



NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

BARS Billerica Amateur Radio Society

NOVEMBER 2020

BARS physical meetings are on hiatus until further notice.

The decision to resume in-person club meetings and breakfasts at Stellio's will be made entirely by the Board based on the outlook of this medical emergency. The safety and well-being of our membership is important to us.

Meanwhile, virtual club and breakfast meetings using Zoom have proved an enjoyable substitute. Please ignore the sections, below which give directions and schedule for in-person meetings.

However, in-person VE License Exams have resumed using a different protocol – see the VE section near the end of the newsletter for details.

--BARS Management.

From the President's Desk

from the President of BARS, Andy Wallace, KA1GTT

Nothing profound for me to say this month. Please know it has been an honor to serve you as Club President for the past three years. Go easy on the new guy!

**Next BARS Zoom meeting:
November 4 at 7:00 PM:**

Election of Officers

And

**“ARRL HQ W1AW STATION TOUR” with
Joe Carcia, NJ1Q**

The BARS Annual Election of Officers:

The current list of nominees is:

President:	Doug Bruce, KC1MJK
Vice President:	Kayla Creamer, W2IRY
Secretary:	Scott Ginsburg, K1OA
Treasurer:	Bruce Anderson, W1LUS
BOD Member:	Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF
BOD Member:	Henry Christle, WA1VAB

And one change to the Board:

Ex-Officio: Andy Wallace, KA1GTT
(with Tom Walsh, K1TW's departure in that seat as former President)

The Program:

All, I am extremely excited to announce our next Zoom meeting will be a tour of the W1AW station at ARRL HQ in Newington CT!

Some of you have been lucky enough to work W1AW on the bands – some even in the A.M. mode. Even QSLed it. Even luckier BARS members have been on a field trip down to tour the station! I have not – and like many of you will find this a great first time experience!



Courtesy of BARS's Doug Bruce, KC1MJK – who worked W1AW recently and got us in touch – we have arranged a virtual tour of W1AW for our November meeting. Thanks, Doug, and especially thank you, Joe! He has done other virtual tours so helping BARS in this way should go well. As a bonus our meeting time coincides with W1AW actually being on the air so we will see it in operation.

W1AW is the “voice” of the American Radio Relay League and as an ARRL affiliated club BARS has a stake in their heritage. Joe will field questions and it sounds like this tour will be “the next best thing to being there” as they say.

We will have a bit of club business – our club election in fact – at the beginning of our meeting, and Joe's tour will commence thereafter.

Let's show a great turnout for this! Thank you Doug and Joe.



We will announce the link to join the Zoom meeting before the meeting, but it will be posted to the BARS email list and should not be shared outside our Club. Are you on the email list? If not, please send an email to bars-subscribe@w1hh.org and then simply reply to the robot response from the server and you will be subscribed.

Observing our Zoom meeting requires only a web browser and headphones/speakers. You do not need a webcam or microphone unless you want to speak or be seen.

Before our meeting date, please go to <https://zoom.us/test> and see if it will function for you. If you have problems, we can try to assist – feel free to ask questions on the BARS email list.

I am looking forward to “seeing” many of you on Wednesday 10/7 here at 1900.

Andy, KA1GTT
President, Billerica Amateur Radio Society

A Message From the Editor

from Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

You wouldn't leave the house without knowing what the weather is. Why would you get on HF without knowing what the ionosphere is doing?

The ionosphere is affected by solar flares, magnetic field alignment, coronal mass ejections and the phase of the moon. (Okay, I made that last up – as far as I know, the phase of the moon does not correlate with ionospheric behavior. Though the position of the moon in its orbit *does* affect the geomagnetic field.)

Fortunately, information about current conditions and fore4casts for future conditions are available to the ham. I use a website called <http://www.spaceweather.com> which collects information about current geomagnetic and solar conditions and the forecasts for solar flares and geomagnetic disturbances. There's also information there about the speed and density of the solar wind, the number of observed sun spots and even the solar radio flux.

Much the same information can be obtained from the NOAA geomagnetic forecast at <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/3-day-geomagnetic-forecast> or the WWV current geomagnetic conditions report, which gives the conditions for the recent 3-hour period, <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/geophysical-alert-wwv-text>.

For the ham, the most important number is the Planetary K index. When this number gets up around seven, shut off the rig and find a good book [hi, hi].

Geophysical alert messages are broadcast over WWV at 18 minutes past the hour (and WWVH at 45 minutes past, if you can receive the Hawaiian station's transmission – if you can, you probably don't need the message). These give the solar radio flux at 2800 MHz / 10.7 cm, Planetary A index (geomagnetic disturbance) and K index (fluctuation in the geomagnetic field direction) and space weather, which is a consequence of the sun's behavior and the earth's magnetic environment and solar wind strength. All this is explained better than I could at <https://tf.nist.gov/stations/iform.html>.

So next time you get on the air, don't forget your parka and umbrella. And be sure to use plenty of sunscreen.

Strays

Found on the Web

This month, I was researching instruments of detection, from the Branly coherer to the semiconductor diode. Again, my source was Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Detector_\(radio\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Detector_(radio)).

I also just purchased an antenna tuner to go with my μ BITX, so I found this article about how antenna tuners work. (Warning: the Wikipedia article contains some of that dreaded stuff known as math!): https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antenna_tuner.

--de Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

Virtual Swap Meet

Since there are no traditional flea markets for the foreseeable future and there is an obvious pent-up demand for same, some friends of mine, Roger, WA1NVC, Gene, K1NR, John N1JAF and Bill, NE1B, have started a new regional swap net that will include the six New England states, Long island, Mid-Hudson Valley NY, and even four Eastern Canadian provinces: Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

This net runs weekly online as well as on the air.

The on-air version is on the New England Wide DMR talk group but you can also receive postings in your email.

NEAR-Fest supports their efforts 100%. Thanks to the organizers this weekly net will be another source of official information for the hamfest.

Let's all give them our total support.

73,

MisterMike, W1RC

Here is the official announcement from Roger, WA1NVC:

A new swap net has been created.

It will be on the NEDECN DMR network TS 2 TG 3181 [New England Wide] every Saturday at 8 PM local.

Items can be listed on line using Groups.IO

Here is the URL for the "New England Digital Swap Net":

<https://groups.io/g/NewEnglandDigitalSwapNet>

Here is our initial attempt to create an online flea market.

WHEN: SATURDAY NIGHTS at 8 PM for 1 hour
 *WHERE: NEDECN "NEW ENGLAND WIDE",
 TS2 TALK GROUP 3181
 *NET CONTROLS: K1NR, WA1NVC, N1JAF,
 NE1B

PHOTOS and descriptions of EQUIPMENT will be on Groups.IO
 NewEnglandDigitalSwapNet

You can read the for sale items, and if you join, you can post for sale items by subscribing here:

NewEnglandDigitalSwapNet+subscribe@groups.io

Discussions between buyers and sellers during the net will be on TS1 TG 8801 [NETAC1]

73,

Bill, Gene, Roger and John

--de Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF

Secretary's Reports

from Scott Ginsburg, K1OA, Secretary

The BARS General Meeting, October 7, 2020

President Andy Wallace, KA1GTT called the Zoom virtual meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Jim, N1HTS announced that Andreas, KC1NTL will be servicing the club post office box.

KA1GTT announced that Doug, KC1MJK will be running for BARS president. Doug gave a short overview of himself and why he's interested in running.

Our guest speaker was David O'Farrell, WB0IXV, from Ft Collins, Colorado. David presented Morse Code 101, an introduction to Morse code and some learning techniques, and Morse Code 201 which covered more advanced topics and some Morse history.

KA1GTT closed the meeting at 9:19 PM. There were 33 participants.

The BARS Board of Directors Meeting October 30, 2020

The Zoom Board of Directors meeting covered only general discussion and no business was conducted. Therefore there is no Secretary's Report.

BARS Membership

Bruce, W1LUS, our BARS Treasurer reports that as of 11/1/2020, we had 98 members.

2021 BARS Member Dues

The BARS Board has changed the policy on member dues. A \$15 annual BARS membership now runs from January 1st and expires on December 31st. Any renewal or new membership made after September 1 will be valid until December 31st 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 for November 2020

from Bruce Anderson, W1LUS, Treasurer

For November our expenses were Zoom \$15.93 and PayPal fee of \$5.92. We had 9 new/renewals in October for \$135 plus a \$100 donation. We now have \$331.57 in the Bank and \$747.84 in our PayPal account for a total of \$1079.41

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 each Wednesday at 8:00 PM (except on the first Wednesday of the 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

We are conducting VE exams again. The exams are conducted differently than in the past. For now the new procedure will be

- The exams will take place in a parking lot where the examinees remain in their vehicles during the exam.
- Pre-registration will be required. No more "walk in" sessions because we must limit the number of people in order to maintain social distancing.
- To minimize paper handling by the VEs, the 605 form and CSCE form must be filled out and emailed to the VE team along with a copy of existing FCC license, if any, and an ID before the exam session.
- Masks must be worn.

We are also considering Saturday morning exams a couple times a month if the demand is there for tests.

For more information about the new exam process and to register for an exam session, contact Bruce, W1LUS, at W1LUS@hotmail.com

Eventually, we hope to resume holding VE sessions as before, 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)

October 2020 VE Session Report

On October 10 we had our third VE Exam using social distancing guidelines. It turned out to be a good day to hold an outdoor exam as mother nature provided a warm, sunny day, for October. To accommodate our outside exams we have changed the day, time and location of our VE exams. We no longer allow "walk-ins" at our exams. Preregistration is required. The next VE exam session will be on Saturday, November 14, at 10:00 AM in the parking lot of Gary's Ice Cream store. (131 Gorham St Chelmsford MA 01824)

Contact Bruce at W1LUS@hotmail.com to register for this exam session.

In the October exam session there was one upgrade to Extra,: Andreas, KC1NTL; two new Generals: David, KC1NYN, and Daren, KC1NYR; five new Technicians: Victor, KC1NYM, Matt, KC1NYO, Tyler, KC1NYP, Wayne, K1NYQ and Walter, KC1NYS. If you should hear any of them on the air be sure to say hello.

Thanks to Scott, K1OA, Antonio, KB1KDS and Gary, W1GFF.

Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

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

The 12/1 meeting will be held via Zoom.

Subscribe to the BARS Mailing List

To subscribe to the BARS email list, send a blank email to bars-subscribe@w1hh.org and watch for an automated reply. Note that bars-subscribe is all one word.

Reply to that message from the list server and you are then subscribed.

To post to the list, address your email to bars@w1hh.org

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ARS November 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
Nov 7-9	ARRL Sweepstakes, CW http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes
Nov 7-8	Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) Weekend Sprintathon https://skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/
Nov 14-15	10-10 International Fall Contest, Digital https://www.ten-ten.org/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules
Nov 15-16	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest http://qrptest.com/pigrun/
Nov 21-23	ARRL Sweepstakes, SSB ** http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes
Nov 28-29	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW https://www.cqww.com/

** Top Recommendations for this month

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=custom&week=current>

BARS Leadership Team

President: Andy Wallace, KA1GTT
 Vice President: Kayla Creamer, W2IRY
 Treasurer: Bruce Anderson, W1LUS
 Secretary: Scott Ginsburg, K1OA
 Net Coordinator: Chris Lobdell, KC1IUK
 Newsletter Editor: Marla Wallace, WA1GSF
 New Member Outreach: John Fisher, KC1FTJ
 BoD: Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF
 BoD: Henry Christle, WA1VAB
 Ex Officio: Tom Walsh, K1TW

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