27 to 0159Z, Apr 28 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 28	Florida QSO Party	http://floridaqsoparty.or g/rules/
2000Z, May 4 to 0500Z, May 5 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 5	New England QSO Party	http://www.neqp.org/rul es.html

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 March 15 2019, we have 77 BARS 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 31st. Any renewal or new membership made after September 1 will be valid until December 31 of the next year. Memberships not renewed by January 1st have lapsed. Please renew now for 2019 if you have yet to do so.

Treasurers Report

Bruce, W1LUS, our BARS Treasurer reports that in March we had one new member join via PayPal, Robert Galante WA1PWZ. Be sure to say hello if you hear him on the air. There were no other changes to the treasury.

VE Report

At the March 14 BARS VE session, there were seven candidates. The results were four new Technicians, one new Extra (0 to Extra in one sitting) and one Extra upgrade. The new club members call signs are AC1HG, KC1LDV, KC1LDW, KC1LDX, and KC1LDY. Be sure to say hello if you hear them on the air.

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 harpman@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 \(map\)](#)

April Meeting Speaker

We are excited to bring back Bruce Blain, K1BG to speak at BARS for our April meeting! You may remember his talk with us about The Entry Level License: What's Worked and What Hasn't. Bruce has an eye for spotting opportunities about influencing the young folks and getting their interest piqued for amateur radio.

Recently, Bruce enlisted three other Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club members to assist him in judging a school science fair. This was an opportunity for NVARC to connect with youth and educators AND parents, with the hope of generating more

budding hams. You can see how this has potential for rejuvenating our hobby.

Bruce will describe what happened and I am sure he will field questions we all have about why ham radio's average age keeps climbing each year and what we can do about it.

Please come and support Bruce, and thank him for speaking for a fellow Club!

VE Sessions

VE sessions are held the 2nd Thursday of the month 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, K1TWF
BoD: Henry Christle, WA1VAB
Ex Officio: Tom Walsh, K1TW
Net Manager: John Fisher KC1FTJ
VE Manager: Bruce Anderson W1LUS
VE Manager: Gary Frascarelli W1GFF
Website: Kayla Creamer W2IRY