



NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

BARS BillERICA Amateur Radio Society

JUNE 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,

As I prepare for my Field Day experience this year, I came across a very significant, yet sometimes forgotten document written in 1928, The Radio Amateur’s Code, which defines the ethical standards that every ham radio operator should follow and keep in mind as they embark on their ham radio journey. I’d like to offer a few thoughts on each of the six sections of the Code that have helped me as a relatively new ham radio operator:

1. **CONSIDERATE** He/She never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others. This seems rather obvious, but in this day and age of the hackers and jammers, more and more operators seem to take great pleasure in disrupting ham operations, rather than seeking to enhance operations. This behavior was very evident in the recent Bouvet Island DXpedition. This kind of behavior gives ham radio a bad name for sure.

2. **LOYAL** He/She offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, the IARU Radio Society in his/her country, through which Amateur Radio in his/her country is represented nationally and internationally. Ham radio operators around the globe need to keep this concept in mind as they operate their stations. They should be proud to represent their Club and country. Our signals travel great distances and can be heard around the globe, so keeping with this principle will ensure that our hobby is respected the world over going forward.

3. **PROGRESSIVE** He/She keeps his/her station up to date. It is well built and efficient. His/Her operating practice is above reproach. As ham radio operators, we all need to keep up with the latest technology and operating practices. This will enhance not only our own enjoyment of the hobby, but will also make it more pleasurable for other hams that we come in contact with over the airwaves, no matter what mode we decide to be actively operating on at any given time.

4. **FRIENDLY** He/She operates slowly and patiently when requested; offers friendly advice and counsel to beginners; kind assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of the amateur spirit. To me, this is probably the most impactful part of the code. If we are to grow our hobby, we all must live by this part of the code every time we interact with any member of the ham radio community. Giving advice and assistance gives a sense of satisfaction, knowing that you are helping out someone in the hobby. Your patience and sensitivity to another ham’s needs will pay great dividends to our hobby going forward. EVERY time I have ever asked for help, other hams seem to jump at the chance to offer advice and assistance to solve a problem or answer any of my questions as I learn and grow as a ham radio operator.

5. **BALANCED** Radio is a hobby, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school, or community. As I have said to many of you over the course of time “This is a hobby!” and should never dominate or replace other very important aspects of your life. The hobby must not

consume you so much as to slack off of your life responsibilities.

6. **PATRIOTIC** His/Her station and skills are always ready for service to country and community. As radio amateurs, we must always look for opportunities to serve our country and community through Emergency Services and helping at any event that requires our ability to effectively operate our station.

In closing, this code is meant to enhance our experience, not hinder it. If you, as a ham radio operator, keep all of the above in mind, you will have the respect and admiration of any ham radio operator you come in contact with, either in person or on the air. Until next time, get out there and G.O.T.A. and have fun with the greatest hobby on earth!

73,
Doug
N1WRN

Next BARS Meeting: June 7 at 7:00 PM - Program: "Hams in Broadcasting" Presenter: Donna Halper

Donna Halper will be presenting about the role amateurs played in early commercial radio and sports broadcasting.

Donna was born here in Massachusetts and began working in the broadcasting field in 1968 as a DJ and music director. In 1974, while at WMMS in Cleveland she "discovered" the progressive rock band Rush.

She has written several books, including the first book-length study devoted to the history of women in American broadcasting, *Invisible Stars: A Social History of Women in American Broadcasting*. She also has taught college-level courses in broadcasting, media criticism, media history and radio programming and has a PhD from UMass Amherst.

There's a Wikipedia article about her at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donna_Halper and she has a website (and blog) at <http://donnahalper.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 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

Your editor was in Hawaii for a week in the middle of May, so I have not done anything more about getting myself on the HF bands. The antenna is going to be the last moving point, it appears.

But I'm starting a new column in this month's issue: The Electronics of Radio, which will answer some basic questions about radio technology. The first of these will be on the RF Choke. I plan to answer one or two questions in each issue.

Feature Article: 2023 Field Day Preparations By Mark Nelson, KA1INE

We are quickly approaching field day at the end of the month and I hope everyone can participate! This year we will begin operating at 2:00pm on Saturday June 24th and continue throughout the night until 2:00pm on Sunday making contacts around the world. We expect to have 3 radios operating from 6 through 80 meters.

We especially hope the new technicians and General class hams can try fox hunting and experience FT8 along with SSB and CW. There will be a sign-up sheet for operating times so please come and join us to experience field day. The goal is to set up portable stations to simulate an emergency situation as practice and to meet fellow hams and have a lot of fun. There will be a BBQ at meal time and plenty of water and coffee to keep everyone nourished.

We need volunteers for antenna setup on Friday the 23rd and Saturday morning. We also need a team to help take them down on Sunday afternoon once we finish operating. If you can possibly help out, please send me an email so I can put you on one of these teams to help make the session a success.

The board of directors suggested we could have T shirts made for the occasion with the club logo. These will be for sale at the event and we expect a price of \$20. Doug Bruce is looking into the availability and we hope to have them before for field day. If you plan to spend the night, please be prepared with insect spray and warm clothes.

I'll be sending out any further updates through the BARS reflector. If there are any questions, feel free to write to me at KA1INE@ARRL.net.

The Electronics of Radio

By Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

This month's first question: What's the difference between an RF choke and a plain inductor?

Answer: While the RF choke is an inductor, it is used to provide a high impedance to RF signals, usually over a wide range of frequencies. So unlike an inductor in a tuned circuit, the RF choke is by design a low Q device. Hence the unusual-looking winding of the component in following picture:



The design of the RF choke also minimizes self-capacitance, avoiding resonant "impedance bumps" when the inductance combines with self-capacitance to produce an unwanted tuned circuit.

There's more information on Wikipedia at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Choke_\(electronics\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Choke_(electronics))

This month's second question: What's the difference between dB and dBm?

Answer: dB stands for decibel and is a unit of relative power, defined as:

$$\text{dB} = 10 \times \log(P_1 \div P_0)$$

A dBm is also a unit of relative power, but referenced to one milliwatt ($P_0=1\text{mW}$).

There is also a unit, dBw which is referenced to 1 watt ($P_0=1\text{W}$).

For more than you ever wanted to know, see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decibel>.

You can submit questions for this column to me at the address in the masthead. Until next time...

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.]

2023 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 June 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, PO BOX 832, Nutting Lake, MA 01856

In May, our expenses were:

- Zoom \$16.99,
- PayPal \$1.01.

We had one new/renewals for an income of \$15.00. We now have \$1853.38 in the Bank and \$340.90 in our PayPal account for a total of \$2194.28.

Bruce Anderson
WILUS

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/@42.5111111,-71.3888889,15z)

May VE Session Report

On May 11th, four people showed up at our VE exam session. Two people upgraded to General and two new Technicians were created. For the first time we used ExamTools to record the exam session and to send the results to the ARRL.

Our next exam session will be at the Chelmsford Bible Church on June 8th at 7:00 PM. . You may now pre-register for BARS VE exams at HamStudy.org.

Thanks to Gary WIGFF, Niece KA1ULN and Bill W1ZL for their help in running the session.

--de Bruce Anderson, WILUS

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 7/5 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.

Sunspot Cycle 25 has produced some great HF propagation so far. Openings to Asia have been plentiful on the higher bands. If you want to add another award to collect contacts for consider the Worked All Japan prefectures (WAJA) award. Prefectures are like USA counties and there are 47 of them. See https://www.jarl.org/English/4_Library/A-4-2_Awards/Award_Main.htm for the JARL awards page listing the Worked All Japan prefectures and other offered awards.

The list of prefectures can be found at https://www.jarl.org/English/4_Library/A-4-2_Awards/waja_map.pdf. Wikipedia has an excellent page listing the Japanese cities and their corresponding prefecture, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_cities_in_Japan, that you can use as an operating aid.

If I'm decoding JA stations on FT8 I will look for the prefixes of prefectures that I need (JA4, JA6 and JA9), look up the call signs on QRZ.com and if the prefecture is not listed on the QRZ page I use the Wikipedia cities page to match up the city with the prefecture. Happy hunting!

Here are the popular suggestions for this month:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Jun 3-4	International Digital Contest http://www.arrl.org/arrl-digital-contest
Jun 10-12	ARRL VHF Contest http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf
Jun 17	ARRL Kid's Day http://www.arrl.org/kids-day
Jun 24-25	ARRL Field Day ** http://www.arrl.org/field-day

** 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

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