



NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

JUNE 2022

# 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 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: June 1 at 7:00 PM: Troubleshooting Gear** **Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP**

Tony will speak on the often arcane art of finding and repairing problems with equipment. Often, a methodical approach, a bit of knowledge, and a few useful pieces of test equipment are all you need to put things right again.



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](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 6/1 here at 1900.

Gary, W1GFF  
President, Billerica Amateur Radio Society

## **A Message From the Editor** from Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

Wish me luck. I'm going in for hip replacement surgery on 5/19. I won't be participating in Field Day activities this year, but I

hope to be up for it next year. It's been about fifty years since I last did Field Day. A lot has changed, including my club affiliation! But a lot remains the same – the long hours, the camaraderie, the last-minute glitches and the fun. May you all have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing BARS near the top of the list when results are published.

## A Ten Meter CW Net

### By Niece Kaoneuln, KA1ULN

I operate a 10m CW net on Monday night at 8 pm (local time). Netlogger (see <http://www.netlogger.org>) is needed to chat and to pass control after in netlogger. Please make sure you click on AIM WINDOW to chat.

- Frequency: 28.045
- Time: 8 PM EST
- Net Control Station: KA1ULN
- Minimum speed: 13 WPM

Every week will be a different exchange to exercise our CW skills. The current exchange format is as used in the upcoming CW contest to warm up:

*Othercall DE yourcall RST 599 5NN. HW COPY NOW? 73 othercall DE yourcall II*

So come on: get your keys out and join us for some 10m CW.

## Feature Article: BARS Field Day 2022

### By Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

Mark Nelson, KA1INE, has volunteered to be this year's Field Day Chairman. Field Day 2022 will be on June 25 and 26 mark it on your calendar! The Field Day location will be same as we used in 2019: the Billerica CERT garage on Alexander road.

We are now actively seeking volunteers for the following:

- Safety Manager - will plan for and monitor safety issues at the site. These issues include, but are not limited to, the use of climbing belts, hard hats and the types of knots used to tie off antenna masts. The Power System & Safety Manager should insure an adequately stocked First Aid kit is available at the site and should establish who on site, if anyone, is trained in first aid and CPR techniques.
- IT / Data Processing Manager - Computerized logging has become standard practice for all serious Field Day operations. The Data Processing Manager is in charge of specifying the software and hardware required for logging, designing the log management and backup protocols, and, in conjunction with the Operations Manager, designing and conducting training for Field Day operators. He is also in charge of gathering, backing up and merging the log files.
- Operations Manager - The Operations manager is in charge of all issues related to the operating strategy. This includes deciding what bands and modes to operate

and when to operate them, where to point antennas, and any other issues of the real time operating strategy. The Operations manager will participate in operator training and will also handle the scheduling of operators.

- People Support Manager - The People Support Manager is in charge of food, including Saturday Lunch, Saturday night dinner, Sunday morning breakfast, Sunday Lunch. The People Support Manager is also in charge of coffee, drinks and water for the operators.
- Hospitality & Activities Manager - The Hospitality Manager will handle the hospitality tent, which serves as the central point for coordinating Field Day Activities and is the place for people to hang out and relax. The Hospitality manager will locate the shelter and all necessary chairs, coolers, etc and will be in charge of the setup, operation and takedown. The Hospitality Manager will also look after visitors.
- Publicity Manager - Publicity is an important aspect of Field Day and part of the event scoring is based on the type and quality of the publicity we gather. The Publicity Manager will insure that all steps necessary to get the publicity points (see ARRL rules) are taken care of.
- Technical Consultant - The Technical Consultant is responsible for decisions concerning antenna design and placement, RFI control, grounding etc. This year's job is particularly challenging as we will be debugging a new site layout and much of the layout should emphasize low band operations.
- Technical Support - Considerable on-site Tech support is required each year. This includes Field Repair of equipment, stocking of spare parts and tools and tending to the various technical disasters that pop up on site.
- Photographer - The photographer will be responsible for document all aspects of the Field Day weekend and making pictures available to club members and the press.
- Traffic and Message Handling - The Traffic and Message Handling Manager will plan and execute the operations necessary to ensure that our effort receives maximum bonus points for messages and NTS-style traffic handling during our operations. Responsibilities also include copying the W1AW Field Day message. This person should have a working knowledge of NTS-style traffic-handling procedures and will utilize the HF station to pass the messages.
- And of course Band Captains
- GOTA Station Manager
- Satellite Station Manager

If you can help with any of these positions please contact Mark at [sadge6868@gmail.com](mailto:sadge6868@gmail.com)

## Welcome to the Thirteenth BARS CW Corner

By Tom Walsh, K1TW

### “Antenna Here is a Dipole”

Article in June 1991 QST

ARRL has published many great antenna articles over decades in QST that are designed to help new radio amateurs. One of my all-time favorite articles is “Antenna Here is a Dipole” from June 1991 QST by James Rus Healy, N2JL. It’s a wealth of information about how to make simple but very effective dipole antennas. I recommend new hams read this article available on the ARRL web site in the QST archive. If you are not yet an ARRL member it can probably be found online. Then read the second part of the article in the July 1991 QST for more antenna information.

What to do if you are just starting out? My suggestion: start simple with wire antennas such as a single band dipole and work onwards from that. Many wires are low cost, simple and fun to build. And best of all - wires work great!

More recently in a March 2021 QST review of the MFJ-2010 Off Center Fed Dipole author Steve Ford, WB8IMY, mentions three ways to get multiband performance from an HF Dipole antenna:

- trap antennas
- parallel wire antennas
- open wire balanced feed line antennas.

I have used all 3 of these with good results

#### My Recommendation: Get 10 bands with one dipole wire

My favorite of these three by far is the “open wire balanced feed line antenna” because it is a remarkably simple and great performing wire antenna that will cover multiple ham bands as long as you add a simple antenna tuner and a 1:1 or 4:1 balun at the tuner.

Steps for a simple multi-band dipole:

- Start with an 80-meter single band wire dipole (130-135 feet of wire);
- Use open wire (e.g., ladder line, etc.) instead of coax as the feed line;
- At the shack end of the feed line add an external tuner (manual or auto);
- If the tuner has an internal balun already, simply connect the feedline directly to the tuner.
- BUT - If the tuner does not have an internal balun, connect the open wire to an external balun near the shack end of the feed. Then use a very short coax to connect to the tuner at the shack end.
- Connect the tuner to the radio;
- You now have an antenna that will cover 10 bands (80-6 meters)

Note: simply changing the dipole from coax to open wire feed, adding the external tuner and balun gives you 10 band coverage

(80-6 meter) with a single wire! I have one up about 30 feet and it works great!

Note: most tuners inside a rig have a very limited range of swr matching. Therefore, an external tuner is usually needed.

#### Height Matters

I believe in the rule of thumb which states “the higher the antenna the better it will usually be for longer distance communication.” Simply-stated: “Put your antenna as high as possible” if you care about DX. But if you are supporting dipoles with a tree, then you must be concerned about trees swaying in the wind. I usually compromise a bit on the height and find a tree trunk big enough to limit the sway.

Otherwise, you need to consider solutions for managing tree sway. There are some nice designs for handling wind in both the QST archives and the ARRL antenna book.

#### If you don’t have enough room for an 80-meter Dipole – What then?

Simple solution! Put up the biggest dipole you can. For example, if you can put up a 40-meter dipole, then you can use the same techniques to operate 40-6 meters (8 bands). The dipole antenna will now operate at the resonant frequency it was cut for and above by adjusting the tuner for a match.

The trick is using open wire or ladder line into a balun just before the tuner. Because of the low losses of an open wire line feed, along with the balun, and tuner this antenna will cover its resonant frequency band plus all higher bands too!

#### Lightning Protection

Make sure any antenna you put up is safely disconnected in the event of approaching thunderstorms. There are many sources of help on how to do this. The QST Archives have numerous articles you can consult as do ARRL publications.

Note: The CW Friends now meet monthly on the first Tuesday. Our next zoom meeting is Tuesday, June 7th at 7 PM. This is one night before the monthly BARS meeting. Join us!

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

## Strays

### Project Big E Press Release – ARRL New England Division

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 1, 2022

Contact:  
Larry Krainson, W1AST  
100 Kenmore Drive  
Longmeadow, MA 01106-2759  
Tel: 413-348-3289  
Email: [w1ast@arrl.net](mailto:w1ast@arrl.net)



## PROJECT BIG E TO HIGHLIGHT MODERN AMATEUR RADIO

Project Big E is a 17-day amateur radio exhibit to be held at the 2022 Big E from September 16-October 3, 2022 in West Springfield, Massachusetts. Western Massachusetts ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator and Hampden County Radio Association president Larry Krainson, W1AST, is the Project Big E General Chairman.

The Big E, formerly known as The Eastern States Exposition, is billed as “New England’s Great State fair.” It is the largest agricultural event on the eastern seaboard and the sixth-largest fair in the nation. In 2021, the Big E had 1.5 million visitors, and over 1.6 million visitors in 2019. [according to Wikipedia.org]

Planning for Project Big E is underway. An impressive ham radio booth will showcase the many aspects of modern ham radio, and provide an avenue for people to sign up for information and courses in their local area.

Features proposed for Project Big E will include:

- an EmComm display
- DMR and/or other digital mobile mode demo
- Digital HF modes on a big screen
- A special event station (N1E) with unique QSL cards
- SSB, CW and digital modes
- Demonstrations of portable stations for field operation (i.e., Parks On The Air, Summits On The Air)
- A live ARISS contact

Project Big E can succeed only if there is a sufficient number of volunteers and radio clubs who agree to participate in the event. A web page has been created at <https://nediv.arrl.org/ProjectBigE>.

Also, a special Groups.io mailing list group has been established. To join, send an email to [ProjectBigE+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:ProjectBigE+subscribe@groups.io).

To volunteer for specific days/hours, go to the special Google form signup sheet and register.

--de Phil Temples, K9HI

### 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

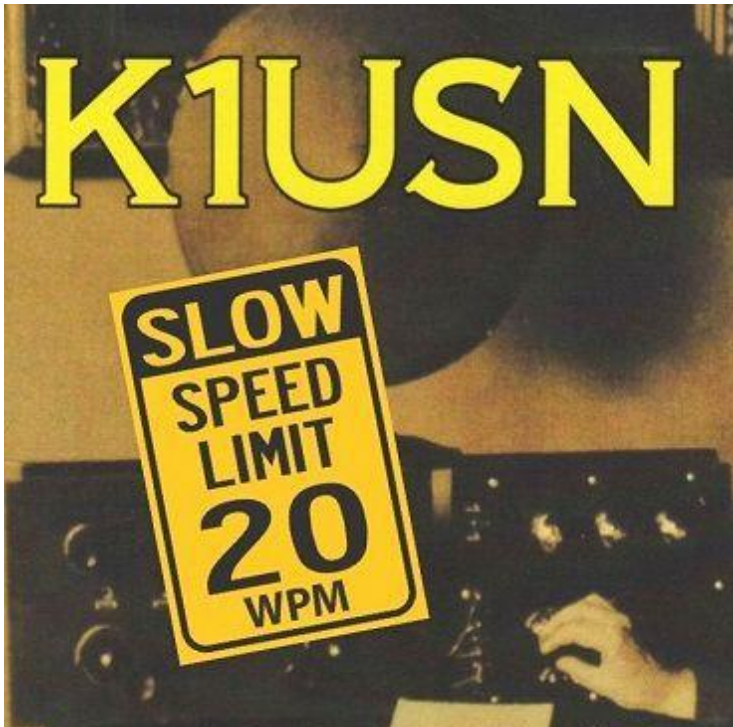
In this time of social distancing we have been using Zoom for our monthly club meetings. I have been thinking that Elmers could also be using Zoom to coach new hams instead of actually going to visit with them. Elmers could perhaps help with programming a new radio with the new ham sharing their computer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

### 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 May 4, 2022 PM, EDT.**

Tom, K1TW, and Bruce, W1LUS, Tom, K1TW, and Bruce, W1LUS co-hosted the meeting.

Tom called the meeting to order at 1910. There was no program this evening, but there were several items of business on the agenda.

#### FD discussion

- Mark, KA1INE, volunteered to be chairman.

- We have four possible locations:

- o Tewksbury Sportsman Club - Mark, KA1INE is contact
- o Billerica EOC - good facility, poor site, limited publicity due to the nature of the site
- o Chelmsford Creamery - it's a business; no.
- o Lowell Sportsman Club - Joanne, KC1NMX
- o Operate from home (or even mobile)
- o Mixed: from home plus club site
- We will pick location later, but will definitely operate a site. (EOC, Tewksbury SC or Lowell SC)

- Expenditure: motion to spend up to \$300. Passed.

Marsha, KW1U, needs antenna help. (Henry, WA1VAB, Eric, KC1OAV Ken, WO1N, Tom, W1TW stepped up.)

We have speakers for the next two months:

- o June: Scott K1OA arranged Tony K1KP
- o July: Donna Halper

Internship program

- o No experience needed, we will train
- o Trained for every office

Eric, KC1OAV, would like us to sponsor a balloon launch.

The meeting adjourned at 2040.

There were 19 attendees

**There was (at the time of publication) no BARS Board of Directors Meeting.**

## BARS Membership

Our current combined membership is 138. To date 61 members have already renewed for 2022. And 47 members from 2021 have not yet renewed their membership. Anyone with a question about their renewal status can email me at [W1LUS@hotmail.com](mailto: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 May 2022

from Bruce Anderson, W1LUS, Treasurer

In May our expenses were Zoom \$15.93 and PayPal \$3.03. We had three new/renewals for an income of \$45. We now have \$682 in the Bank and \$1217.78 in our PayPal account for a total of \$1900.66.

A sum of \$300 was approved for Field Day expenses at the BARS May monthly meeting on ZOOM.

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](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

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](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 \(map\)](#)

## May 12, 2022 VE Session Report

On May 12, we had ten people show up for their exams. Seven passed their Technician exam. One passed the Technician, General and Extra exams. Joann, KC1NMX, and one other upgraded from General to Extra.

Thanks to Don, W1DM, Gary, W1GFF, and Peter, N1ALO, for their help in running the session.

Our next Exam will be on June 9 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 7/6 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](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)

## June Get-on-the-Air Suggestions from Scott Ginsburg, K10A

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

The big activities in June are the ARRL VHF Contest and ARRL Field Day. The ARRL has permanently modified Field Day rules to allow home stations to work other home stations for credit so if you’re staying home for FD try and get on the air and make some contacts!

Here are some popular suggestions for this month:

Date	Event
Jun 4-5	ARRL International Digital Contest <a href="https://contests.arrl.org/dig/">https://contests.arrl.org/dig/</a>
Jun 11-13	<b>ARRL June VHF Contest **</b> <a href="http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf">http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf</a>
Jun 18	<b>ARRL Kids Day **</b> <a href="http://www.arrl.org/kids-day">http://www.arrl.org/kids-day</a>
Jun 18-19	All Asian DX Contest, CW <a href="https://www.jarl.org/English/4_Library/A-4-3_Contests/2022AA_rule.htm">https://www.jarl.org/English/4_Library/A-4-3_Contests/2022AA_rule.htm</a>
Jun 25-26	<b>ARRL Field Day **</b> <a href="http://www.arrl.org/field-day">http://www.arrl.org/field-day</a>

### \*\* 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 6<sup>th</sup> of every month at 1200 UTC  
[http://www.skccgroup.com/operating\\_activities/weekend\\_sprintathon](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>

## 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