



NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

BARS Billerica Amateur Radio Society

DECEMBER 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 Doug Bruce, N1WRN

Greetings Fellow B.A.R.S. Members,
First and foremost, I would like to thank everyone who voted in the recent B.A.R.S. Election for me for President. My last term was cut short as a result of personal and family responsibilities, for which I apologize for not being able to give the Presidency my full 100% effort and focus. Fortunately, I will be able to devote more time to the Club this time around.

Many thanks to Gary, W1GFF, our outgoing President, to Tom, K1TW, for filling the gaps as needed over the past year, and to the outgoing Board Members for keeping the Club going during 2022. Your efforts are greatly appreciated in my corner of the world.

As we go forward I would like to encourage the Membership to email me with any suggestions and ideas for Club Activities going forward. We are going to look into a Holiday party for January at the next Board of Directors meeting.

As I like to do in this space, I would like to tell of some of my recent Ham radio related experiences. I have upgraded my shack a bit with the addition of two Yaesu SP6 speakers as well as a Palstar AT2K manual antenna tuner. These items have enhanced my ham radio experience quite a bit over the last few months.

I went to Near Fest in Deerfield NH in October. It was very wet, but I was able to have the best homemade pancakes I have ever had from the Church Ladies booth. As my Elmer said, I paid \$65 for pancakes, but they were worth every penny!

I was able to go to a few indoor booth setups, including the one selling Brent W1IA's equipment. I was able to purchase his Realistic DX-150A Communications receiver. As some of you know, Brent is in the later stages of ALS, so please keep him and his family in your prayers during this difficult time. I will always think of Brent whenever I turn on the DX-150A. Brent was one of my first Elmers when I entered the hobby. He was an Elmer in the truest sense of the word, wanting to teach me and encourage me to go further in the hobby. I am eternally grateful to him for taking me under his wing early in my Ham Radio Journey.

In closing, let's make 2022-23 a great year for the Club, and hopefully, (fingers crossed), we can start to get back to in person gathering soon! It would be great to preside over an in-person meeting at the Church or other location real soon!

73
Doug
N1WRN

Next BARS Zoom Meeting: December 7 at 7:00 PM - Program: "ABC's of RFI In The Shack"

Presenter: Bob Brehm, AK6R

Bob Brehm, AK6R, will be doing the talk at the December 7 Club Meeting. He will speak about RFI in the ham shack: what to look for and how to cure it.



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.

We are looking forward to “seeing” many of you on Wednesday 12/7 here at 1900.

Doug, N1WRN

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

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

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

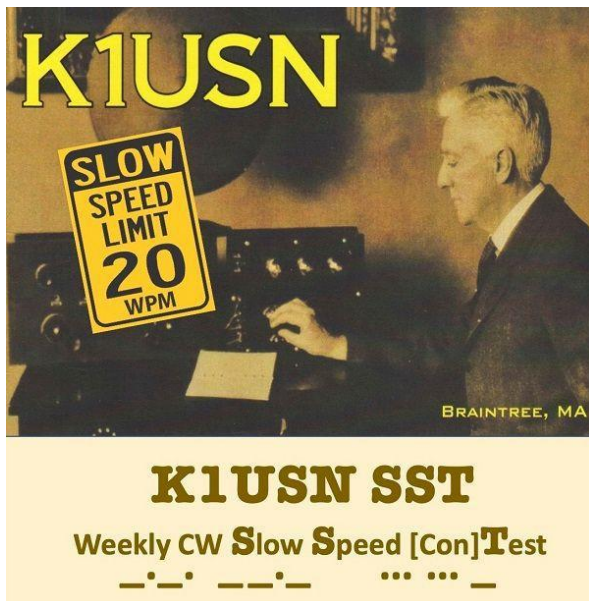
In this time of social distancing we have been using Zoom for our monthly club meetings. I have been thinking that Elmers could also be using Zoom to coach new hams instead of actually going to visit with them. Elmers could perhaps help with programming a new radio with the new ham sharing their computer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

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

Secretary's Reports

from Marla Wallace, WA1GSF, Secretary

BARS General Meeting – November 2, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Gary called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. The first order of business was the election of officers. There were no nominations from the floor, so the slate as was presented at the October meeting was voted on.

The new officers were unanimously elected, with 26 members voting. At which point, our new president, Doug Bruce, N1WRN, took the virtual gavel. (The updated list of officers is at the end of this newsletter.)

Bob Heil's presentation on audio equipment and technology for the ham station started at 7:40 and ended at 9:00.

Doug adjourned the meeting at 9:15.

There were 29 participants.

There was no November BARS Board of Directors Meeting.

BARS Membership

Our current combined membership is 120. To date 25 members have paid for 2023 membership. 40 members from 2021 did not renew their membership and were dropped. 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 December 2022

from Bruce Anderson, W1LUS, Treasurer

In November our expenses were Zoom \$15.93, PayPal \$5.43. We had eight new/renewals for an income of \$121.50. We now have \$698.50 in the Bank and \$1208.71 in our PayPal account for a total of \$1907.21.

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.
- 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 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/@42.51417,-71.38417,15z)

November 10, 2022 VE Session Report

We had three people show up at our exam session on the evening of November 10th. At the end of the session we had two new Technicians and one Extra upgrade. The new Technicians are KC1SBQ and KC1SBU be sure to say hello is you hear them on the air.

Our next exam session will be on December 8 at 7:00 PM.

Thanks to 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](https://www.stelios.com/locations/billerica)

Future Meetings

The 1/4 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

December 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.

10m has been open to all parts of the world from New England so the ARRL 10m Contest should be lots of fun this year.

As reported in last month’s column, 3Y0J Bouvet Island will be QRV in January. Bouvet is the #2 most wanted DXCC entity on the Club Most Wanted List (<https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>).

The #3 most wanted entity is FT5/W Crozet Island. An operation had been planned for Crozet tentatively beginning in December and now the details have been revealed. This will be a single person DXpedition and the operator is F6CUK. Thierry is an accomplished DXer with multiple portable operations under his belt, and he’s been granted permission to operate from 20-Dec to 26-Jan so there will be a limited window to work Crozet which hasn’t been activated since 2009. This island has been operated from over the years by various scientists working there but there’s never been a dedicated DXpedition so this will be a first. See <https://www.dx-world.net/crozet-island-2022-23/> for more info.

It’s an exciting time to be a DXer during the next few months with #2 and #3 coming on the air!

Here are the popular suggestions for this month:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Dec 2-4	ARRL 160m Contest http://www.arrl.org/160-meter
Dec 10-11	ARRL 10m Contest ** http://www.arrl.org/10-meter
Dec 18	ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

** 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 Shot By Eric Johnson, KC1OAV

Many HAMs will eventually move from larger homes to condominiums or smaller apartments. Typically they then come under the watchful eye of the dreaded Home Owner’s Association (HOA) which looks askance at such things as rooftop antennas. If a smaller shack is in your future, you may benefit from:

MA4RIE’S CONDO DOWNSIZING TIPS

After years of Amateur Radio operation and gear collecting, you may be faced with the hateful chore of downsizing your shack. Maybe a financial (or electrical) shock has brought you to this point. It is now time to choose joy and change your HAM life forever. It’s not pretty, but de-cluttering can be a cleansing and uplifting experience if you follow these simple steps:

BEFORE THE MOVE

- 1) Set a deadline: maybe it’s a looming move-in date. Set a definite day or week for your reckoning. Get in contact with a nearby e-waste handler or swap shop, NOW.
- 2) Do it quickly: There’s no use prolonging the pain. Try to get it done within one contesting weekend.
- 3) Make a pile of all your HAM stuff, sorted by CATEGORY. For each item, ask yourself, does this item give you happiness? Does that old power amplifier spark joy, or does it just spark? Is there a place in your new home to store THAT boat anchor? Or THAT one over there? Or the ones in your garage? Time to give them the old heave-HO. ;-)
- 4) Do you need an antenna for EVERY band? Perhaps a smaller, simpler one can be strung up in the new family room or loft. Does your new home have an attic? (Wink, wink)
- 5) Will you ever get around to building those old transceiver kits? Really? Will you troubleshoot them and use them? Time to move them on. And don’t get me started on that oscilloscope.
- 6) Are you hoarding back issues of QST or other HAM publications? Consider dumping any issues prior to 1980. The Art has moved on; they can be moved on, too.

7) Say goodbye to those items you no longer NEED. I said NEED, not want, do you hear me? Thank each item for its service. then send it off to its new home, with love.

AFTER THE MOVE

1) Reduce your power output. Do you really need to transmit 500 watts? Consider 100 watts or even 10 watts. Much joy can be found on QRP.

2) Minimize contesting. Be proud of every prize, plaque and medallion you have won. But also consider your new home's wall space, where your XYL would love to put up some Marimekko prints.

3) Is this QSO necessary? Would a text, phone or Skype call do? Consider the benefits of full duplex AND video when contacting your loved ones.

4) Have you thought about operating remotely? Lots of downsizers have found remote operation almost as satisfying as the real thing.

5) Lastly, maybe you should join one of the many TSS (Tiny Shack Society) groups that have sprung up everywhere. You can find a many TSS groups on Twitter.

Best wishes and 73,
MA4RIE Condo

For those who don't get the joke *[which includes your editor]*:
[Marie Kondo - Wikipedia](#)

BARS Leadership Team

OFFICERS:

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

VOLUNTEERS:

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