



NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

BARS BillERICA Amateur Radio Society

MARCH 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: March 2 at 7:00 PM

“Parks on the Air (POTA)”

Presenter: Mindy Hull, KM1NDY

The next BARS Zoom meeting on Wednesday, March 2 will feature Mindy Hull, KM1NDY, presenting on Parks On The Air (POTA). Mindy has organized many local club POTA operations

in the Boston Area. Please join us for a look at this fun activity and how to get involved as a club.

Portable Ham Radio is The Crossroads of RF and the Outdoors

Portable radio operation increasingly inspires amateur radio operators to get outside and play radio. While structured programs such as Parks-On-The-Air (POTA) and Summits-On-The-Air (SOTA) provide ready-made opportunities for portable radio pursuits, the actual number of ways a ham can enjoy operating in the field is limited only by imagination. One bonus of portable radio is its ability to draw people together and promote the amateur radio hobby to the public at large. This talk will discuss gear choices, operating strategies for both individual and group events, and other factors that can help lead to a successful outdoor radio experience.

Meet Mindy

Licensed in February 2019, Mindy holds an extra class radio license. She has activated 55 peaks for SOTA, now tied for 20th in the W1 (New England) Association, and is an active POTA participant. She is an urban ham, living in South Boston, and a hyperlocal traveler who takes pride in knowing every sidewalk crack. Her longest hike was 12 days and 140 miles on the Northville-Placid Trail traversing the Adirondacks with her husband, AA1F, and dog. She is always up for a radio adventure and loves to take people along!



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@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 2/2 here at 1900.

Gary, W1GFF
President, Billerica Amateur Radio Society

A Message From the Editor

from Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

For the next few months, I’m going to be careening off the medical system. I’m having cataract surgery in March and April and a hip replacement in May. None of this should prevent me from performing my duties as secretary and editor, but as I have not (obviously) been through these procedures before, I can’t predict whether I will be able to devote large blocks of time to BARS. More likely, it will have to be an hour here and an hour there while I recover and do rehab.

Reminder: the newsletter publication deadline is always the Wednesday before the club meeting. This does not mean you should wait until that date to submit material. It means I should have everything in hand by the morning of that day. The earlier I get material, the better I will be able to manage my time.

Wish me luck!

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

The CW Friends now meet monthly on the first Tuesday

After several months of weekly meetings, the CW Friends have adopted a new format of meeting once a month on the first Tuesday. Our next zoom meeting is therefore set for Tuesday, March 1st at 7 PM. This should be easy to remember as it is one night before the monthly BARS meeting. However, smaller informal gatherings still are taking place each week at 7 PM on

Tuesdays as desired. Those who want to can still gather by zoom and do practice QSOs and share tips if they wish. Much as BARS holds a weekly VHF net, those who want to can set up a weekly practice session for example.

ARRL International DX CW Contest

Well, that was fun or should I just say “WOW!” Can you imagine “wall-to-wall” CW signals from the bottom of 20 meters all the way to just short of the start of the foreign SSB allocations? Not only could you imagine such a thing, but you could also actually experience it at peak propagation times during the day.

I had a fabulous time doing what is called a “search and pounce” (S&P) operation where I would start at the very bottom of the band, and slowly tune up hertz by hertz almost separating one DX station after another and working most of them in just 1 or 2 attempts. Work the station – tune up just a little – work another! I like search and pounce (S&P). I feel engaged hunting each station I work.

Other participants like to “Run.” Running, oddly enough, means you stand still on one frequency. Call CQ and let everyone else hunt for you and answer your CQ. You are thereby “running” the frequency and the pileups you generate by calling CQ.

What is really fun about the ARRL International DX contest is the World works the USA and Canada only. We are the highly sought-after target stations. Every USA and VE signal is a prize the rest of the world seeks to work. Does that ever make us popular!

The band conditions were amazing! Great DX! 10 was open a lot as was 15 and 20 late into the day. But wait there is more to come, only this time on phone. On the first weekend in March there is another 48 hours of ARRL International DX fun to be had on the phone bands. Don’t miss it!

In the meantime, there is plenty of CW every day to work on so many bands.

CW Spotting at its best.

My favorite spotting site is the CW Club RBN spotter found at <https://rbn.telegraphy.de/>. I love the simple user interface – You can easily customize it to your liking. We demonstrated this on a recent CW Friends session. But if you missed that, let me say it is simple to set up and you are notified almost instantly of a CQ on the HF CW bands.

First Hint:

Select “No Filter” on clubs and you will see all CQ’s or, if you prefer, select just the CW Clubs you want to see.

Another Hint:

Select Skimmers only from NA and then select only one band at a time to see where propagation is best to North America.

Customize to your liking:

Play with customizing the other filters as well. Set up what works best for you.

Until next month

73,

Tom K1TW

k1tw@arrl.org

Strays

Found on the web

Many of us fondly remember Heath Kit, especially their line of amateur radio products. There is a book on the subject by Chuck Penson, WA7ZZE. You can download a copy from

<http://w8dy.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Heathkit-AGuideToTheAmateurRadioProducts.pdf>

--de Andy Wallace, KA1GTT

VE Tee Shirts – Free to a Good Home

I have two Volunteer Examiner tee shirts size XL. If anyone is interested, have them contact me via email.

--de Scotti Goldberg

scottigolg@gmail.com

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.

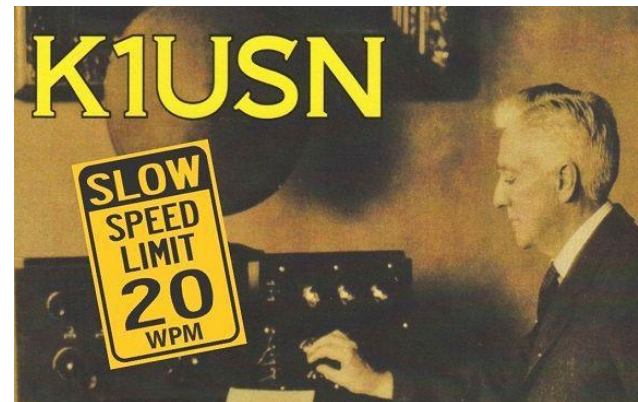
--de Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

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 February 5, 2022. 7PN, EST.

[Your secretary was ill and did not attend the meeting. The minutes were kindly provided by Scott Ginsburg, K1OA. -ed.]

Tom Walsh, K1TW called the Zoom virtual meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Bill Poulin, WZ1L led the group through introductions.

Dennis Egan, W1UE gave a talk entitled "HF Propagation – A different Look".

There were 26 attendees.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

There was no February BARS Board of Directors Meeting.

BARS Membership

Our current combined membership is 123. To date 52 members have already renewed for 2022. And 50 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 March 2022

from Bruce Anderson, W1LUS, Treasurer

In February our expenses were Zoom \$15.93, BillericaARS.org name for 2022 \$16.88 and PayPal fees of \$ 9.09. We had nine new/renewals for an income of \$135 We now have \$682.80 in the Bank and \$1155.59 in our PayPal account for a total of \$1838.39

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 \(map\)](#)

February 10, 2022 VE Session

We had three people show up for their exams. All three passed their Technician exam, then one of those continued on to pass the General exam.

The new hams are Steve, KC1QKT, Rob, KC1QKU and Mike, KC1QKV. Be sure to say hello when you hear any of them on the air.

Thanks to Antonio, KB1KDS, Andreas, KC1NT, and Gary, W1GFF, for running the session.

Our next in-person exam session, COVID permitting, will be at the church on March 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 4/6 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

March 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.

There are two really big events in March, both on SSB: (1) The ARRL International DX Contest and (2) The CQ WW WPX contest. The bands will be full of signals on phone so get in there and work them!

Here are some popular suggestions for this month:

Date	Event
Mar 5-6	ARRL International DX (Phone)** http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
Mar 12-13	Oklahoma QSO Party http://k5cm.com/okqp.htm
Mar 12-13	Idaho QSO Party** http://pocatelloarc.org/idahoqsoparty/
Mar 13-14	Wisconsin QSO Party http://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm
Mar 19-20	Virginia QSO Party** https://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2022_VQP/2022_VQP_Main.html
Mar 26-27	CQ WPX Contest (SSB)** https://cqwp.com/rules.htm

** 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 Shots:

By Eric L. Johnson, KC1OAV

Dear Ham Advice Person:

My husband has gone to HAM.

After years of scrimping to save for our retirement, he has retired, upgraded his equipment, and settled in with his hobby.

Lately he has been spending more and more time upstairs in his "shack". This month he has been working "DX", which I guess involves contacts with folks in distant lands.

Last week he met a new fellow he calls "Prince", who is apparently a big shot in a developing country who needs help. Last night after a flurry of activity my husband signed off and crawled into bed, muttering something about Bitcoin and how we would soon be rich.

This morning, my debit card was declined at Stop and Shop. It is supposed to be backed up by our main retirement account, so I can't understand how this could happen.

Should I be worried?

- Phleeced in Philadelphia

Dear Phleeced:

Don't worry! I'm sure this is just some misunderstanding. Ask your husband to visit your bank today to get things cleared up.

If that doesn't work, have your husband contact "Prince" to find out what happened. I have seen reports involving foreign banks...due to language issues the word for "deposit" can sometimes be mixed up with the word for "withdraw". I'm sure "Prince" will sort this out.

By the way, I've noticed that you are a couple of months behind in your club dues. Can you please remedy this? Cash is preferred, thank you.

Best of luck,

- Ham Advice Person

A Ham Walks Into a QSO Bar...

Bartender says "What's yours?"

H: RIG HERE IS YAESU FT707 W/ TRANSVERTER

B: What was that? Did you hear my question?

H: RST 599 599 BT ANT HERE IS BEVERAGE

B: Thirsty, eh?

H: RR

B: <serves Dos Equis XX>

H: <drinks>

B: You're not from around here, are you?

H: QTH HERE IS MA

B: Really? Let me see your license.

H: <shows license>

B: Uh-Oh! I shouldn't be serving you. The Tech watering hole is across the street. The last thing I need is another visit from the FCC!

H: OK SRI SRI TU OM 73 73 SK Dit Dit <leaves>

B: Dit Dit

[If that made sense to you, you're spending too much time on the CW bands! -ed.]

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

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