



NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

BARS BillERICA Amateur Radio Society

MAY 2023

BARS meetings will continue to be “virtual” until further notice!

We intended to resume in-person club meetings with the April meeting, with the plan to continue to also allow members to attend virtually using Zoom. However, due to insufficient bandwidth with the Wi-Fi at the Chelmsford Bible Church, this “hybrid” meeting style appears to not be possible at this time. So we are going to continue to hold our meetings via Zoom, as we have been doing since the start of the COVID era.

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 Members,

One of the great celebrations of ham radio happened last weekend in Deerfield NH. It is NearFest, the great conglomeration of ham stuff and ham comradery and good ham fellowship. Nearfest is a very unique event. It is not just a ham radio flea market. It is a great social event, bringing the best of ham radio stuff collectors from several states to one central location in Southern New Hampshire.

As one wanders about, you may catch a glimpse of a table full of that elusive connector for your station, a giant pile of coax at a ridiculous price, or some stuff “under the table” that the ham running the table does not want to go home with. One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.

There is a negotiating style at Nearfest that is probably unique to any flea market. Everyone brings their excess inventory of ham

goods hoping to generate some cash for that new rig, new antenna or other piece of gear for the shack. You go in with an expectation of how much money you want to raise, but you always come up a little short of the goal. The plus size is that you have somewhat decluttered your shack and surrounding areas, which always makes the XYL or XYM happy when your excess inventory of stuff leaves the house.

Nearfest also offers a very fine selection of food. There is the “sausage guy” with a killer sausage for a mere \$10.00, and don’t forget The Church Ladies Booth, which serve up the best pancakes this side of Polly’s Pancake Parlor in Northern New Hampshire. Last year, I went to Nearfest with my Elmer and spent a total of \$65 for parking and our table. It was dead there last year due to heavy rains and my Elmer said to me on the way home “I hope you enjoyed those \$65.00 pancakes” to which I replied “They were worth every penny!”

If you get a chance, take your Elmer up to NearFest this year. It is a good chance for us to connect and a great opportunity for me to absorb vast knowledge and experiences from my Elmer. Time well spent in the car on the way up and back to NearFest. I will share my Spring NearFest story in the next newsletter.

Until next time, do yourself a favor and get on the air! B.A.R.S. is a GOTA Club and that is where all the fun is!

73,
Doug
N1WRN

**Next BARS Meeting: May 3 at 7:00 PM -
Program: “Parks on the Air”
Presenter: Dennis Boye, AH2O**

Our Guest Speaker for the May 2023 Club Meeting will be Dennis Boye, AH2O from Syosset, NY. Dennis will be sharing a presentation on P.O.T.A. (Parks On The Air), which is fast becoming very popular, especially now that Spring has finally come after a long cold winter.

Here is a list of Parks that Dennis has activated recently:

K-2152: Trail View State Park, NY
 K-2014: Bethpage State Park, NY
 K-2013: Belmont Lake State Park, NY
 K-8628: Caumsett State Historical Park, NY
 K-0480: Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge, NY
 K-0856: Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, NY
 K-5224: Old Westbury State Forest, NY
 K-2150: Taughannock Falls, NY
 K-2098: Lodi Point State Park, NY
 K-2023: Buttermilk Falls State Park, NY
 K-2114: Nissequogue River State Park, NY
 K-0761: Valley Forge National Historic Park, PA

Please come join us for a very interesting and informative presentation on a very popular activity in our hobby that experienced and new hams alike can enjoy and have fun with! This activity emphasizes our commitment to being a GOTA (Get On The Air!) Club!



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 3/1 here at 1900.

Doug, N1WRN

From the Editor’s Desk

By Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

This is the fourth installment of my HF station saga. I’m about a fortnight from my annual trip to Hawaii, so I have not done a lot about getting myself on the HF bands. But once the ground dried out some, I got out with a tape measure and determined that the cleared part of my back yard would allow about 110 feet for an antenna, with an orientation of roughly NW – SE.

The G5RV will need three supports: each end needs to be around ten feet off the ground for safety reasons and the middle needs to be 30 to 40 feet up in order for the matching section to drape properly. (The included angle at the feed point must be greater than 120°. Using a little trigonometry, I calculate that the end supports need to be at least 80 feet apart. So I have enough space on my lot.) I may need a fourth support, also at ten feet, in order to keep the feed line from becoming a garrote.

But the problem is there are no convenient trees to use, so all these supports will have to be artificial. Stay tuned...

Feature Article: 2023 Field Day Preparations

By Mark Nelson, KA1INE

Field day is just around the corner on June 24th – 25th so I would like everyone to think about how you can participate in this year’s event. It’s a chance to make new friends, operate different equipment on different modes, set up antennas and work people from other countries, how much fun is that!

Please send me your availability for a time slot to operate so I can put you on the schedule. Overnight operators are also encouraged and you can take breaks or operate as you would like.

Kevin Fallon, KB1KTR, confirmed that the Billerica Emergency Operations Center is available to us again this year. It’s a good choice because we have all the modern conveniences such as a kitchen, bathroom, generator and plenty of room to spread out.

One of the highlights of last year was the delicious food along with the generous cooks who made sure we were fed while calling out to the world.

I’m looking for Station Captains again this year to bring a radio and accessories in for the group to use. I’m bringing my IC7300 in and Tim Cater, KC1RET is bringing his radio to focus on FT8 work. We could use more station Captains so we can set up a CW station and maybe another band as well as a station for VHF/UHF.

We also need volunteers for antenna setup along with dipoles. Last year Nori, AA1NK and his son Kai helped set up the beam so I’m hoping maybe they would agree to help out again this

year. We started set up of the dipoles on the Friday before field day last year to get a head start. We finished on Saturday just in time to start operating at 2:00.

Ken Caruso, WO1N has agreed to set up the computers and logging software again this year and did a great job last year. Thanks Ken!

If there's anything else that the group would like to see at field day, feel free to reply and we can discuss further.

[You can contact Mark Nelson at KAIINE@ARRL.net.]

Strays

Found on the Web

Vacuum tubes are more complicated beasts than I knew. (I have a good excuse – the transistor has been around all my life and I have an aversion to playing around with high voltages.) I found this article on Wikipedia about the humble filament/cathode, the element/assembly which is in charge of squirting electrons into the vacuum:

[Hot cathode - Wikipedia](#)

Some of the old tubes used Thorium to improve the emission efficiency of the filament/cathode; if you have 1920s-era tubes in your collection, dig out a Geiger counter and have a quick look. You might be surprised! (I wonder how much Radon an old tube has in it these days?)

-- de Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

Ham Radio is Looking Up this Summer!

This summer, the New England Weather Balloon Society will be launching a high-altitude balloon project called HABGab 2023. This will be a rare event for the ham radio community around New England, as the balloon will carry a cross-band VHF/UHF repeater and transmit live video from two cameras. The video and audio downlink from the repeater will also be streamed live on YouTube. Also on board will be a host of science and engineering experiments created by middle school students at New England Sci-Tech and the Franklin-based BFCCPS school. All hams in New England are invited to make contact with this high altitude balloon. Check the New England SciTech web site, <https://nescitech.org/>, which will soon have details on launch time, frequencies, and other instructions!

-- de Eric Johnson, KC1OAV

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

Treasurers Report for May 2023

We are accepting dues for the current year. 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

In April, our expenses were:

- Zoom \$16.99,
- PayPal \$11.11.
- Canceled bus reservation for the ARRL trip \$200

We had 13 new/renewals for an income of \$195. We now have \$1846.83 in the Bank and \$360.89 in our PayPal account for a total of \$2207.72.

Bruce Anderson
W1LUS

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 Doug Bruce, N1WRN.

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

**Club meetings are being held via Zoom until further notice. A link will be sent via the BARS email reflector to all currently paid up members. **

Club meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 PM Eastern time.

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/@42.575,-71.375,15z)

April VE Session Report

On April 13th, five people showed up at our VE exam session. As a result there were three upgrades to Extra and two new Technicians.

Our next exam session will be at the Chelmsford Bible Church on May 11th at 7:00 PM. . You may now pre-register for BARS VE exams at HamStudy.org.

Thanks to Gary W1GFF, Ken WO1N 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 5/3 meeting will be held “virtually” 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, K10A

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

Here are the popular suggestions for this month:

Date	Event
May 6-7	10-10 International Spring Contest, CW http://www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules
May 6-7	New England QSO Party https://neqp.org/rules/
May 27-28	CQWW WPX Contest, CW http://www.cqwp.com/rules.htm

** Top recommendation 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>

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: Mark Nelson, KA1INE