



NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

BARS Billerica Amateur Radio Society

FEBRUARY 2022

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.

Next BARS Zoom meeting: February 2 at 7:00 PM

“HF Propagation - A Different Look”

Presenter: Dennis Egan, W1UE

Dennis Egan, W1UE, has been licensed for 53 years. He is an avid contester, and his main interest in propagation is to improve his contest scores. He is Past President of the Yankee Clipper

Contest Club (YCCC) and is Past Chairman of the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee. While Dennis has no transmitting antennas at his residence, he has used Remote Stations for the past 12 years to satisfy his need for contesting.



BARS 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@w1lh.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 2/2 here at 1900.

Gary, W1GFF
President, Billerica Amateur Radio Society

A Message From the Editor

from Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

Assembling the newsletter every month is a big job. A few issues ago, Tom Walsh made a list of how many hours per month are needed for each officer to discharge his duties. Well, I'm here to tell you that getting the newsletter out takes more hours than *any* officer and often approaches the time needed by all officers, *combined*. As I compose this note, I have already spent over four hours working on the newsletter.

Also, when material comes in late, I have to work antisocial hours in order to get the newsletter on the website before the monthly meeting. A little more cooperation would be appreciated, especially as I have several surgeries scheduled in the next few months and may not be up for marathon word-processing sessions.

Not to toot my own horn, but BARS has a newsletter to be proud of. We have a lot of material in each issue, often quality feature or technical articles. My job is to assemble this stuff and arrange it so it looks pleasing. Though sometimes I also contribute an article, content is not my responsibility – it's yours.

ARRL News: New England Division Cabinet Meeting

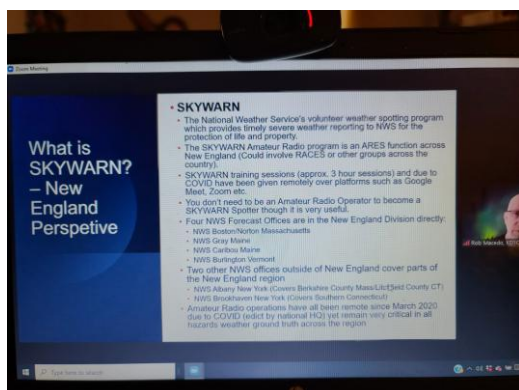
By Bill Poulin. WZ1L

I attended the ARRL New England Division Cabinet Meeting on Saturday, January 8, 2022.

The meeting was arranged so that the newly elected ARRL New England Division Director, Fred Kremmer, AC1OC, and Vice Director New England Division, Phil Temples, K9HI could meet New England Amateur Radio Club Presidents or their representatives and discuss a vision and agendas to bring to fruition.

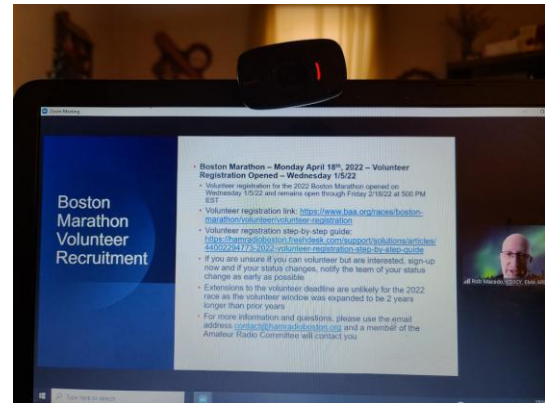
There are files of the presentation located for review on the New England ARRL Division website. There are slides of the presentation in .pdf files at:

<http://www.nediv.arrl.org>



Also...

There is information about the Boston Marathon and requests for radio operators for the event and information for individuals to Sign-up.



Welcome to the Ninth BARS CW Corner By Tom Walsh, K1TW

The CW Friends are still going strong.

Why not join us on our Tuesday evening Zoom meetings starting at 8 PM. It's a lot like the weekly BARS net but it's on zoom and it's fun if you are interested in improving your CW skills. CW is low stress once you gain experience.

I devoted one of the January Friends zoom talks to showing off all the amazing features on the SKCC web site. Let's take a closer look in this month's column too.

Straight Key Century Club (SKCC).

I have been an SKCC member for ten years but until recently too busy to really enjoy all it has to offer. SKCC is one of the most successful and fun CW clubs in existence. But what if you find using a straight key difficult and think you can't join in the fun because you use a paddle and keyer? Well, there is a personal exemption (on the honor system) you may claim in that case and still participate.

Here is what ARRL has to say about the SKCC

SKCC was founded in 2006 to promote and preserve the art of manual keying. The idea caught on quickly, and membership has continued to grow to include members in Europe, Oceania, and Asia, as well as the US. SKCC members can earn various awards and participate in sprints using manual devices such as straight keys, bugs, and sideswipers. See more from ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/news/straight-key-century-club-achieves-membership-milestone>

How to join SKCC

Joining SKCC is very easy and there are no membership dues. To join just visit the SKCC website: <https://www.skccgroup.com/>. Then click on the join SKCC tab on that page.

Awards

After joining, you can print out an attractive membership certificate to hang on your wall. But then the real Awards chase begins. SKCC offers lots of wonderful awards for your on-air success.

- Centurion Award: work 100 SKCC members
- Tribune Award: Work 50 different SKCC Centurions, Tribunes, or Senators.
- Senator Award: Another award for working members
- There are awards for QRP, Worked all States, Rag chewing and DXing too. See web site.

K3Y Special Event:

During January, I thoroughly enjoyed working the K3Y Special Event. Each January, stations all around the USA get on and sign K3Y from each call area using the K3Y/area special call signs. Similarly, around the world many stations operate using special event call signs too from Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, and the Pacific. As this year's event has just concluded on January 31, I was amazed at the huge amount of activity and I can not wait from January to come again in 2023 – but in the interim I look forward every month now to the SKCC WES.

The SKCC Weekend Sprintathon (SKCC WES)

The SKCC WES aims to bring together operators with different skill levels in a regularly scheduled, informal operating event lasting 36 hours. The event starts at 1200 UTC on the Saturday following the 6th of each month and ends at 2359 UTC on Sunday. Participants can operate for the full 36 hours. Here are the next two events:

- 12:00 UTC February 12 through 23:59 February 13.
- 12:00 UTC March 12 through 23:59 UTC March 13

Suggested frequencies are on or around the SKCC calling frequencies: 1.813.5, 3.550, 7.038, 7.055 and 7.120, 14.050, 21.050 and 21.114, 28.050 and 28.114, and 50.090 MHz

Listen on the suggested calling frequencies on WES weekends for stations calling "CQ WES" there is always lots of activity.

The SKCC Website <https://www.skccgroup.com/>

I cannot say enough good things about the SKCC web site. During the January K3Y event, the K3Y OPS uploaded logs every day and individuals like me could check our progress on how many different K3Y stations and Band slots I worked every day of the event. I have seen various online logs for DXpeditions and nets, but the information reported by SKCC every day during the K3Y special event month was absolutely outstanding. SKCC has really taken this event to a very impressive level. During a recent CW Friends meeting we spent close to an hour looking at their amazing website!

The Bottom Line

SKCC is an exceptional club, extraordinarily well run, with lots of activity and friendly operators just waiting to have QSOs with other like-minded amateurs. There is no lack of activity every day from SKCC operators. I am really enjoying my time exploring all the many fun activities and in particular the seeming endless energy of its members. Give them a try and I think you will enjoy them also.

Well, that's it for now. I need to get on the air and work more SKCC members to earn my Tribune Status. CQ WES and CQ SKCC can be heard often from this fun group.

Till next month

73,

Tom K1TW

k1tw@arrl.org

Strays**Found on the web**

From the data gathered so far, the current solar cycle is exceeding the forecast. The forecast for this cycle was for a relatively weak peak in 2025, but sunspot counts have been higher than projected consistently.

The sunspot number, solar flare activity (and forecast), aurora forecast and more can be found at

<https://www.spaceweather.com/>

I recommend this site for all hams who care about the state of the ionosphere.

--de Marla Wallace, WA1GSF



ARRL First Vice President and BARS member Mike Raisbeck, KITWF and ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, at the ARRL Board of Directors meeting, January 19-22, 2022.

-K9HI photo

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 on 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

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

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, 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.

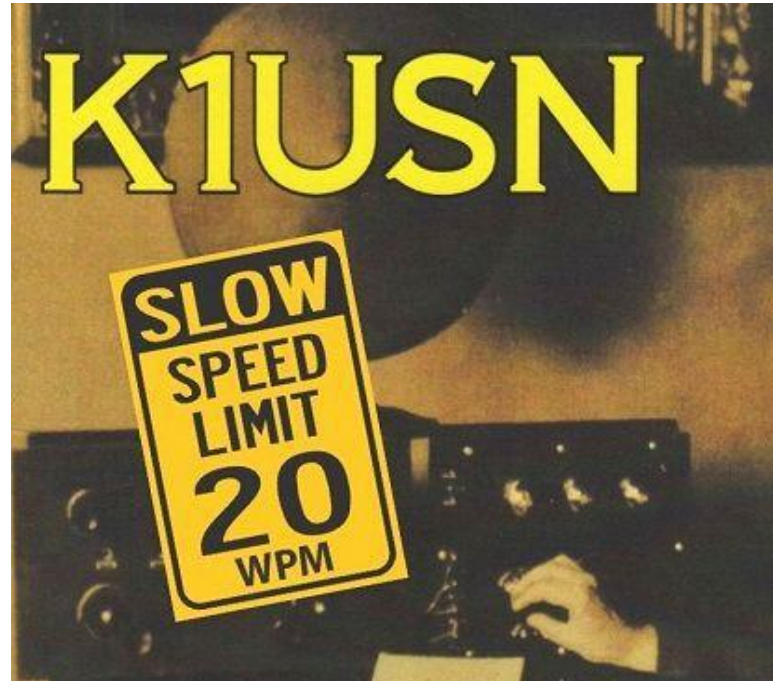
--de Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

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:

Fridays 20:00-21:00 UTC (3-4pm EST) and

Mondays 00:00-01:00 UTC (7-8pm EST Sunday).



-- de Tom Walsh, K1TW

Secretary's Reports

from Marla Wallace, WA1GSF, Secretary

BARS General Meeting January 5, 2022. 7PN, EST.

Our President, Gary Frascarelli, W1GFF, was not present so Bruce Anderson, W1LUS, acting as the Zoom meeting host, called us to order at 1900.

There was no club business, so we went directly to the program where Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF, spoke on what would be discussed at the ARRL board meeting. A lively discussion of the topics raised ensued.

There were 31 participants.

The meeting adjourned at 2022.

There was no January BARS Board of Directors Meeting.

BARS Membership

Our current combined membership is 116. To date 43 members have already renewed for 2022. And 55 members from 2021 have not yet renewed their membership. 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 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 February 2022

from Bruce Anderson, W1LUS, Treasurer

In January our expenses were Zoom \$15.93, W1HH.ORG Web Hosting for 2022 \$119.40 and PayPal fees of \$12.12. We had thirteen new/renewals for an income of \$195. We now have \$682.74 in the Bank and \$1062.49 in our PayPal account for a total of \$1745.23.

We are accepting renewals for 2022. For 2022 dues 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 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

Reminder: “kerchunking” the repeater is not only impolite, it’s illegal. It constitutes an unidentified transmission. If you need to check that you’re making the repeater, say something like “This is <your call> standing by on the frequency.” Thanks for your courtesy.

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 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 \(map\)](#)

There was no January 2022 VE Session due to COVID-omicron concern.

Our next in-person exam session, COVID permitting, will be at the church on February 10 at 7:00 PM.

--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 3/2 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

February Get-on-the-Air Suggestions from Tom Walsh, K1TW

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
Feb 5	Minnesota QSO Party** https://www.w0aa.org/mnqp-rules/
Feb 5-6	Vermont QSO Party http://www.ranv.org/vtqso.html
Feb 5-6	10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB Note: If Ten meters opens, this is a very good one! https://www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules
Feb 19-20	ARRL International DX Contest, CW** http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
Feb 26-27	North American QSO Party (RTTY)** https://ncjweb.com/naqp/
Feb 26-27	South Carolina QSO Party http://scqso.com/
Feb 27-28	North Carolina QSO Party http://ncqsoparty.org/rules/

** Top Recommendations for this month

Recurring Events – visit webpage for exact times and dates

K1USN Slow Speed Test - Every Friday 20:00 UTC / Every Monday 00:00 UTC

<http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html>

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>

Parting Shot:

By Eric L. Johnson, KC1OAV

In an effort to interest younger generations in Amateur Radio, it may be time to update our phonetic alphabet for the present day. Who ever heard of a foxtrot, anyway? And is it Lima, Peru or lima bean? Anyway, here, for your enjoyment, I present a:

Phonetic Alphabet for the New Millenium

A Alexa	N NetFlix
B Boomer	O Offline
C Chatroom	P Pinterest
D DoorDash	Q Quidditch
E Etsy	R Reddit
F Facebook	S Spotify
G Google	T Tinder
H Hashtag	U Uber
I Instagram	V Venmo
J Java	W WhatsApp
K Kindle	X Xbox
L Lyft	Y Youtube
M Minecraft	Z Zoom

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

Copyright © 2021 by the Billerica Amateur Radio Society (BARS)