



NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

MAY 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: May 4 at 7:00 PM "Field Day"

The biggest club event of the year is ARRL Field Day which occurs this year on June 25-26, 2022. We have three very excellent proposed locations from which we can select.

1. Billerica Police Auxiliary which was the site of our last Field Day before Covid. Kevin Fallon has kindly secured the permissions from the town for us again this year.
2. The Chelmsford Creamery (formerly Gary's Ice Cream) which is directly across the street from our meeting place at the Church. Proposed by our Club President
3. The Tewksbury Sportsman's Club kindly proposed by Mark Nelson KA1INE.

At our next meeting on May 4, we will discuss the pros and cons of the various locations. Those wishing to join the BARS field day fun by offering assistance with setup and takedown, operating and planning the weekend events should join the conversation beginning with this meeting.

We are in need a Field Day Chair each year to coordinate the activity. This can be one person or a team of people to manage the event. So please attend if you can also offer time towards working with or leading the team. It's pretty simple ... without a Field Day chair, there is no BARS Field Day!

Please get involved. Field Day is the most fun and a great learning experience for newer members. Please be sure to make the May 4th BARS meeting so the "Fourth is with us".



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 5/4 here at 1900.

Gary, W1GFF
President, Billerica Amateur Radio Society

A Message From the Editor

from Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

Field day will be about two months away when you read this. Are you planning to operate? BARS will have an operation (location TBD – we have three candidate sites) if you want to join us. Additionally, the rules have changed so that you may operate from home and still combine your score with that of the club, if you are still socially distancing.

I haven't operated Field Day in years, but I fondly remember the poison ivy at Fort Hill Park, the generator that caught fire at Robin's Hill and other eventful, fun, Field Days back in the 1960s and 1970s. It was a great time and the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Association always had a good turn-out.

If you have never operated a contest before, especially if you have never operated as part of a multi-band / multi-operator group, this is a great way to acquire the skills. If you do contests all the time, why not step up and become a “band captain” or even the “Field Day Chair”? Or just come to operate and you can see what these people do during the weekend – then maybe you'll want to be more involved next year.

W1DC Repeater News: By Bruce Pigott, KC1US

The updates to the W1DC, Billerica repeater have been almost completed. A Kenwood TKR-750 repeater and a modified Mastr II power amplifier, along with an S-COM 7330 controller and a link radio plus antenna have been installed. We are waiting for the delivery of a new repeater antenna.

The major change is the CTCSS is now 146.2Hz, which is the standard sub-audible tone on MMRA two meter systems.

Details about the equipment can be found at <https://www.mmra.org/repeaters/BCA/>. The system will have the same capabilities and features as other MMRA sites.

The W1DC default will be unlinked mode. If you are a MMRA member, commands are available to link different repeaters together. EchoLink and IRLP can be used by first linking to one of the two HUB repeaters.

As part of the MMRA, information is transmitted at regular intervals. On Tuesdays, a reminder about the Technical Information and Other Stuff Net will be heard at three hour intervals. All analog repeaters except for 10 meters, will be linked together, including 147.120, for the net. Net control will call the different repeaters asking for check ins. After all systems have been called, hams can make comments or talk about the topic of the week or technical information and other stuff. 20 repeaters plus affiliated systems such as the N1IMO network are connected for this net. The repeater will also be linked on the first business Monday of the month for the Eastern Massachusetts section ARES test drill and during ARES activations. There are no current plans to link 147.120 for any other regularly scheduled nets.

We want to thank the MMRA Technical Officer Bob, K1IW for system construction and controller programming, the repeater site work crew including Bob DeMattia, Mike Rioux and myself, the MMRA Board Of Directors and the members for making the upgrade happen. The 1200 Radio Club remaining members – Mike W1USN and Mike K1TWF, are thanked for the transfer and for donations for repeater components and operation. The remaining funds have been donated to the F.E.M.A.R.A. scholarship fund.

We Are Looking for a Field Day Chair By Tom Walsh, K1TW

The biggest club event of the year is ARRL Field Day which occurs this year on June 25-26, 2022. BARS has done many Field Days, but we need a Field Day Chair each year to coordinate the activity. Without a Field Day chair, no BARS Field Day! It's that simple.

Locations:

We have three very excellent proposed locations from which we can select:

1. Billerica Police Auxiliary which was the site of our last Field Day before COVID. Kevin Fallon has kindly secured the permissions from the town for us again this year.
2. The Chelmsford Creamery (formerly Gary's Ice Cream) which is directly across the street from our meeting place at the Church. Proposed by our Club President.
3. The Tewksbury Sportsman's Club kindly proposed by Mark Nelson KA1NE.

At our next meeting on May 4, we can discuss the pros and cons of the various locations.

If you are new to the hobby, you can learn more about ARRL Field Day at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

BARS has a very nice Field Day guide with all the knowledge from our past Field Days to make this a pleasant and manageable task. If you'd like to consider being our FD Chair, ask for a copy and then we will discuss at the forthcoming May BARS meeting.

Can you help BARS by volunteering as our Field Day Chair? Or can you volunteer to be part of a Field Day team to plan and execute the plan? Please indicate your interest on the club mailing list. Field Day is fun for all!

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

The Icom 705

Last month I began to address the common question heard from many newer hams: "I need advice on buying my first radio." Take a look back at the April CW Corner if you missed it. This month I want to consider the truly amazing ICOM 705 as a CW QRP transceiver.

Two caveats up front however:

- these are just my opinions and you are very welcome to disagree with them;
- a QRP radio may not make the best first radio choice for a new ham.

The IC-705 has almost everything you'd expect in a high-performance home station except power!

What appeals to me most is that the IC-705 has virtually all the features of a modern transceiver in the size of a hand-held lightweight portable radio that can be easily taken to POTA, SOTA and other field activations using simple batteries.

The IC-705 is a 10-watt radio. (note: 5-watts when using the internal batteries). The IC-705 is a modern HF radio with an amazing array of features jammed packed inside it. What intrigues me is whether the ICOM 705 is a good buy at the current price of \$1349.95.



IC-705 Price today versus an FT817 back in the day

If I look back 20 years to my first full featured QRP radio, it would be a Yaesu FT-817. An FT-817 configured with a narrow CW filter was a decent performing HF general coverage QRP transceiver.

An FT-817 back then would cost close to \$800 with the added needed filters. \$800 in 2001 or so turns out to be the equivalent of about \$1369 today. Almost exactly the same cost as an IC-705 today! Since, with inflation considered, you actually get much more capability in the IC-705. In my opinion, the IC-705 wins on both performance and features for the price today.

Comparison to a present-day FT-818nd

Okay, today's FT-818nd (feature wise) is almost the same as the original FT-817 except for one major problem. The FT-818nd narrow CW filters are no longer available from dealers as accessories. For CW use, I would look to other transceivers available today with proper CW filtering unless you can locate a used FT-818nd already configured with a cw filter.

The IC-705 Feature Set

The feature set of the IC-705 is incredible and is what makes it worth considering. Here is a brief summary of key features:

- Small and lightweight (about 2.4 pounds)
- General Coverage Receiver, LW, MW, FM, Air Band, etc.
- HF/50/144/440 MHz Multimode
- Spectrum Scope and Waterfall Display
- The waterfall display is said to be the same or very similar to that on the IC-7300
- DSP Filtering
- Voice memories
- CW memories
- 10-watts on external power source
- 5-watts on internal batteries
- CAT control and Digital modes (RTTY, PSK, WSPR, WSJT, FT-8, etc.) via USB interface
- Bluetooth
- Noise Blanker
- DSP Noise Reduction
- GPS Receiver
- D-Star

That is a lot of capability in a very lightweight, very portable unit. What it lacks is likely in the eye of the beholder. One of the main things frequently mentioned is the lack of an internal antenna tuner. Icom makes a nice external ATU however as an accessory (i.e., AH-705) and so does LDG amongst others.

Not including the ATU helps keep it lighter weight. You may not need the ATU if you have resonant antennas or another ATU already. There are many additional accessories to choose from beyond an ATU such as a nice backpack, various stands and protective cases, and larger capacity batteries, etc.

Some last thoughts

ICOM has really produced something extraordinary. What is important is for each person to find the radio that best suits their

budget, interests, and preferences. Half the fun is deciding for yourself.

The features, performance, and price of an IC-705 place it in the upper range of QRP radios, along with other fine radios such as the Elecraft KX-2 and KX-3. Icom and Elecraft also have great customer support which is also a consideration when choosing any radio.

There are less expensive choices out there for portable CW QRP (e.g., Xiegu). Want to compare the IC-705 with other radios? K4SWL has some very nice You Tube videos on various POTA radios.

Check out this K4SWL comparison video on the Xiegu 6100 and IC-705 on You Tube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uI_Jabr4yC4. Enjoy the search for a radio that fills your needs.

Note: The CW Friends now meet monthly on the first Tuesday. Our next zoom meeting is Tuesday, May 3rd at 7 PM. This is one night before the monthly BARS meeting.

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

Strays

FCC Not Processing Amateur Radio Applications

On Wednesday, April 27, in a notice to all VECs, the FCC again asked them to refrain from submitting any amateur radio exam session or license application files while the Commission works to resolve an issue with the Universal Licensing System (ULS) application filing system.

The ULS application filing system was not functioning properly last week and then the FCC indicated the problem was resolved, as previously reported by ARRL.

However, this was not the case, as no new amateur radio call signs and licenses have been issued since Monday, April 18, 2022.

Tuesday, April 19 is the day the FCC application fees became effective for amateur radio.

Amateur radio license filings are currently on hold until further notice and FCC did not estimate how long the system would be down.

View the entire news story on the ARRL website: <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-not-processing-new-license-applications>

--de Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

This hobby never ceases to amaze me, this morning I experienced a moment on 17 Meters, reminding me of WA1TBY, SK, who was a good friend, and CW operator. Some of you knew Jim better than I and will appreciate this.

A QSO at 1300Z, 17 meters, with SM6NT, Lars in Sweden.

Admiring SM6NT's QRZ page, I saw some phrases, not unfamiliar to me, the signature at the bottom just blew my mind.

An one who cannot access QRZ page, please email me, I'll print a copy for you.

--de Henry, hgcseior@gmail.com

The New England QSO Party on May 7th and 8th is a great time to check out antenna systems and offers a moderately paced opportunity to work new states and countries. You'll find a wide variety of participants, from newcomers to experienced contesters, all interested in making contacts with New England stations.

Our goal is to get every one of the 67 counties in New England on the air so we hope you will encourage your friends to join in the fun! Even if you can join the fun for a couple of hours, we'd appreciate it! Will you be QRV? Let us know with a message to info@neqp.org

The New England QSO Party is 20 hours long overall, in two sections with a civilized break for sleep on Saturday night. It runs from 4 pm Saturday until 1 am Sunday, then 9 am Sunday until 8 pm Sunday. Operate on CW, SSB and/or digital modes on 80-40-20-15-10 meters. For each QSO you'll give your callsign, a signal report and your county/state. Top scorers can earn a plaque and everyone who sends in a log with 25 or more QSOs will get a certificate. The goal is to work stations anywhere in the world - and their goal is to work New England stations, so you'll be very popular!

Last year we had logs from 947 stations from around the country and world. The full rules are here -> <https://neqp.org/rules/>

The full 2021 results were posted last month - <https://neqp.org/2021-new-england-qso-party/>

It's just three weeks until the 2022 NEQP. Please get on and make some QSOs even if you don't want to send in a log!

Thanks!
73 Tom/K1KI

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.

[Note that the FCC will be charging a \$35 fee for licence applications / renewals starting this month, but a change of address notification is still free. – ed.]

--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

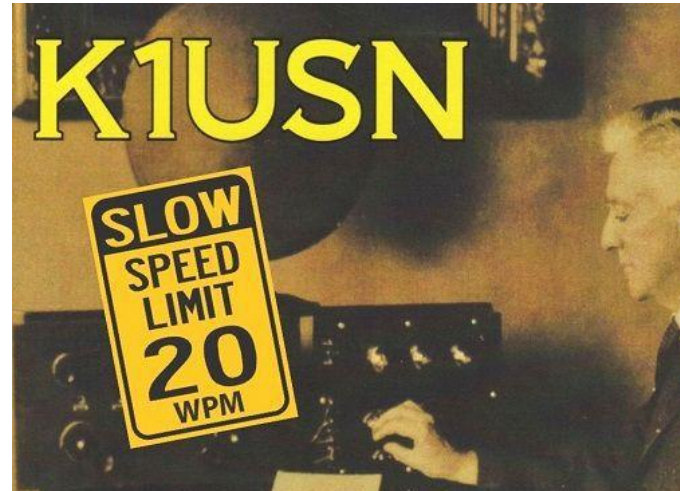
In this time of social distancing we have been using Zoom for our monthly club meetings. I have been thinking that Elmers could also be using Zoom to coach new hams instead of actually going to visit with them. Elmers could perhaps help with programming a new radio with the new ham sharing their computer 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 April 6, 2022 PM, EDT.

Tom, K1TW, called us to sorder at 7:00 PM. New members and visitors were greeted.

The program began at 7:15 and finished at 8:20. According to our poll, over 50% of attendees report RFI issues.

Fred (the NE director) talked about ARRL-related issues & news for about 15 minutes.

Jim, N1HTS, talked regarding BARS NEARFEST participation. About 40' of table space will be available, plus 2 pop-ups. There will be a pot-luck Friday at 5 PM.

Dayton/Xenia Hamvention participation is not formal but several members are going.

Discussion of BARS Field Day participation -- Billerica police EOC site available. Also, home stations can combine with club submissions, thanks to a rules change.

There were 28 attendees.

We adjourned at 9:15PM.

BARS Board of Directors Meeting: Tuesday, April 26th at 8:00PM via Zoom

Officers in attendance were Bruce, W1LUS; Tom, K1TW; Mike, K1TWF; Bill, WZ1L; Gary, W1GFF; Don, W1DM; And Marla, WA1GSF.

Several topics were discussed:

- Meeting speakers:

5/4 - Donna Ha _____

lper (not confirmed)

6/4 - Tony, K1KP "Troubleshooting"

- Face-to-face plus Zoom (hybrid) format for the future meetings: Can be done. Infrastructure is in place at the church.
- Field Day Sites
 1. Chelmsford Creamery parking lot (but there are antennas already in place, which may affect our class or submission).
 2. Billerica Police EOC site.
 3. Tewksbury sportsmans club.
- Field Day Chair
 - maybe two co-chairs.
 - announcement in newsletter seeking chair(s)
- Need to ask membership to approve a budget for Field Day expenses (around \$400).
- Officer Internships
 - Mentoring by existing/past officers
 - Interns to be trained in all positions
- We need a Press Liaison for Field Day to ensure publicity.
- Future BOD meetings on Thursdays, probably.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.

BARS Membership

Our current combined membership is 128. To date 54 members have already renewed for 2022. And 45 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 May 2022

from Bruce Anderson, W1LUS, Treasurer

In April our expenses were Zoom \$15.93 and PayPal \$5.05. We had three new members and two renewals for an income of \$ 75. We now have \$682.85 in the Bank and \$1191.74 in our PayPal account for a total of \$1874.58.

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 \(map\)](#)

The April 14, 2022 VE Session was canceled.

Our next Exam will be on May 12 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 6/1 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

May Get-on-the-Air Suggestions from Scott Ginsburg, K1OA

BARS is a "get-on-the-air" (GOTA) club. We encourage members to participate in the varied events on HF and VHF.

The New England QSO Party is a once a year event where you can be in demand on the bands as stations around the world hunt for your county. It's an opportunity to learn contest running

skills, or just operate it casually in search and pounce mode. Either way it's lots of fun!

Here are some popular suggestions for this month:

Date	Event
May 7-8	New England QSO Party (NEQP) ** https://neqp.org/rules
May 7-8	10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW http://www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules
May 21	Youth On The Air (YOTA) Contest https://www.ham-yota.com/contest
May 28-29	CQWW WPX Contest, CW ** http://www.cqwpw.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>

Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) Weekend Sprintathon – the Saturday following the 6th of every month at 1200 UTC http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon

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>

Parting Shots

By Eric L. Johnson, KC1OAV

Eric didn't have his column ready this month, so your intrepid editor, without reluctance, felt that diode you a batch of electronic puns. You can run away screaming now...

I could resist emitting electronic puns, but I surely have the capacity to broadcast them. These are so bad that they will coil your toes!

I don't know much about cars. But the battery in mine has two posts. When I had them tested one came back positive. I'm afraid it might be terminal.

A friend of mine got a part-time job with Amtrack. He collects tickets. Does that mean he is a semiconductor?

When not on the air, some hams like to do gardening. I can grow dead plants. So I use my garden to grow worms. I harvest them and keep them in a container with Sphagnum which I then store

in my refrigerator. So I won't confuse that box with food, I've labeled it "CW". Because it contains moss, cold.

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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