



NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

BARS Billerica Amateur Radio Society

OCTOBER 2019

From the President's Desk

from the President of BARS, Andy Wallace, KA1GTT

Autumn is finally here, and the "indoor hobby" season is starting. I'm guessing ham radio could be your favorite indoor enjoyment. It is for me!

Lately, I have been monitoring and joining conversations on 2m repeaters more often. I hear hams chat about what they enjoy doing – in our hobby, and out. I also hear some folks complaining that there isn't as much to do with ham radio as there used to be. I'd counter that with no, there's MORE, you just have to find it. In fact, if you find yourself becoming bored with ham radio, **you need to become more involved with it, not less.**

Radio has been in my blood almost from birth. My dad, W1HH (Bob Wallace), had his Collins 75A-4 receiver and Johnson Invader 2000 transmitter on the operating desk when I was a tyke. I knew they were off limits to my fingers but he let me watch him on the air. Later, I developed an interest with shortwave listening, entirely by accident. I had built a circuit in one of those Radio Shack electronic kits – the 100-in-1, one hundred different electronic diagrams to explore. I made a two-transistor AM radio.



One evening, after I got it working, I pulled the ferrite slug from the AM broadcast coil. I was 10 and didn't know that I just raised the resonant frequency of the circuit and suddenly I was hearing a tune over and over. It turned out it was the interval signal (played just before the broadcast began, to help you tune in the station) from Radio Nederland. Holland on the AM band, broadcasting in English! Wow. I told dad and he said no, that's not what you heard...it is shortwave. Now dad never had a general coverage rig in the shack, so I never knew

there were interesting broadcasts to hear. He lent me his dad's ancient Air Castle tube radio and I quickly learned that I was listening to the Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles relay station for RN. It was one of the loudest signals on the 49-meter shortwave broadcast band.



SWLing began my real radio hobby. Over the years I got my ham license, explored scanner listening, medium and longwave DXing, pirate radio listening, electrical engineering, QRP, ham fleas, kit building – and so many friendships developed and continue. Radio....in all its facets...is the glue holding my hobby together. If I got bored with one aspect I explored another. I knew that when the desire resurfaced, I could go back and enjoy radio in a previous way.

I suggest to you if you have not attended a BARS meeting lately, because you have been bored – do it! Come see what we are talking about in late 2019. We have some exciting speakers booked from now through the beginning of next year. And we are fortunate to have a VERY enthusiastic bunch that make it a point to come to our Saturday morning (8:15 at Stelio's on 3A/129 Billerica) breakfast.

Consider writing an article for our newsletter. Just describing something you have done will add to the pleasure of having done it once. Someone else may try it and who knows what path they will follow from there.

Try a new mode. I recently got involved with a bunch of guys getting on 6m twice or more a week using old amplitude modulated, vacuum tube rigs. What fun! I am using a modern rig and they love that I am on the air with them. We also have a local gang that likes to get on 10m groundwave about 8 or 8:30 on Saturday evenings and sometimes other nights. 28.430 USB is where you'll hear us. Check into our Wednesday net. We try to keep things lively. It's not just a roll call and you never know what tidbits you'll hear.

Crack open a book. A ham book of course. The physics of ham radio has not changed – look in that old ARRL Handbook or Antenna Book and try to wrap your gray matter around something new, especially if it interests you enough to try building something.

Clean up and clean out. If you don't build kits anymore because your workbench is a mess, get to work. Start small, begin with a clean area and work your way out. Make sure the core hardware of your hobby is always in decent shape. Near-Fest is coming (October 11th and 12th) and if you have things in the way that you will never get around to using, pass them on to people who may.

Turn on the radio MORE. Listen to 2m during drivetimes. You may hear people doing things in radio that you have never tried. Park your HF rig on a calling frequency as you do other things and see who shows up. Or, if it's general coverage, start exploring between our ten HF ham bands. There are still shortwave broadcasters, ship to shore and aircraft, weather and time stations – a gumbo pot of stuff to discover besides hams, if you need new stimulation.

Keep IN radio somehow, people.
Andy, KA1GTT
President, BARS

**Next BARS meeting:
Wednesday October 2 at 7:00 PM**

“BARS Field Day Recap and Slideshow!”

Ken Caruso, WO1N, our Field Day Chair, will be presenting a recap of our Field Day 2019 experience with our Vice President, Kayla Creamer, W2IRY, showing her still pictures and video! Kevin Fallon, KB1KTR, who did a great job herding the cats at the Billerica site, may also attend to fill us in on how things worked out.

I encourage anyone who participated in Field Day to attend and pipe up during the slideshow to comment on what was going on ... and humorous quips are not out of the question! Kayla did a fantastic job documenting our wonderful experience over two full days. You'll enjoy this show I am sure!



BARS Elections in November

from the President of BARS, Andy Wallace, KA1GTT

Folks, it is Election time at BARS again. At our regular November monthly meeting at the Chelmsford Bible Church, we all vote for our Officers. The BOD has met, and we have discussed which of us are willing to stay onboard. As a result while we have a preliminary slate we are also seeking interest from the members who would like to be considered for a club position. Below is a summary of the positions to be elected and the current officers. The current officers encourage members to submit nominations for all positions including their own as the club will benefit if we can bring in fresh perspectives.

If you would like to volunteer for one of the club officer positions please email our Club President, Andy, KA1GTT no later than November 5th indicating the position you are interested in. Andy will forward your interest in serving as a club officer to the Board nominating committee.

President: Current President is Andy, KA1GTT

Generally heads the club. Represents the club's outward facing image to the public. Promotes club activities (Monthly meetings, Field Day, Near-Fest, VE Exams, 2m Net, Saturday breakfast). Calls and leads Board of Directors (BOD) meetings. Seeks and arranges speakers. Posts announcements to the website and email reflector. Works with meeting place owner for club access.

Vice President: Current Vice President is Kayla, W2IRY

Supports the President and can administer club business in case of President's absence. Partners with President and BOD in PR matters. Attends BOD meetings. Seeks and arranges speakers. Currently Kayla also maintains our Web presence (w1hh.org, email reflector, Facebook).

Treasurer: Current Treasurer is Bruce, W1LUS

Maintains the Club treasury with accuracy. Receives new and renewal membership applications and payments (in person and Paypal). Administers official expenses such as club insurance policies. Compiles membership lists. Produces regular Treasurer's Reports (verbal or written) to the club. Attends BOD meetings.

Secretary: OPEN – No current Secretary

Records official club business decisions and actions at meetings. Publishes minutes. Attends BOD meetings.

Board Members: Current members are Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF and Henry Christle, WA1VAB

Usually two. Currently we have remaining as BOD members. The Board Member position is flexible. Simply put, he or she attends BOD meetings and has a voice for important decisions the club needs to make.

Past President: Tom Walsh, K1TW, will remain on the BOD as past President. This is not an elected position.

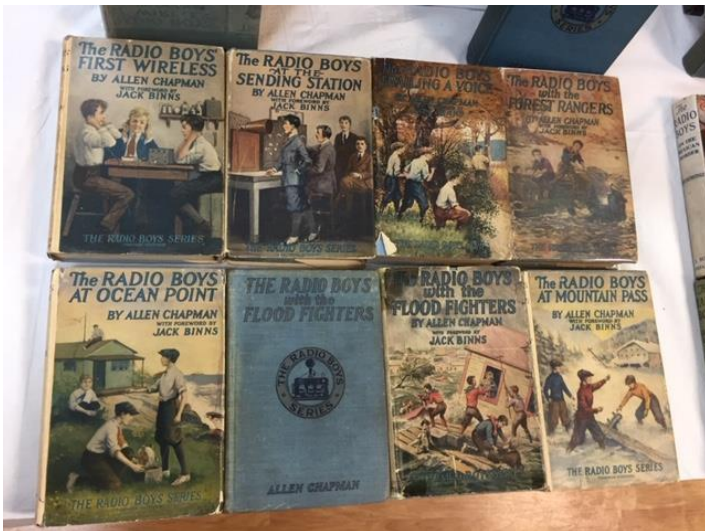
I want to publicly thank Kayla, Bruce, Paula, Henry, Mike, and Tom for the commitment they have to the Club in working hard in these positions for the last year. BARS is BARS each month because of all the work we do. - Andy, KA1GTT, President

Visit to the New England Antique Radio Club Flea Market

KA1GTT went to the NEARC antique radio flea market in Brookline NH on Saturday. Great turnout. The inside hall was 75% full and had a good selection of broadcast and vintage stereo gear with some ham stuff mixed in, especially at the outside tailgate area.



Weather was perfect and before I knew it, I had spent over three hours browsing and chatting with fellow hams and collectors. Inside, I passed up a decent BC-348 with the usual power supply mod, \$65. Tom Perera W1TP had his usual collection of keys for sale and an Enigma cipher machine right out in the open! Where else can you see an Enigma nearby? (Well, at Near-Fest!) I also saw at least two TS-570s at good prices.



Several bargains outside included a clean National NC-300 with calibrator for \$75, and a TS-820S with several accessories for \$200. One dealer had a wonderfully complete aircraft setup including BC-348 and ART-13.

I came home with a Heathkit SA-2060 antenna tuner. Anyone got a manual? I also brought a homebrew junk box regenerative receiver, a real neat labor of love, for \$25.



It was fun chatting with W1JDR with his black '49 Ford. And the fellow I got the tuner from turns out to be a 1200 Radio Club member who knew my dad.

The NEARC show is every three months. Do check it out!

BARS October Suggestions - 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 this month:

Date	Event
October 5-6	California QSO Party
October 5-6	SKCC QSO Party
October 6	RSGB DX Contest
October 12	QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party
October 12-13	Nevada QSO Party
October 12-13	Arizona QSO Party
October 12-13	Pennsylvania QSO party
October 12-13	South Dakota QSO Party
October 19-20	10-10 International Fall Contest
October 19-20	New York State QSO Party
October 19-20	Worked All Germany Contest
October 20-21	Illinois QSO party
October 26-27	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB

Details on each contest above and more events can be found every week on the WA7BNM contest calendar at :

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php?mode=current&week=current>

BARS Membership

Bruce, W1LUS, our BARS Treasurer reports that as of October 2019 we have 90 total members.

There were 6 new members. "Be sure to say hello to them if you hear then on the air"

James Wilcox	N1SUR	General
Gregory Costello	KC1LXR	Technician
Ronald Hirsch	KC1LXI	General
Evin Liang	KC1LXQ	Technician
Quansheng Liang	KC1LXT	General
Ryan Link	KC1LXU	General

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 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.

Treasurers Report

October 2019 Treasurers Report

In September we had two new paid members for \$30 income. Expenses were \$53.66 Boxboro convention advertising and printing, Pizza for the September meeting was \$88.28. (Thanks to Tom K1TW for donating the drinks for the meeting) and PayPal fees were \$1.48. We now have a total of \$403.71.

Bank \$82.55
 PayPal \$311.16
 Cash \$10.00
 Bruce Anderson, W1LUS Treasurer

VE Report

from Gary F, W1GFF

At the September 12 BARS VE exam session 18 Candidates showed up including 12 Army Recruits from Ft Devens on an exercise. Non-military folks came from as far away as Brockton, MA and Wells, ME. Session Results - 3 New Techs, 4 Generals

VE's for session were: Team Leader: Gary, W1GFF - Peter, N1ALO - Charles, AA1VS - Wayne, AG1A - Donald, KA1MAP, Andy, KA1GTT and Tom, K1TW .

Next Session: Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019.

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 Chris, KC1IUK. 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 \(map\)](#)

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 \(map\)](#)

Future Meetings:

11/6: Jim, K1IR on Tower Safety. Also: club Officer elections.

12/4: Terry, KA8SCP on Emergency Communications, RACES, and ARES.

1/8/20: BARS Holiday Party (shifted a week from normal meeting night as 1/1 is Wednesday).

2/5: Mike, K1TWF, recap of ARRL Board Meeting.

BARS Leadership Team

President: Andy Wallace, KA1GTT
 Vice President: Kayla Creamer, W2IRY
 Treasurer: Bruce Anderson, W1LUS
 Secretary: Open
 BoD: Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF
 BoD: Henry Christle, WA1VAB
 Ex Officio: Tom Walsh