



NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

# BARS BillERICA Amateur Radio Society

NOVEMBER 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 the COVID-19 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.

## **A Message from the President By Gary Frascarelli**

It has been an honor and privilege for me to serve for the past year as President of BARS. Having come out of a very difficult time for many people (post COVID) we were able to keep our meetings going thanks to the wonders of the Internet and Zoom. I wish the new President the very best and pledge to be available in any way possible during the transition process and after.

## **Next BARS Zoom Meeting: November 2 at 7:00 PM - Election of Officers**

The current list of candidates to be voted on by the membership at the November election is:

- For President: Doug Bruce, N1WRN
- For Vice President: Mark Nelson, KA1INE
- For Treasurer: Bruce Anderson, W1LUS\*
- For Secretary: Marla Wallace, WA1GSF\*
- For BOD: Don Melanson, W1DM\*
- For BOD: Bill Poulin, WZ1L\*
- Ex Officio: Gary Frascarelli, W1GFF\*\*

\* Candidate for re-election

\*\* As past President, this position fills automatically.

While these are the candidates so far, nominations from the membership at the November meeting may be added. Currently, all candidates are running unopposed.

## **Next BARS Program: "Bob Heil" Presenter: Dr. Bob Heil, K9EID**

Dr. Bob Heil is (CEO Emeritus and Founder) of Heil Sound, which has provided many Microphones, Headsets, Booms, Shock Mounts and Radio Accessories.

Bob is a Sound and radio engineer most well-known for creating the template for modern Rock Sound systems. He founded Heil Sound in 1966, which went on to create unique sound systems for bands such as The Grateful Dead and The Who.

He has been an innovator in the field of amateur radio, manufacturing microphones and satellite dishes for broadcasters and live sound engineers.

Dr Bob has won multiple awards and honors, and in 2007 he became the first manufacturer to be invited to exhibit at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

He was a main contributor and founder of Ham Nation which began on the TWIT Network.

Bob lives with his wife Sarah in Fairview Heights, IL.

Bob is also an accomplished organist and viewers can find video clips [search youtube.com](#).



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.

We are looking forward to “seeing” many of you on Wednesday 11/2 here at 1900.

Billerica Amateur Radio Society

## A Message From the Editor

from Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

I can't believe that next month makes it three years at the editor's desk. I really enjoy bringing you this newsletter each month and I hope you enjoy reading it.

This issue is a bit thin compared to the record 17-page one I put out in August of 2020. But the content of the newsletter is a function of what our club members wish to share. So it will vary from a minimum of about six pages on up.

## Feature Article: NEARFest Report

By Bill Poulin, WZ1L

### NEARFEST OCTOBER 15 & 15, 2022

Well, it was a very wet and rainy morning when I arrived at the Deerfield Fairgrounds in Deerfield, New Hampshire on Friday. I noticed a small amount of cars in the parking lot outside the gate. Fortunately I bought my admission ticket and parking pass, so just waved them at the gate and pressed on.

Most outside vendor sites were marked off with tables, however, the Commercial Buildings were busy with activity. I visited the ARRL Booth and had a conversation with Fred Kremmer, AB1OC, and his wife, Anita. They were heading off for a Forum Fred was conducting.



The rain continued and I decided to go home. I noticed The Community Church Food Booth was in operation so I got a coffee to go.

Saturday Morning I was back at 8:00 a.m. and was able to park near the Administration Building. There were more outside vendors today and a bigger crowd of attendees.

I participated in the BARS Test Session. We had two groups separated by Class, Technician and Upgrades. We had roughly 8 candidates attempt Technician, a few missed by a couple questions, a few were licensed and a few were willing to attempt General and passed. At the Upgrade Table, there were a few attempting their General and Extra Class Licenses. I would say some were successful as I shook hands with the candidates on their way out and encouraged the unsuccessful in their continued study with online resources and try again soon.



The time for Prize Drawings camera at 2:00 p.m. There were 2 big ICOM prizes, that were given away.

The Spring NEARFEST for May 2023 will again be held at the Deerfield Fairgrounds May 5th and 6th, 2023. For more information, see <http://www.near-fest.com>

## Strays

### Becoming an ARRL member or is your membership up for renewal?

One of the benefits of being an ARRL Affiliated Club is a commission for recruiting new ARRL members and securing timely ARRL member renewals.

Each new ARRL member earns the club a \$15.00 commission. New members are defined as never having been a member or a returning member that has not been a member for two years. Each renewal earns the club a \$5.00 commission. There is no limit to the amount a club can earn in this program.

Multiyear memberships earn only one commission. Life, Family, International, Blind, and Student memberships are not eligible for a commission. The member will not be eligible to receive a gift or incentive if the club collects a commission on the membership.

Currently at least 82 BARS members are also ARRL members. If we all renewed through the club we could potentially receive \$410 per year from the ARRL.

If you are interested in renewing your ARRL membership through the club fill out the following form [ARRL Affiliated Club Membership Application \(pdf\)](#). Then forward it to [W1LUS@hotmail.com](mailto:W1LUS@hotmail.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.

*[The \$35 FCC application fee applies to new, renewal, rule waiver, and modification applications that request a new vanity call sign. The fee will be per application.*

*Administrative updates, such as a change of name, mailing or email address, and modification applications to upgrade an amateur radio licensee's operator class or to request a sequentially issued call sign, are exempt from fees. – ed.]*

--de Bruce, W1LUS

### Free Gear for New Hams

QRZ.com has instituted a "jumpstart" program. The new QRZ Jumpstart Program was developed by Gigaparts and QRZ.com and it is designed to give a free dual band HT radio to newly licensed Hams.

<https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/free-radio-for-new-hams-with-the-qrz-jumpstart-program.829070/>

--de Larry Krainson, W1AST

### 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 how 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



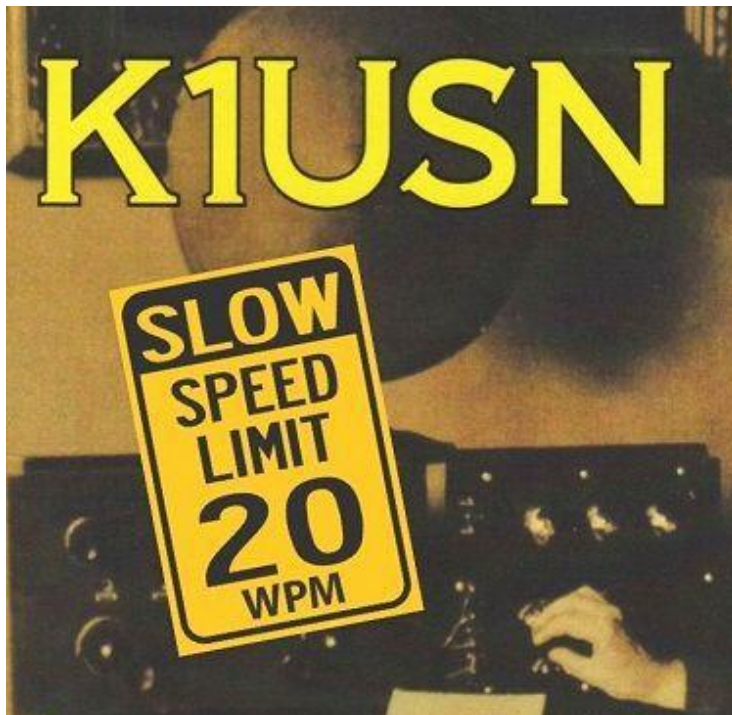
to visit with them. Elmers could perhaps help with programming a new radio with the new ham sharing their computer screen and the Elmer helping to walk them thru the process. An Elmer could have Zoom on their cell phone and show a new ham how their shack was setup. Use your imagination and see how you 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 – October 5, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Tom, K1TW called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:05.

Bob K5TEC of New England SciTec presented at 7:15 until 8:10, including questions.

The slate of candidates was announced. There were no additional nominations.

We adjourned @ 20:35.

There were 22 participants.

**There was no October BARS Board of Directors Meeting.**

### BARS Membership

Our current combined membership is 149. To date 67 members have paid for 2023 membership. 44 members from 2021 have not yet renewed their membership were dropped from the membership rolls. Anyone with a question about their renewal status can email me at [W1LUS@hotmail.com](mailto:W1LUS@hotmail.com) to get your current status.

*[Reminder: if you have not paid your 2022 dues before the November meeting, you cannot vote for club officers.]*

### 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 2022

from Bruce Anderson, W1LUS, Treasurer

In October our expenses were Zoom \$15.93, PayPal \$1.01. We had 1 new/renewals for an income of \$15. We now have \$683.47 in the Bank and \$1123.57 in our PayPal account for a total of 1807.04.

We are accepting renewals for 2023. For 2023 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, 16 Regis Road, Tewksbury, MA 01876

## 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 continuing COVID health crisis, in-person club meetings are on 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.

## 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 \(map\)](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Chelmsford+Bible+Church+Hall,+128+Gorham+St,+Rear+Door,+Chelmsford+MA+01824-3220/@42.5111111,-71.0111111,15z)

## October 13, 2022 VE Session Report

We had three people show up at our exam session. At the end of the session we had two new Technicians and one renewed General.

Our next exam session will be on November 10 at 7:00 PM. Thanks to Don W1DM, Matt N1ZYY, Gary W1GFF, and Bill W1ZL 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 8:15AM for a casual, social breakfast at Stelio’s restaurant.

[Stelio’s Family Restaurant, Billerica, MA](#)

## Future Meetings

**The 12/7 meeting will be held via Zoom. Election of Officers will be held at this meeting.**

## 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)

## September 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.

November is the heart of the fall contesting season with lots of opportunities to make contacts, work new DXCC entities and sharpen your contesting skills.

On the DX front, the 3Y0J Bouvet Island DXpedition is on track for a late January landing on the island.

Bouvet, located in the South Atlantic and known as the world’s most remote island, is currently the second most sought after DXCC entity on the Clublog most wanted list (<https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>). The last operation from Bouvet was 3Y0E in 2008 and there were only about 1400 QSOs

logged. Prior to that was 3Y0C in 2001 with 16000 QSOs. To put that into perspective, the last DXpedition to 3Y Peter I Island, which is also very remote, was in 2006 and logged 86000 contacts.

There is lots of pent up demand for Bouvet and if you're a DX chaser or thinking about becoming one you don't want to miss this as it may be 20 years before there is another operation due to the high costs (\$700K) and safety risks. Now's the time to start planning your antenna upgrades to help you snag 3Y0J!

Here are the popular suggestions for this month:

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>
Nov 5-7	ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW <a href="http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes">http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes</a>
Nov 12-13	10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital <a href="http://www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules">http://www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules</a>
Nov 19-21	ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB <a href="http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes">http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes</a>
Nov 26-27	<b>CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW **</b> <a href="http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm">http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm</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

### **OFFICERS:**

President: Gary Frascarelli, W1GFF  
Vice President: Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF  
Treasurer: Bruce Anderson, W1LUS  
Secretary: Marla Wallace, WA1GSF  
BoD: Don Melanson, W1DM  
BoD: Bill Poulin, WZ1L  
Ex Officio: Tom Walsh, K1TW

### **VOLUNTEERS:**

Net Coordinator: Doug Bruce, N1WRN  
Newsletter Editor: Marla Wallace, WA1GSF  
New Member Outreach: John Fisher, KC1FTJ  
Field Day Chair: Mark Nelson, KA1INE

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