



NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER 2021

BARS Billerica Amateur Radio Society

BARS physical meetings are on hiatus until further notice.

The decision to resume in-person club meetings will be made entirely by the Board based on the outlook of this medical emergency.

Meanwhile, virtual club meetings using Zoom have proved an enjoyable substitute. Please ignore the section, below which gives directions and schedule for in-person meetings. It is hoped that we can resume in-person meetings by the new year.

The Board has decided to resume in-person Saturday morning breakfasts at Stellio's Restaurant. However, virtual breakfast meetings using Zoom will continue to provide an enjoyable substitute for those who wish to avoid physical presence.

The VE License Exam Sessions, have gone back to in-person exams – see the VE section near the end of the newsletter for details.

The safety and well-being of our membership is important to us.

--BARS Management.

From the President's Desk

from your Interim President of BARS, Tom Walsh, K1TW

Doug Bruce, N1WRN, after leading us for most of the year has found it necessary to step down as President before the November election. We owe Doug our heartfelt thanks for his work on behalf of BARS this year.

Doug initiated the idea of a special event for the 100th Anniversary of WBZ. That quickly grew into a major multi-club

event involving BARS and the Hampden County Radio Association (HCRA) in Springfield where WBZ first went on the air 100 years ago. This joint event now involves around 30 operators who will to be active using the call signs W1W, W1B, W1Z, and WB1Z over a three-day period in September.

Doug's departure leaves a rather big hole in club leadership to be filled. With only two months until the next club election, and the WBZ special event, keeping the club running smoothly is a priority. Another priority will be to strongly encourage members to run for the Board and Officer positions to keep BARS healthy as a club. But first, let me start by providing some background on me for the newer club members.

My first BARS Field Day was very memorable. It was at the Lowell Sportsman Club (1979). In those days, we erected our beams on 20-foot extension ladders, easy to put up and they worked out great. They were also safe to erect; no big 40- or 50-foot towers to worry about. The facilities were somewhat like the Concord Rod club that our PART of Westford neighbors enjoy today for their Field Day. Over the years, BARS Field Day moved to the top of the Nashoba Valley Ski Area, then to MITRE where, for many years we operated jointly with the MITRE Bedford ARC, to various other locations like the one graciously hosted by Nan, NK1A, and finally to our most recent great Field Day at the Billerica EMA Barracks.

I don't recall who was club president in 1979. It may have been Bruce WA9NEW, a very nice guy who was in the military at Hanscom; or John, K4LSX (also at the time N1RR). John, K4LSX, still lives in the area and I have heard him occasionally on the air. K1AR and K1DG, both well-known contesters today, were members then.

I first met Ken, KC1X, and Bruce, W1LUS, back then as they were active in club leadership. Rick Beebe, K1PAD, was a BARS member and our ARRL Section Communications Manager. Rick is active today still, especially on CW. Pat, N1CKN (SK), and Al Kinnon, KD1EA (SK), were the heart and soul of BARS for years. I won't ever forget either of them!

I mention these folks because we must always thank those who helped us along the way. I could list many more and will in future. If other members have a club member they'd like to recognize, I'd love to hear from you. It would make a nice project for the club to recognize those who helped us along the amateur radio journey.

Okay—fast forward, and I became very involved in the ARRL, first as an Assistant Director, then as a VE, and then as ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager. The fun part of being Section Manager is helping others. If you are not an ARRL member, please join and sign up for my monthly section newsletter. If you need help signing up, email me.

About 10 years ago, Mike K1TWF, and I joined forces to bring our energy to BARS. Mike was President for a few years, and I was his VP. Then I served as President for a few years, with Mike and others as VP.

We have the unusual office of Ex-Officio (ex-President), which is intended to allow the outgoing president to assist the incoming folks. It was never intended to be a life-time appointment. But it's starting to take on that look. I was ex-officio for far too long, as Andy likely feels today. Perhaps, a by-laws change is in order with a 1-year term.

The solution to bringing in new leadership. If you haven't served as a club leader, now is the time. Ideally, this should only be a two-year commitment. We need a constant supply of enthusiastic and forward-looking club leaders.

New members are especially welcome in leadership. The more experienced members in the club are available to mentor and guide you.

The primary qualification is your desire to make BARS a friendly, welcoming club especially for new members. Here is how we describe BARS on the ARRL website: "BARS specializes in friendly mentoring and get-on-the-air experience."

I will conclude with a lighthearted view of having me back as President. A favorite movie of mine is the 1993 movie "Groundhog Day." Bill Murray repeats each day over and over until he attains perfection.

What made me think of the movie? I woke up a few days ago and learned I was again the President of BARS. I think I've been here before – is this Groundhog Day?

Luckily, this memory is one of my good Groundhog Day moments. Why? Because BARS is fun and filled with great folks. It's been my home club for 42 years now.

As in the movie, I have a limited time as the interim President, but each day I will try to make BARS just a little bit better.

Are you ready to help? Please contact me and let's talk. My email is k1tw@comcast.net.

Next BARS Zoom meeting: September 1 at 7:00 PM

"What's New in Digital Modes?"

Presenter: Neil Goldstein, W2NDG

This is a discussion on HF Digital Modes concentrating on FT8. The history and evolution of WSJT-X modes and its derivatives, like JS8-Call, JT-65, FT-4 and WSPR. We will also look at a few standalone kits for digital modes that you can build yourself, as well as an overview of FT8 software and associated software for digital modes.

ALSO ON THE AGENDA:

- Meet Tom Frenaye, K1KI, candidate for ARRL New England Division Director
- Update on the joint BARS/HCRA WBZ 100th Anniversary Special Event.

Read full details on the next meeting at:

<https://www.w1hh.org/bars-meeting-on-zoom-wed-sept-1-2021-7-pm-neil-goldstein-w2ndg-topic-whats-new-in-digital-modes/>

73,

Tom, K1TW



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 9/1 here at 1900.

Tom, K1TW
Interim President, Billerica Amateur Radio Society

A Message From the Editor

from Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

The big news this month is, of course, the change of leadership for BARS. This is covered in detail in the Club News article which appears below. Tom Walsh has gracefully stepped up and assumed the reins for the next couple of months while Doug deals with personal issues.

But this is a temporary situation. BARS will need to elect a new President at our November meeting. So if you want to lead BARS for the next year...

Club News: A Change of Leadership for BARS

By Tom Walsh, K1TW

Doug N1WRN, BARS President, has stepped down as BARS President for personal reasons.

The BARS Board met recently to determine a successor until the club elections in November. Tom Walsh K1TW, a former BARS President, agreed to step in as the interim President through the November meeting at which time new leadership for the club will be elected.

At the same time, Tom agreed to assist Kayla with the W1HH web site. Kayla has done an outstanding job for many years as the W1HH.org admin but has been requesting additional help. Tom and Phil, K9HI, will help Kayla maintain the W1HH website at least through November.

K1TW's immediate attention as President will be on ensuring the continued smooth operation of the club through the next election. Tom will give special emphasis to the September WBZ special event, club meetings, and the November election. In particular, Tom will be encouraging new members with fresh ideas to run for club leadership.

Participate in the WBZ 100th Anniversary Event

By Larry Krainson, W1AST

Attention BARS Members:

I challenge you to get on and work all four of the WBZ-100 special event stations the weekend of September 17-19th. This is the celebration of WBZ's 100th Anniversary of Broadcasting.

The fun begins at 9 am on Friday, September 17th and end at 11:59 pm on Sunday the 19th.

This is a project initiated and supported by many of the BARS board. We need your support. Get On The Air and Work Us! Look for the following call signs: W1W, W1B, W1Z and WB1Z. Can you work one? can you work all four? Look for notices of when and where and what mode on DXsummit.fi online.

There are nearly 30 ops across New England activating the above calls on CW, SSB, Digital, satellite and nearly any mode you can think of!

Go to the QRZ page for any of the calls for directions on how to get a one of a kind special QSL card.

Can you work all four? We hope to hear you on the air!

Thank you and 73,

Larry, W1AST
W1AST@arrl.net

[Larry is the point of contact for the WBZ Special Event jointly hosted by BARS and HCRA. He is a member of both clubs. – ed]

Welcome to the Fourth BARS CW Corner

By Tom Walsh, K1TW

CW Help for BARS is Coming

Bruce K1BG, President of the Nashoba Valley ARC, and I have been discussing holding a kickoff zoom session for people interested in learning cw. We expect this to occur in early September, tentatively on Wed., Sept 8 at 7 PM; one hour before the Wednesday BARS 2-meter net.

If you contact us, we will be sure you get the specific zoom meeting notice. Email us at k1bg@arrl.net and k1tw@arrl.org. I will also post the zoom meeting notice on the BARS email list.

If you are interested in learning CW, we want to help. If you are a Technician class license holder, CW is your primary access to the HF shortwave bands. Technicians have substantial CW privileges on eighty, forty, fifteen and ten meters. These bands offer worldwide propagation and now with the start of a new sunspot cycle they've become the place to be for many hams. If you hold a General or a higher-class license, your CW privileges greatly expand your total access to the HF shortwave bands, offering many more opportunities to work the world every day.

Many people learn CW on their own in about 4-8 weeks. It's usually not hard. It's mostly about practice. For others, learning as part of a group may be a better way. Either way, the rewards of using CW in your amateur radio operating are substantial.

ARRL Help as you Learn

No matter how you learn CW, the ARRL provides on-the-air practice to assist you. On weekdays, W1AW, the ARRL station in Newington CT, runs code practice in the mornings and evenings at speeds ranging from 5 WPM all the way to 35 WPM. This is how I learned CW. The W1AW schedule is here at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>.

If you don't have a shortwave receiver, you can also listen to W1AW using an online sdr receiver such as one of these listed at <http://kiwisdr.com/public/>.

Audio from W1AW's CW code practices and CW/digital/phone bulletins is available using EchoLink via the W1AW Conference Server "W1AWBDCT." There is even an APP for Echolink users that I have on an iPhone.

To recognize your accomplishments, the ARRL provides a very nice code proficiency certificate if you correctly copy 1-minute of the transmission during a W1AW Qualifying Run transmission. The schedule for these is found at <http://www.arrl.org/qualifying-run-schedule>. Certificates are awarded starting at 10 WPM with endorsements every 5 WPM and higher up to 35 WPM. And qualifiers are listed every month in QST.

Trail Friendly Radio (TFR)

The Adventure Radio Society (ARS) promotes Trail Friendly Radio (TFR). As the name implies, TFR refers to operating very lightweight portable equipment that is easily carried to parks or on walks and hikes – short or long.

A long-time advocate of Trail Friendly Radio is Richard Fisher KI6SN and the Adventure Radio Society blog <http://arsqrp.blogspot.com/>. KI6SN was a co-founder of the ARS along with other west coast folks like N6KR of Elecraft fame today.

KI6SN has written numerous columns for Popular Communications, WorldRadio Online, CQ Amateur Radio, and QRP Quarterly magazines. Today he is a columnist in the Spectrum Monitor, which is an on-line monthly magazine that I enjoy and recommend. They have many interesting writers producing articles on shortwave, amateur radio, and radio related issues. <https://www.thespectrummonitor.com/>

Some of the more popular Trail Friendly Transceivers include:

- Elecraft: KX1, KX2, KX3
- Yaesu: FT-817nd, FT-818nd
- Icom: IC-705
- QRP Labs: QCX+ 5W CW transceiver kit
- Xiegu: several models
- LNR Precision: MTN Topper
- MFJ: Cub, 9200 series (may not be available at present)
- Ten-Tec: R-4020 (used only)

Numerous home brew designs are also used.

Adventure Radio Society and the Monthly Spartan Sprint

ARS Spartan Sprints are two-hour gatherings sponsored by the Adventure Radio Society, held the first Monday of every month. As described on their web site: "The Spartan Sprints have a unique, three-faceted focus. They encourage outdoor operation with backcountry radio gear (if outdoor operation isn't practical, home-based operation is fine). They gather fascinating information about the upper atmosphere, documenting how low power signals can travel long distances. And they encourage the growth of a like-minded community of amateur radio operators who generously share their knowledge and experiences."

Note this unique amateur radio event has two entry classes: "Skinny" and "Tubby". In the Skinny division, the total weight of your equipment (but not counting antenna, feedline, key, etc.) is used to determine your final score by using the number of QSOs per pound as the scoring criteria. The Tubby division is essentially is for heavier transceivers. Note: You are also allowed to contact the participants from home stations. Rules of the Spartan Sprint are here: <http://arsqrp.blogspot.com/2009/02/so-whats-spartan-sprint-and-how-do-i.html>

The next ARS Spartan Sprint, if you want to try it out, is planned for Monday evening, September 6 from 9-11 PM Eastern time. And the schedule of future events can be found here: <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestdetails.php?ref=283>

That's it for now. See you next month.

73,

Tom K1TW

k1tw@arrl.org

Strays

Reminder: The ARRL New England Division Convention

- Venue: the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlborough, Massachusetts.
- Dates: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday | September 10 to 12, 2021
- Flea Market Hours: Fri 12 PM to 5 PM, Sat 9 AM to 5 PM, Sun 9 AM to 1 PM
- Exhibition Hall Hours: Sat 9 AM to 5 PM, Sun 9 AM to 1 PM
- Forums & Seminars: [See schedule](#)

Tech-In-A-Day at the New England ARRL Convention

Tech-In-A-Day will be offered again at the New England ARRL Convention in Marlborough, MA on Saturday, September 11, 2021 from 8:00 to 5:00 pm.

Prospective students should buy the ARRL Technician Class License Manual from either Ham Radio Outlet in Salem, NH or the ARRL direct.

Plan:

1. Please read the book.
2. There is a Technician Class online at <https://www.youtube.com/w4eey>
3. There is an App on your computer or phone online called hamstudy.org which you can use the "Study Mode" option to review the question pool for Technician Sections T1-T7.

Also I would suggest studying until you can score 85% or better across the board.

You may sign up for the Tech-In-A-Day class by sending an email to techinaday@caara.net

Cost of the course is \$20.00. That includes \$15.00 Test Fee and \$5.00 for materials and snacks.

--de Bill Poulin, WZ1L
(978) 504-9112

Found on the web

The FCC has adopted guidelines and procedures for evaluating environmental effects of RF emissions. The new guidelines incorporate two tiers of exposure limits based on whether exposure occurs in an occupational or "controlled" situation or whether the general population is exposed or exposure is in an "uncontrolled" situation.

-- arrl.org

We are all required to calculate the RF exposure to people from our transmissions. The results should show that our antennas are located far enough from people so no one gets over exposed. Or conversely, where to locate our antennas to prevent over exposing people to our transmissions.

The ARRL has provided a simple calculator for hams to determine this minimum safe distance: <http://arrl.org/rf-exposure-calculator>

--de Bruce Anderson, WILUS

Upgrading Your License? Here's a Resource

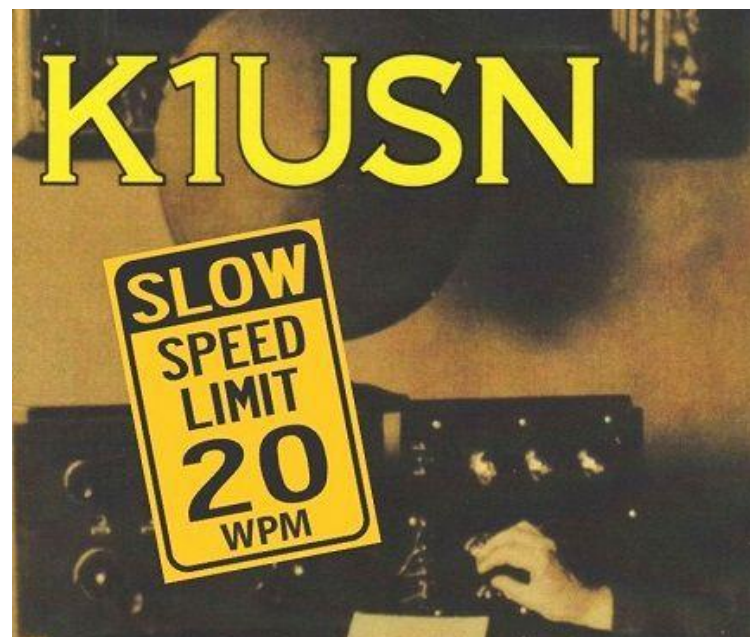
If you are thinking of upgrading your license using one of the Online exam sites. I recommend that you take some free practice exams on HamStudy.org. I recommend it because the software used to generate practice exams on HamStudy.org is the same

software that is used to create exams for online tests. By doing that when you take an online upgrade exam the test question format will be familiar. With HamStudy.org practice tests you should use the keyboard to select the answer, A,B,C, or D and not your mouse as that is way online exams are run.

--de Bruce Anderson, WILUS

Friday and Sunday Night CW Slow Speed Contest

Every Friday and Sunday night, there is a weekly slow-speed CW contest run by the local K1USN guys. This is a good way to polish up your CW skills. See <http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html> for details. [Currently, the schedule is 4-5 PM EDT Friday and 8-9 PM EDT Sunday. – ed.]



-- de Tom Walsh, K1TW

Making ZOOM available to Elmers

In this time of social distancing we have been using Zoom for our monthly club meetings. I have been thinking that Elmers could also be using Zoom to coach new hams instead of actually going to visit with them. Elmers could perhaps help with programming a new radio with the new ham sharing their computer screen and the Elmer helping to walk them thru the process. An Elmer could have Zoom on their cell phone and show a new ham how their shack was setup. Use your imagination and see how you might use this tool. If you would like to use Zoom for this, contact Bruce, WILUS@hotmail.com, with a date and a time and a meeting will be setup for you. You may also contact Bruce if you would like training on using Zoom to Elmer someone.

--de Bruce Anderson, WILUS

Secretary's Reports

from Scott Ginsburg, K1OA, Secretary

BARS General Meeting August 04, 2021

Andy Wallace, KA1GTT, called the Zoom virtual meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

Tom Walsh, K1TW, discussed the BARS CW interest group and said a kickoff meeting will be announced soon.

A vote was held via Zoom poll to authorize spending up to \$257.55 from the club treasury for the club's liability insurance premium. The vote passed.

Rob Macedo, KD1CY, gave a SKYWARN Overview presentation.

There were 25 attendees.

BARS Board of Directors Meeting, August, 5, 2021

Board Members present: N1WRN, W1LUS, KA1GTT, WA1VAB, W2IRY, K1OA

Guest Member: K1TW

Doug, N1WRN, submitted his offer of resignation as club president due to personal issues. The Board accepted Doug's resignation and wished him the best going forward.

A motion was made to select Tom, K1TW, as interim president until elections in November. The motion passed.

A motion was made to ask Larry, W1AST, of the Hampden County Radio Association, to be the point of contact for the WBZ special event activity. The motion passed.

A motion was made to respectfully decline the offer from the 1200 club to take control of the 147.12 W1DC repeater based on the club not having enough funds or technical volunteers to support the repeater system. The vote passed. KA1GTT would contact the 1200 club and relay the decision.

The Board discussed the video recording of Zoom meetings and decided to continue recording meetings and make the Zoom link available to members on request. Zoom links are only available for a limited time.

The Board agreed that there will be no in person meetings through at least November.

BARS Membership

Bruce, W1LUS, our BARS Treasurer, reports that our current combined membership is 103, with 15 members from 2020 that have not renewed their membership.

2021 BARS 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 September 2021

from Bruce Anderson, W1LUS, Treasurer

In August our expenses were club insurance \$257.55, Zoom \$15.93, and a PayPal fee of \$3.03. We had three new / renewals for an income of \$45. We now have \$577.61 in the Bank and \$787.66 in our PayPal

Starting September first we start accepting renewals for 2022. Dues for 2022 will remain at \$15.

Dues can be paid several ways:

- Via bank to bank transfer with Zelle, Venmo, PayPal, etc. by sending \$15 to bars.dues@outlook.com.
- With credit card by using the Join/Renewal membership form on the W1HH.org website.
- With cash or check by mailing \$15 to Billerica ARS, PO BOX 832, Nutting Lake, MA 01856

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 Tom Walsh, K1TW.

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**). *Note: We are now using the Westford Repeater, due to system difficulties with the Billerica Repeater. Thanks to the Westford Police Amateur Radio Team (PART) for their generous act of making their repeater available to us.*

Repeater info:

WB1GOF

146.955 MHz

-600 kHz (normal) offset

Encode CTCSS 74.4 Hz

Club Meetings

Because of the COVID health crisis, in-person club meetings are in hiatus. Club meetings are being held “virtually” using Zoom. We hope to resume in-person meetings in the fall,

Club meetings are held on the 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](#)

VE Sessions

Our VE sessions are again being held in-person at the Chelmsford Bible Church. Pre-registration for our in-person exams will be required. Contact w1lus@hotmail.com for registration information.

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 \(map\)](#)

August 2021 VE Session

On August 12 we had our second in-person VE exams at the Chelmsford Bible Church. We had five people show up for their exams. Two passed their Technician exam, One new General and One upgraded to General. Our next in-person exam session will be at the church on September 9 at 7:00 PM.

Thanks to Andreas KC1NTL, Bill WZ1L, Gary W1GFF and Jwahar K1JBD for their help in running the session.

Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

Club Breakfast every Saturday

On Saturday mornings around 8:30AM, have a virtual Zoom breakfast session (link provided in email if you subscribe).

We also meet in-person weekly at 8:00AM for a casual, social breakfast at Stelio’s restaurant.

[Stelio’s Family Restaurant, Billerica, MA](#)

Future Meetings

The 10/6 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

September Get-on-the-Air Suggestions

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
Sep 4-5	All Asian DX Contest, Phone https://www.jarl.org/English/4_Library/A-4-3_Contests/2021AA_rule.htm
Sep 11-13	ARRL September VHF Contest ** http://www.arrl.org/september-vhfAug-28-30
Sep 11-12	WAE DX Contest, SSB http://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/referat-conteste/worked-all-europe-dx-contest/en/
Sep 18-19	New Hampshire QSO Party http://www.w1wqm.org/nhqso/NEW_HAMPS_HIRE_QSO_PARTY_RULES.pdf

** 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: Tom Walsh, K1TW

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: Andy Wallace, KA1GTT