



NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

JANUARY 2024

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 holiday party and the February meeting.

The BARS Holiday Party will be held at the Great Wall Restaurant in Bedford at 6:30 PM on January 10th. The Party is in lieu of the January meeting.

We intended to resume in-person club meetings with the February, 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.

A Message from the President By Doug Bruce, N1WRN

Greetings of the Season Fellow Members,

I hope that everyone is having a wonderful Holiday season and looking forward to a great 2024!

I was thinking the other day about the message Rick Roderick K5UR had for our Club when he spoke to us. The message was “Who Will Take Over From Here” and he was entirely correct. Our great hobby became great because of the generations of hams who

cared enough to make the sacrifices that were necessary to instill knowledge in the next generations of hams.

The hams of the 40’s 50’s and 60’s had a much harder path to get their licenses than this generation had. They had to learn the code and perform under the pressure of an examiner from the FCC in at the Custom House FCC Office in Boston, or in other major cities across the United States. Now if that isn’t pressure I don’t know what is.

Did that make those older hams better operators? Most definitely. These days we can study in the comfort of our own home and take the test (with no code requirement) in a suburban, relaxed environment of our local Club. It is up to our generation to learn and emulate these hams, because it will make us better hams as well.

Years ago, hams did not have the mode options that we have today to earn the WAS (Worked All States) and DXCC awards. They had to do it using primarily using SSB phone and CW. It took much longer to get these prestigious awards back then. However, these awards are not to be diminished in significance using the modes of today such as FT8. The hams of today still need the operating skills that can be passed on from experienced Elmers to use these newer modes to achieve the awards. It may take a shorter period of time, but the ARRL understands the need to recognize the newer modes as valid contacts for the awards.

This understanding and flexibility by the League will pay dividends in the future. It is up to my generation of hams to really think about what kind of legacy we want to pass to the next generation of hams. My Elmer has spent countless Saturday mornings with me here in the shack because he cares about me and my development as a ham. I gave him the Elmer Award from the ARRL and he was quite emotional as I handed it to him. This generation of hams needs to be aware that the torch needs to be passed and the sooner this generation of hams gets a grasp on the “Who Will Take Over From Here” concept the sooner our successors will be able to show the need enthusiasm to the next generation of hams.

I have talked here just now in generalities and a theoretical approach. It is up to all of us to spend those Saturday afternoons with the new hams, answer their questions and teach them to be good operators so that our great hobby will continue well into the future.

On another note, in the Get On The Air Spirit of our Club, there have been some great openings on 10 meters lately. I worked stations in the Falkland Islands and Reunion Island today as a matter of fact. 10 and 12 meters will be the first bands to go away on the downturn of this Solar cycle, go get on the air and take advantage of these opportunities for great contacts!

Until next month,

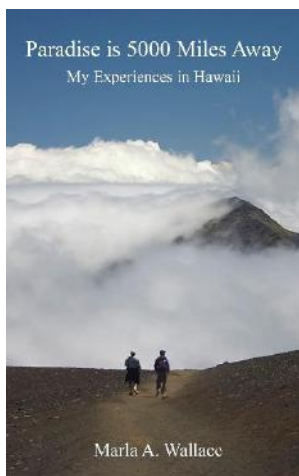
73,
Doug
N1WRN

The Next BARS Meeting will be February 7 at 7:00 PM - There Will be no Program in January

There will be no speaker in January, as we have the Club Meeting at The Great Wall Restaurant in Bedford, MA. We will be doing a Yankee Swap so everyone is invited bring a swap gift up to a \$20.00 value if you want to participate. The buffet is \$23.95 per person. We are looking forward to seeing everyone on January 10, 2024 for a great night of food and ham radio fellowship! See you then!

From the Editor's Desk By Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

I was busy this past December (actually, during September, October, and November, too). By the time you read this newsletter, I will be a published author. My first book will be available as an eBook for the Kindle ecosystem through Amazon. Please forgive the shameless plug, as the book has nothing to do with ham radio, but I'm excited to have accomplished this life goal.



Feature Article: A License or Upgrade How-To

By Bill Poulin, WZ1L

I have been hearing some conversations on the repeaters about upgrading their amateur radio licensing.

I thought I would give some info and suggestions for those desiring to pursue either an Initial or Upgrade:

EXTRA CLASS

An Extra Class will be held online Beginning Tuesday January 9, 2024 between 6:30-8:30pm for 16 weeks (April30,2024). The class uses the current ARRL Extra Class License Manual 12th Edition (\$32.95 @ HRO). Class website: youtube.com/w4eey

The calculator used in class is a Texas Instrument TI-36X Pro (\$22.00 @ Walmart).

Email Gary Wise w4eey@arrl.net to sign up. Class is **free**.

GENERAL CLASS

(There is a new question pool as of JULY 1, 2023.)

Currently on <https://youtube.com/w4eey> a General Class which began back on September 5th is recorded. (Videos are available 24/7.)

The class uses the ARRL General Class License Manual 10th Edition (HRO \$32.95) The class runs for 10 weeks. Videos are 2 hours long.

Basically, read Chapter 1, then continue reading a chapter and watching the corresponding video. The calculator used in class is Texas Instrument TI-36X Pro (\$22.00 at Walmart)

Class handouts can be obtained by emailing Gary Wise w4eey@arrl.net

NEW TECHNICIAN

(New for 2024)

A New Technician Class will begin on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, from 6:30-8:30pm for 10 weeks. The class uses the current ARRL Technician Class License Manual 5th Edition (available from HRO \$32.95). The class videos are recorded and available 24/7 if you miss the class. <https://youtube.com/w4eey0-po0jh>

The class begins by reading Chapter 1, then tune in to the first class. Basically, it is a process of reading the chapter and watching the corresponding class video for that chapter. The calculator used is the Texas Instrument TI-36X PRO (\$22.00 at Walmart)

To sign up for the class send Gary Wise an email w4eey@arrl.net

When you have completed the course, I suggest you log on to <https://hamstudy.org/> and click on your prospective level of study and instead of taking practice exams and select "Study Mode" option to challenge the questions.

Technician question pool has 411 Questions, the General has 427 Questions, and the Extra has 564 Questions.

You will see a question with 4 possible answers. Select what you believe is the correct answer. If you are right the response text turns green and test moves on to the next question.

If you select incorrectly, the text displays in red, and you can select "Show Correct Answer" at the bottom, and the proper answer will be shown.

If you are still unsure, click the right top corner of the Question Box and you will be provided a narrative explanation including the correct answer contained therein.

You will again see the questions you answered incorrectly later for an additional chance to respond correctly.

Make sure you see ALL the Questions in the Question Pool.

A proficiency of 85-90% minimal is suggested before taking your prospective license exam.

Through a determined subject matrix, the individual license class Question Pool dribbles down to a 35 Question Exam for Technician and General Class, and for Amateur Extra, a 50 Question Exam.

Good Luck on your studies!

Bill Poulin, WZ1L,
Volunteer Examiner

Upcoming POTA Event Niece, KA1ULN

I encourage members to print this out and post. in areas it in places where YLs are likely to see it.

International Women's Day YL POTA PARTY

Date: March 8th, 2024

Location: Any POTA park (or hunt POTA from home!)

Frequency: Any amateur radio frequency within your license class

Mode: Any! SSB, CW, SSTV...experiment and have fun!

How to participate:

- Activate a park during the 24-hour event window
- Submit your POTA activations to the POTA database.
- Share your experiences and photos on social media using the hashtag #YL_POTA_Party.
- We encourage you to wear pink and/or decorate your station to show your support for International Women's Day!
- Spread the word and invite your friends to join the party!

Why participate?

- Connect with other YLs and build a supportive community.
- Have fun and enjoy the POTA hobby.

Here are some resources that you may find helpful:

- POTA website: <https://parksonteair.com/>
- Young Ladies Radio League website <https://ylrl.net/>
- ARRL website <https://www.arrl.org/>

Together, we can make this a memorable event for all YLs in ham radio!
We look forward to hearing you on the air!



The Electronics of Radio Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

Question: What is the function of the capacitor that I often see across the emitter, source, or cathode resistor in an amplifier stage?

Answer: When there is a resistor in the emitter, source, or cathode circuit, it is to establish a bias point for the base, gate, or control grid (respectively) by making the emitter, source, or cathode positive with respect to ground.

But it does this because the transistor or tube conducts current. If the circuit is amplifying an AC signal, that amplified signal becomes superimposed on the DC voltage across the resistor. The effect of this is to create negative feedback, reducing the gain of the circuit. By having a sufficiently large capacitor across the resistor, the AC signal is eliminated, and the circuit gain is thus maximized.

Until next time, keep the questions coming.

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

Secretary's Reports

from Marla Wallace, WA1GSF, Secretary

BARS General Meeting – December 6

Bruce convened the meeting at 7:00. There was no club business.

The program started at 7:15 and ended at 8:00. A recording was made.

There were 24 participants. The meeting adjourned at 8:10.

There was no BARS Board of Directors Meeting for December

BARS Membership

Our current combined membership is 121. To date only 23 of the 94 paid-up members in 2023 have renewed for 2024.

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 W1LUS@hotmail.com to get your current status.

from Bruce Anderson, W1LUS, 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 December 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 December we had income of \$210 from fourteen new/renewals, \$125 from the sale of the donated NC 300 and a \$4 donation. Our expenses were Zoom \$16.99 and PayPal \$11.12. We now have \$1256.89 in the bank and \$660.54 in our PayPal account for a total of \$1920.43.

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

Starting in February, club meetings will be held in person and via Zoom. 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 \(map\)](#)

VE Session Report for December

We had four people show up for the December VE exam session. One upgraded to General, another upgraded to Extra and two new General were created.

Our next exam session will be at the Chelmsford Bible Church on January 11 at 7:00 PM. You may pre-register for BARS VE exams at <https://HamStudy.org>.

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, 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 in Billerica.

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

Future Meetings

We will again have the BARS Holiday Party at The Great Wall Restaurant in Bedford, MA on Wednesday night 1/10/24 at 6:30 PM in lieu of the January meeting.

The February meeting will be on 2/7 and will be hybrid – in person AND 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

January 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:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Jan 6	ARRL Kids Day http://www.arrl.org/kids-day
Jan 6-7	ARRL RTTY Roundup http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup
Jan 13-14	North American QSO Party, CW https://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
Jan 20-21	North American QSO Party, SSB https://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
Jan 20-22	ARRL January VHF Contest http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf
Jan 26-28	CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW ** http://www.cq160.com/rules.htm
Jan 27-28	Winter Field Day https://www.winterfieldday.com/

** 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: Bill Poulin, WZ1L
BoD: Steve Wedge, W1ES/4
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