



NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

DECEMBER 2021

### **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 Stelio'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 Garry Frascarelli, W1GFF**

Where has 2021 gone? It seems like just yesterday it was St. Patrick's Day 2020 and life was normal. Little did we know that all that would change in 2 days. Now here we are about to welcome 2022.

Those of us in BARS did learn a lot during the Covid-19 Pandemic. We learned that people can take their tests and get their licenses online (although a slow one-on-three process). We learned that Zoom meetings are possible and that because of them we can have speakers from virtually anywhere on Planet Earth.

Thank you, by the way, to those who voted for me as President of BARS. I will try to live up to the examples set most recently by Andy and before that Tom. Any suggestions that any of you have for ways to make the meetings (via Zoom) more engaging or informative are more than welcomed. You can also email me at [wcapnews@outlook.com](mailto:wcapnews@outlook.com).

I understand that Thanksgiving Day weekend 40 meters was very open and lively. Let's hope that this continues as we head into our next sunspot cycle.

'Til next month, all the best and Happy Holidays to you and your families.

73's  
Garry Frascarelli,  
BARS President

### **Next BARS Zoom meeting: December 1 at 7:00 PM**

### **"Amateur Radio Software Demonstration (RufzXp / Morse Runner)"**

**Presenter: Bruce Blain, K1BG**

Bruce, K1BG, will join us with another one of his great presentations. This time Bruce will focus on a couple of software programs (i.e., RufzXp and Morse Runner), along with a demonstration of their use.

"Rufz" is the abbreviation of the German word "Rufzeichen-Hören", which means "Listening to Callsigns". RufzXP is an excellent training software for improving code speed and CW practice. Morse Runner is a Windows-based contest simulator

developed by Alex Shovkopyas, VE3NEA. Tools are also available to run Morse Runner on Mac computers.

Both programs are one of the many instruction tools used by CW Ops and CW Academy.

Following the presentation, we will invite the members to offer other suggestions of software they use on a regular basis to enhance their amateur radio pleasure. And, if there is interest, we can look into providing demonstrations at future meetings. The business meeting and open discussion on any other topics will then conclude the evening. So please join us for another friendly and informative BARS meeting.

About our evening speaker:

Bruce K1BG is an instructor for CW Academy, he has recently been elected as President of the Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club (<https://n1nc.org/>), which meets in Pepperell MA, and Bruce is also the Affiliated Club Coordinator in the Eastern Massachusetts ARRL section.



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](mailto: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 12/1 here at 1900.

Gary, W1GFF  
President, Billerica Amateur Radio Society

## A Message From the Editor

from Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

This month marks the end of the second year of my tenure as your newsletter editor. My how time flies when you are wearing a face mask! This month also starts my tenure as BARS secretary. I haven't been a club officer since the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Association (CARA) disbanded in the 1970s. Bear with me while I get my feathers dry, flap my wings and take flight.

Last year, we saw a drop off in member-contributed articles. But we also saw two new monthly columns: Tom Walsh's CW Corner and Eric Johnson's Parting Shots. Expect more evolving of the newsletter in the coming months. Unfortunately, this month, we are missing the Get-On-The-Air report.

## Feature Article: Ham-Related Podcasts By various BARS members

*[In November, the BARS mailing list was active on the subject of Podcasts for ham radio. This request triggered the discussion, below, which I felt was worth reprinting here. – ed]*

Paul Graveline, K1YUB, is trying to compile a list of Ham Radio podcasts. If you know of any, please email him at [PaulK1YUB@gmail.com](mailto:PaulK1YUB@gmail.com). Send along any recommendations

And here are some of the responses that came back via the mailing list:

1. Here are my favorites

QSO today  
Ham Radio Workbench  
Solder Smoke  
Amp Hour  
Scanner School  
100 Watts and a Wire  
Amateur Radio QSO show  
ARRL Doctors In - I think now sporadic

Probably in this order. Of course I don't always manage to get to all episodes

In addition lots of stuff on YouTube to suck up all available time.

73 de K1JBD, Bammi

2. Here are Bammi's podcasts, with URLs:

QSO today  
<https://www.qsotoday.com/>  
Ham Radio Workbench  
<https://www.hamradioworkbench.com/podcast>

Solder Smoke

<https://soldersmoke.blogspot.com/>

Amp Hour

<https://theamphour.com/>

Scanner School

<https://www.scannerschool.com/podcasts/>

100 Watts and a Wire

<https://100wattsandawire.com/100-watts-and-a-wire>

Amateur Radio QSO show

<https://tedrandall.com/pages/podcasts.php>

ARRL Doctors In

<https://blubry.com/arrl-the-doctor-is-in/>

--de Andy Klock, K1FK

### 3. Here are some I have used:

News Headlines in Morse Code at 20 WPM

[ I think the speed is settable]

ARRL's On The Air

Ham Radio Workbench

[HRWB 142 - Kit Building]

QSO Today Podcast with Eric 4Z1UG

ARRL's Eclectic Tech

--de Eric L. Johnson, KC1OAV

And thanks to all BARS members for contributing.

## Welcome to the Seventh BARS CW Corner By Tom Walsh, K1TW

### Some History

Last May in the BARS newsletter, I began writing about the fun of a mode that far too many in the hobby miss out on. They may either ignore CW altogether or lacking a mentor to help them get started don't get the opportunity to experience the joys of CW operation. Then there are those that may dip their toes in the water, but lacking a helping hand from others, find themselves stuck (on a CW plateau perhaps) and not sure how to progress further. Oh, if only there was a "CW Help Desk" you could call. Oh, if only there was a "CW Friend" around to help you too. Well, now maybe there is!

Our exploration of the fascinating world of amateur radio CW operating these past several months is starting to yield some interesting results. We weren't sure where the monthly CW column would lead. Was there enough interest amongst the members of BARS in CW was my first question. I soon found out what the answer was "Yes"!

Back in May, I posed another question: "So why learn CW"? At the time, my simple answer was because CW opens a world of ham radio otherwise unseen. "The CW World of Ham Radio Fun."

Then in June, Bruce W1LUS proposed making our club zoom available to Elmers or as I prefer to refer to it now as Mentors. Great idea Bruce. Just perfect for helping our CW Friends. Over

several more issues of the club newsletter, we explored different ways to enjoy cw.

### The "NE-CW-Friends" are born

On Tuesday, November 2, Bruce K1BG and I debuted the "New England CW Friends" on zoom. It is open to all interested in CW, beginner as well those at all levels of experience all the way to expert CW operators.

The ARRL Eastern Massachusetts section announced the "NE-CW-Friends" in the section November newsletter. I hope you read my monthly ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Newsletter. If not please subscribe. Go to <http://www.arrl.org/>, then edit your profile and edit email subscriptions to receive the section news by checking the box.

### Here is the announcement from the November 2021 ARRL EMA Section Newsletter

Two clubs are collaborating on a project to help amateurs develop their Morse code skills. Bruce Blain, K1BG, president of the Nashoba Valley ARC and Tom Walsh, K1TW, Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager and Billerica ARS member, are spearheading the effort.

"Bruce and I have talked a number of times over the past year about helping those who have expressed an interest in learning CW or further developing their CW skills," writes Tom. The group had its kickoff meeting on November 2. They meet Tuesday nights at 7 PM via Zoom.

For more information, visit <https://groups.io/g/ne-cw-friends>."

### What are the NE-CW-Friends meetings like?

The number one objective is to make CW Fun!

The purpose is "helping those who have expressed an interest in learning CW or further developing their CW skills." All levels, from Beginner to Intermediate to Expert CW operators are invited.

Keep in mind, this is not a meeting to teach CW. There are so many ways today to learn CW from (a) signing up for a CW Academy Course, (b) W1AW code practice, (c) on-line help, (d) others.

Each meeting is different and friendly with a variety of topics (e.g., some targeted for beginners, others for experienced and advanced users).

We start by introducing new friends joining for the first time and by asking who has questions or need help. We may have a short presentation. And then conclude with more helpful Q&A. We are still feeling our way on the best format.

One meeting, Bruce K1BG showed how CW academy structures it lessons (brilliantly I might add). Other meetings have demonstrated software tools for learning or improving your CW such as:

- RUFZ <https://www.rufzxp.net/> ;
- Morse Runner;
- LWCO <https://lcwo.net/> ;
- etc.

### And we started a groups.io list

A list is the perfect place to ask beginner or advanced questions and share information with each other. For more information, visit <https://groups.io/g/ne-cw-friends>."

### Do you want to enjoy CW more than ever?

Then join us for the Tuesday night zoom meeting at 7 PM. Will it last? The more support and interest the more likely the Friends will continue. Do you need a "CW Help Desk" or want to meet more "CW Friends"?

The CW Friends are brought to you by: Bruce K1BG (NVARC President), Tom K1TW (ARRL section manager and BARS member), and Bruce W1LUS (BARS Host on Zoom)

Till next month  
73,  
Tom K1TW  
k1tw@arrl.org

## Strays

### Found on the web

Andy Wallace, KA1GTT, forwarded this from the NVARC mailing list:

NVARC,

Links R Us. LOL. I put together a bunch of links for another ham on where to find things in the areas of propagation, weather, space weather, etc sites so I thought I would pass them along. I am sure that there are many others, but these are the basic stakes in the ground (or should I say ionosphere and atmosphere?).

Joe, K1YOW

Winter Sporadic E

- <https://hamsci.org/publications/winter-sporadic-e-propagation-6-meters>

Upper Level Lows and Sporadic E

- <https://hamsci.org/publications/upper-level-lows-and-six-meter-50-mhz-sporadic-e>

HamSCI 2021 Sporadic E PPT Slides

- [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10PvaTG\\_u\\_YRzE\\_C25BK-Om6b0DWE\\_mZ0zy7](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10PvaTG_u_YRzE_C25BK-Om6b0DWE_mZ0zy7)

Ionosphere MUF Maps:

- <https://prop.kc2g.com/>,
- <http://www.propquest.co.uk/graphs.php>,

- <http://climateviewer.org/history-and-science/atmospheric-sensors-and-emf-sites/maps/digisonde-ionosonde-network/>

Space Weather predictions and observations:

- <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>,
- <https://www.spaceweather.com/>

Weather maps and models. On the models, you can change the views with the mouse.

- <https://www.windy.com/?42.753,-71.584,3>,
- <https://earth.nullschool.net/#current/wind/surface/level/orthographic=-41.87,24.75,281>,
- <https://www.wunderground.com/maps/wind/jet-stream>,
- <https://www.weather.gov/oun/sfcmaps>,
- <https://www.netweather.tv/charts-and-data/global-jetstream#2021/11/05/0600Z/jetstream/surface/level/overlay=jetstream/orthographic=-6.72,57.59,712>,
- <https://rainscatter.com/>,
- <https://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html>

HamSCI sites:

- <https://hamsci.org/>,
- <https://groups.google.com/g/hamsci>

### Is your Email address on the FCC site up to date?

#### § 97.23 Mailing and email addresses.

*Each license grant must show the grantee's correct name, mailing address, and email address. The email address must be an address where the grantee can receive electronic correspondence. Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct email address.*

*[85 FR 85533, Dec. 29, 2020]*

I recommend that you log to the your FCC Registration at <https://apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb/updateRegistrationPre.do> to make sure that your email address is up to date. Also in the future should you change your home address or your email address be sure to remember to update it on the FCC site.

--de Bruce, W1LUS

### QSO with Santa!

Let your children and grandchildren talk to Santa and tell him what they want for Christmas.

SANTA NET on 3.916

The net begins, Friday, November 26, 2021 at 7:15 pm Central (8:15 pm for us on Eastern) and runs through December 24th 2021.

Reserve your spot with Santa by making a pre-net check in either on the air at 7:00 pm Central (8:00 pm Eastern) or online at <http://www.CQSanta.com>.

Ho Ho Ho and Merry Christmas!

--de Bill Poulin, WZ1L

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### 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, W1LUS

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### BARS/NVARC CW Kick-off Meeting: Nov 2, 2021 at 7 PM

Please join Tom K1TW (BARS President) and Bruce K1BG (NVARC President) who invite you to our first session as we kick off a CW interest group in our Clubs.

Tom K1TW and Bruce K1BG are inviting you to a Beginners Morse Code Kickoff meeting on Zoom.

Topic: CW Kickoff (all are welcome to attend)  
Time: Nov 2, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

We will be sending out the link to the zoom session to those who have expressed interest in learning or improving their cw skills. This first meeting will be to determine the interest level and plan for future sessions.

If you haven't received a zoom link by email by October 31, you may request one by sending email to [k1tw@comcast.net](mailto:k1tw@comcast.net)

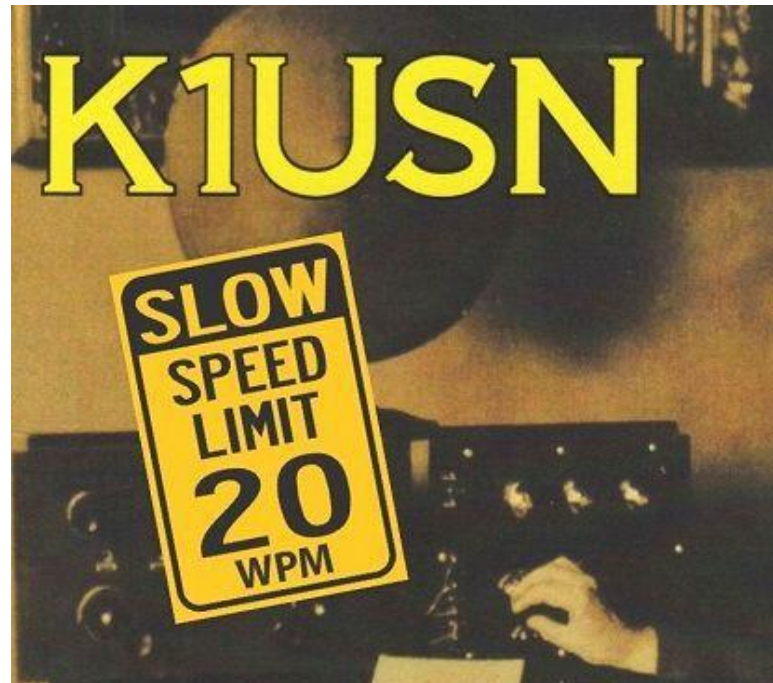
73, Tom K1TW

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### 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

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### 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, [W1LUS@hotmail.com](mailto:W1LUS@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, W1LUS

### Secretary's Reports

from Marla Wallace, WA1GSF, Secretary

### BARS General Meeting November 7, 2021

President Tom Walsh, K1TW called the Zoom virtual meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Larry, W1AST, reported on WBZ centennial.

New members were welcomed.

There were 32 participants.

Larry, W1DYJ, spoke on antenna modeling.

At 8:30 the annual election of officers was held. The candidates were:

- President: Garry W1GFF
- Vice President: Mike K1TWF
- Secretary: Marla WA1GSF
- Treasurer: Bruce W1LUS
- BoD #1: Don W1DM
- BoD #2: Bill WZ1L

There were no additional nominations from the floor. A motion was made to accept the slate. The motion passed and the above candidates were elected.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00.

### **November BARS Board of Directors Meeting November 30, 2021 via Zoom.**

Attendees: Gary - W1GFF, Bruce - W1LUS, Marla - WA1GSF, Tom - K1TW, Don - W1DM, Bill - WZ1L. Mike – K1TWF was unable to make it.

The meeting convened at 1900.

We discussed having a Holiday party sometime in January, probably on a Saturday at noon. Thinking perhaps at Feng Shui. The board was unanimously in favor.

We need to get the current club by-laws document put into electronic form (if it isn't) and up on the BARS website.

The VE "subcommittee" (Gary and Tom) decided that we need to limit the number of volunteer examiners at any given session to a maximum of four; it was felt that this number was sufficient and more added an unnecessary degree of risk during the COVID19 pandemic.

The BoD meeting adjourned at 1920

## **BARS Membership**

Bruce, W1LUS, our BARS Treasurer, reports that our current combined membership is 120 With 13 members from 2020 that have not renewed their membership. To date 20 members have already renewed for 2022. Anyone with a question about their renewal status can email me at W1LUS@hotmail.com to get your current status.

## **2022 BARS Member Dues**

A \$15 annual BARS membership now runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> and expires on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Any renewal or new membership made after September 1 will be valid until December 31<sup>st</sup> 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 2021**

from Bruce Anderson, W1LUS, Treasurer

In November our expenses were Zoom \$15.93, and a PayPal fee of \$7.07. We had seven new/renewals for an income of \$105. We now have \$652.71 in the Bank and \$979.73 in our PayPal account for a total of \$1632.44. The WBZ contest QSL expenses were entirely covered by the Hampden County Radio Association. None of the \$150 approved at the July BARS meeting was required.

Since September first we are 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](mailto: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 Doug, N1WRN.

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 Westford 146.955 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: 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 is suggested. Contact [w1lus@hotmail.com](mailto: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 \(map\)](#)

## November 2021 VE Session Report

On November 11 we had our fifth in-person VE exams at the Chelmsford Bible Church. We had three people show up for their exams. One passed their Technician exam, and two upgraded to Extra.

Our next in-person exam session will at the church on December 9 at 7:00 PM.

The new ham is Chris KC1QBG. Be sure to say hello when you hear him on the air.

Thanks to Gary, W1GFF, and Marcus KC1GSL for their help in running the session.

--de 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 1/5 meeting will be held via Zoom, unless the club votes to have a holiday party instead.

## Subscribe to the BARS Mailing List

To subscribe to the BARS email list, send a blank email to [bars-subscribe@w1hh.org](mailto: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](mailto:bars@w1hh.org)

## Parting Shot: The Ballad of Mister Zed

By Eric L. Johnson, KC1OAV

... ..  
 (Sung to the "Mister Ed" theme song)  
 ... ..

[Tones, then deep voice: Dah-Dah-Dit-Dit "Hello, I'm Mister Zed!"]

[Orchestra, with trombones]

C-W's Morse, of course, of course.  
 And no one would CQ by Morse, of course.  
 That is of course, unless you Morse,  
 with the famous Mister Zed!

Go right to the source and send some Morse.  
 He'll give you Q-S-O that you'll endorse.  
 He's always sends in Perfect Morse.  
 Chat with Mister Zed!

LIDs go yakety-yack on air,  
 And waste your time of day.  
 But Mister Zed will not CQ,  
 Unless he has something to say!

So go to the source, and send some Morse.  
 Be sure to use Farnsworth that he'll endorse.  
 You've never heard of a Perfect Morse?

[Orchestra]

Well. listen to this!

[Deep voice, tones: "I am Mister Zed!" Dah-Dah-Dit-Dit]

[Orchestra ends]

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## BARS Leadership Team

President: Gary Frascarelli, W1GFF

Vice President: Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF

Treasurer: Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

Secretary: Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

Ex Officio: Tom Walsh, K1TW

Net Coordinator: Doug Bruce, N1WRN

Newsletter Editor: Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

New Member Outreach: John Fisher, KC1FTJ

BoD: Don Melanson, W1DM

BoD: Bill Poulin, WZ1L