



NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

NOVEMBER 2023

BARS Billerica Amateur Radio Society

On the recommendation of the Board and approved by a vote of the membership at the October meeting, BARS meetings will become “hybrid” – the meeting will be held at the Chelmsford Bible Church and available simultaneously on Zoom – beginning with the January meeting.

We intended to resume in-person club meetings with the January, 2024 meeting, with the plan being to continue to also allow members to attend virtually using Zoom.

The safety and well-being of our membership is important to us.

--BARS Management.

We will be electing officers for 2024 at the November meeting. The following candidates have indicated that they are willing to serve. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted.

- President: Doug Bruce, N1WRN
- Vice President: Mark Nelson, KA1INE
- Treasurer: Bruce Anderson, W1LUS
- Secretary: Marla Wallace, WA1GSF
- BoD1: Bill Poulin, WZ1L
- BoD2: *TBD at the Meeting*
- Ex Officio: Gary Frascarelli, W1GFF

A Message from the President By Doug Bruce, N1WRN

Greetings Fellow Members,

I picked up pieces while trying to get that 1:1 SWR match on my transceiver... What is it that makes FT8 so attractive to use? I, for one, am addicted to the mode because of a few reasons. First of all, you get very accurate signal reports that tell you how efficiently your station is operating at any given time.

Secondly, there is the thrill of seeing a station calling CQ with the line highlighted in red, which signifies a new band and/or country!

Thirdly is the satisfaction of knowing that you can add to your DXCC and WAS totals in this mode, as it is recognized by the ARRL as a mode that counts towards its vast array of awards for the ham radio operator.

After you make that first FT8 contact, it is like the Lays potato chip commercial...no one can make just one contact!!!!

On another subject, my Elmer and I went to NearFest on Friday October 13 and we were not disappointed! We drove into the parking lot and pulled up the hill and to our delight, the Church Ladies were back serving their pancakes! We were like two kids in a candy store as we climbed onto the wooden benches and ordered our pancakes and bacon with real Vermont maple syrup! It put us both in a great frame of mind as we set about finding treasures at the flea market and in general enjoyed talking to any ham that walked by our table! That is the beauty of NearFest! There is something there for everyone.

As everyone probably knows by now, the ARRL will be increasing its membership dues in 2024 to \$59.00, with an additional \$25.00 charge to continue with the print subscription to QST Magazine. I am in support of this increase because the ARRL is such a great organization and offers so much for the fee that they charge. If you renew now for 2024, I believe you can still get in for the \$49.00

and your membership will be good until January of 2025, with no extra charge for the magazine.

The \$25.00 the ARRL will charge in 2024 for QST is only \$2.08 per month for arguably the best ham radio magazine on the market today. If you get just one idea or project that makes your station better, it is well worth the \$2.08 per month! I realize that there are a lot of ads in QST, but these are necessary to help pay the costs associated with producing the magazine.

Finally, as I near the end of my first (of hopefully many) term as President of this great Club, I want to thank everyone who makes this Club great. It is a pleasure to be your President and I hope that I am living up to the trust and expectations of those who voted for me last November in the elections. I will continue to be upbeat and positive for the membership and I welcome the challenge of keeping B.A.R.S. a relevant and vibrant Club in the coming year. It would not be possible without you, the member!

Until next month, keep in mind that we are a G.O.T.A. Club, so fire up that transceiver and get on the air and have some fun! That is what ham radio is all about!

Until next month (hopefully as your President),

73,
Doug
N1WRN

Next BARS Meeting: November 1 at 7:00 PM - Program: "What's New at the ARRL" Presenter: Rick Roderick, K5UR

I am pleased to announce that our Guest Speaker for the November 1, 2023, Club Meeting via Zoom will be none other than Rick Roderick, K5UR, the current President of the ARRL!

Rick will give a talk on what's new at the ARRL and will share valuable insights on our great hobby. You will definitely want to make sure and attend this Zoom Presentation to be given by a true pioneer in Ham Radio!

Here are some of Rick's great credentials:

- FFMA #3 (Worked all grid squares in the continental U.S.)
- One of first 5 stations to work all 48 contiguous states on 2 meters terrestrial (using no EME and no digital)
- Worked 47 states on 2 meters in one year (using no EME and no digital)
- Holds world distance record for 2 meters meteor scatter
- Held 222 MHz tropospheric distance record
- Worked All States 6 meters
- Has held numerous national HF/VHF/UHF contest records: VUCC: 6 meters #103; 2 meters #64; 222 MHz #14; 432 MHz #43; 1296 MHz #54

- Worked All Prefixes: WPX Award of Excellence #1; WPX Honor Rolls – Mixed, CW, and Phone
- Member: ARRL Maxim Society; ARRL Diamond Club; ARRL Second Century Club
- Currently President of the ARRL.
- Has held volunteer positions with the ARRL for over 50 years.
- Served on DXAC and was Chairman for many years.
- Has also served on CQ Magazine's DX advisory committee for over 40 years.
- Instrumental in the DXCC 2000 Project, implementation of DXCC Challenge/De Soto Cup Award, and creation of Logbook of the World.



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 11/1 here at 1900.

Doug, N1WRN

From the Editor's Desk By Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

After a couple of minor experiments with HF bands, I have returned to my roots, it seems. In last month's column, I mentioned that I was going to try to overcome an unexpected case of mic-shyness by keeping a weekly schedule with KA1GTT and

KC1FTJ. The schedule was initially supposed to be on ten meters, but the noise level at John's QTH was such that he couldn't hear Andy, who is only four miles away!

We have not tried to isolate the source of the interference, but it wipes out the whole HF spectrum and seems to be related to the onset of darkness. John theorizes that some newly installed lighting is the cause.

In the meantime, after one evening struggling to converse through an S-7 noise level, we have QSY'd to 6 meters.

Over fifty years ago, when I first got my license, this was the band I operated on, using home brew equipment and a cubical quad antenna. I had a ball at the time. I managed to work 17 states, getting DX as far away as Wisconsin. And now I'm back there again, with more power and CW and SSB capability as well as the AM and FM modes that I used back then.

Feature Article: Railroad Museum of Oklahoma Gets a Donation from BARS Members

By: Jim Evans, N1HTS

From the Railroad Museum of Oklahoma, September 4 2023:

This past Saturday, Cathy Evans brought to the museum a speaker (really a code practice oscillator) for our telegraph display. Cathy is a member of the Enid Amateur Radio Club. She and her father, Jim Evans, had visited the museum last year and noticed our telegraph system wasn't working. Jim is a member of the Billerica Amateur Radio Society in Chelmsford, MA. Here is part of Jim's account of how the speaker came to be donated:

Back in November, 2022, I was visiting my daughter in Enid and we toured the Railroad Museum of Oklahoma. We had a wonderful visit and part of it was seeing the telegraph morse code keys and bugs. When I mentioned I knew what they were as we were both amateur radio operators, the guide said he wished they were operational so that the visitors could try them.

When I got home, I mentioned to Andy Wallace KA1GTT that it would be cool to find an old-style code oscillator to donate. He found one on eBay but once he opened it up he realized it would not be safe for the public due to the voltages involved. He then proceeded to remove the bad parts and re-engineered the device with transistors to be safe to operate by anyone. He also rewired the front jacks so that if anyone unplugged the key it would work in either of the front jacks. The power in back is now supplied by a common, 9 volt wall wart so is safe." Thank you Cathy KB1EET and Jim N1HTS Evans, and Andy Wallace KA1GTT for your thoughtful and much

appreciated donation! It will be fun for our visitors to use as they create their own morse code messages."

I also gave them a laminated morse code character sheet so the visitors could play with it.

--de Jim Evans, N1HTS

Strays

Results of Test Session at NEARFEST in Deerfield, NH.

On Saturday, October 14, we had a test session at NEARFEST at the Deerfield Fairgrounds in Deerfield, NH. After the dust cleared, here are the Results:

- Technician: 2
- General: 1
- Extra: 4*

* One candidate for Extra Class was a young 12 year old girl from Windham, NH.

Congratulations to all the Candidates!

--de Bill Poulin, WZ1L

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.]

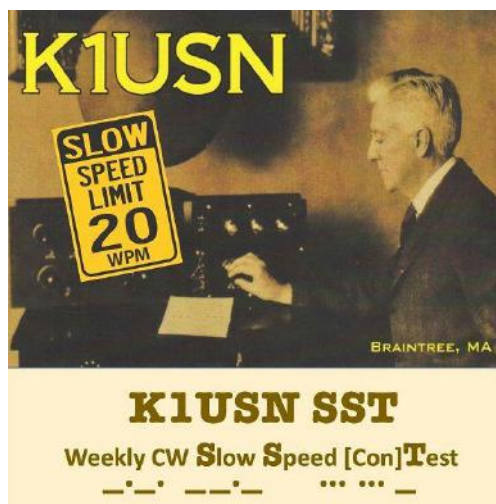
Administrative updates, such as a change of name, mailing or email address, and modification applications to upgrade an amateur radio licensee's operator class or to request a sequentially issued call sign, are exempt from fees. – ed.]

--de Bruce, W1LUS

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 (4-5pm EDT) and
Mondays 00:00-01:00 UTC (8-9pm EDT Sunday).



-- de Tom Walsh, K1TW

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 the 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 in using Zoom to Elmer someone.

--de Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

Secretary's Reports

from Marla Wallace, WA1GSF, Secretary

BARS General Meeting – October 4

Doug called the meeting to order at 7:00.

The membership present voted unanimously to resume in-person club meetings with a simulcast on Zoom (the “hybrid” meeting format).

[However, the November and December meetings will still be via Zoom only, as we don't have everything in place for doing a hybrid meeting yet. – ed.]

The program began at 7:15 and ended, after several minutes of comments and questions, at 8:00.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05. There were 19 people attending.

BARS Board of Directors Meeting for October

The board of directors met on October 32th.

BARS Membership

Our current combined membership is 116. We are now accepting renewals for 2024. For 2024, dues will remain at \$15.

Anyone with a question about their renewal status can email me at WILUS@hotmail.com to get your current status.

from Bruce Anderson, WILUS, Treasurer

2024 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 November 2023

We are now accepting renewals for 2024. For 2024, 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 October we had income of \$45 from three new/renewals, our expenses were Zoom \$16.99, PayPal \$3.03. We now have \$1104.86 in the Bank and \$507.65 in our PayPal account for a total of \$1612.45.

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](https://www.chelmsfordbiblechurch.org/128-Gorham-St-Rear-Door-Chelmsford-MA-01824-3220) ([map](#))

VE Session Report for October

We had seven people show up for the October VE exam session. One person upgraded to General, one upgraded to Extra and five new Technicians were created.

Our next exam session will be at the Chelmsford Bible Church on November 9 at 7:00 PM. You may now pre-register for BARS VE exams at <https://HamStudy.org>.

Thanks to Gary W1GFF, Peter N1ALO 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, we have a virtual Zoom breakfast session (a link was provided in email some time ago).

We 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 12/6 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 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

November 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.

Here are the popular suggestions for this month:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> |
|-------------|--|
| Nov 4-6 | ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes |
| Nov 11-12 | Worked All Europe (WAE) DX Contest, RTTY https://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste/wae-dx-contest/en/ |
| Nov 11-12 | 10-10 International Fall Contest, Digital http://www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules |
| Nov 18-20 | ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes |
| Nov 25-26 | CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW ** http://www.cqww.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