



BARS Billerica Amateur Radio Society

NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

MAY 2025

BARS meetings are now “hybrid” – the meeting will be held at the Chelmsford Bible Church and available simultaneously on Zoom.

The safety and well-being of our membership is important to us. Those members who feel uncomfortable attending in person can continue to join us over Zoom.

--BARS Management.

A Message from the President By Doug Bruce, N1WRN

Greetings, Fellow Members,

I hope everyone is having a good late Spring. The weather is finally becoming spring like, with temps in the 70's this week. Fingers crossed that the weather holds up for Near Fest May 2-3 (we will know as of the time that you read this article how it was!). Near Fest is always a fun time whether it rains or is sunny. You get to meet so many hams and you will have to buy that item that you absolutely cannot live without!

DX wise, as of this writing the following dxpeditions are listed in Club Log as active on the live stream; TX9a Austral Islands, C21TS Nauru, VK9DX Norfolk Island, and 5H1KB Tanzania, among others. Club Log is one of the best tools if you want accurate real time data so you can work the dxpeditions. They have a great propagation tool to tell you when the best time is to reach any particular dx entity.

As of now, we are on the slow downside of Solar Cycle 25, so there is no better time than the present to GOTA (Get On The Air!) and make some great and rare contacts on the bands.

Also as of this writing, we have not received a commitment from Kevin Fallon regarding our Field Day site. I will keep everyone posted. We have been asked to take our items out of the garage and store them elsewhere, but we have not received a no to using the site either. We are hoping to use this site this year, as it is

perfect for our needs for Field Day. As always we are looking for volunteers to help with the set up on Friday night and Saturday, as well as taking down the station Sunday afternoon when Field Day is over. Also, the ARRL has a very nice looking gray Field Day t-shirt that you may want to consider purchasing for the event.

Additionally, I would like to tell everyone that starting with the June meeting, and continuing with the July and August Club meetings, that we will have meetings in these three months via ZOOM only to give everyone a chance to get outside and enjoy the weather, vacations, etc. We will resume in person meetings with the September 2025 meeting at the Church on September 3, 2025.

Lastly, I hope that everyone can take some time now that the weather is getting better to get outside and make sure that the cruel winter did not do any damage to any of your antennas. DX season is almost behind us now propagation wise, so now would be a good time to size up your antennas and make any necessary repairs.

As always, I want to remind everyone that we here at B.A.R.S. are a G.O.T.A Club, so get down in the shack and make some contacts and have some fun with the greatest hobby on Earth!

Until next time,

73,
Doug
N1WRN

Next BARS meeting: May 7 at 7:00 PM - “Andy's Ham Radio Linux”

Speaker: Andy Stewart, KB1OIQ

I am pleased to announce that our Guest Speaker for the May 7th meeting will be Andy (KB1OIQ) Stewart. He will talk about a software collection that he created called "Andy's Ham Radio Linux". Andy will talk about the history of the software collection, where to get it, and then an overview of the available programs.

Andy is an extra class licensee who has been in the hobby since 2007. Andy is a past president of PART of Westford. He retired in August 2024 from a career as a digital logic verification engineer. Andy also enjoys repairing antique radio receivers and chasing DX.



We 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.

I am looking forward to “seeing” many of you there on Wednesday, 5/7, at 1900.

Doug, N1WRN
President, Billerica Amateur Radio Society

From the Editor's Desk By Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

A rule of thumb when constructing RF gear (or any circuitry, really): if it looks pretty, it will likely work well; if it looks messy, it likely won't.

Case in point is the direct conversion 40m receiver described in this month's feature article. Look at the way the circuit board are laid out – the Manhattan-style construction technique almost mandates good RF wiring practices. Runs are short and components are laid out on an orthogonal grid.

While you could get away with messy, point-to-point wiring at 7MHz, such scattershot layouts are unlikely to work at 2m or higher. So, develop good habits with HF projects and they will serve you well at VHF and above.

You may not feel the need to make your own gear now but keep this maxim in the back of your mind in case you ever do.

Feature Article: My SolderSmoke 40M Direct Conversion Receiver Project

By Wayne Geiser, KC1ONM
(2025-April)

Disclaimer: I am not an electronics expert. All mistakes in this article are undoubtedly due to my lack of knowledge and poor understanding of the concepts involved.

Some months ago, the SolderSmoke podcast extended a challenge to build, from scratch, a 40-meter receiver. It was originally designed for a high school class. They expressed several goals. Among them was building a ham radio receiver that could be understood at the component level using all discrete components (no integrated circuits). Most importantly, they challenged their community to do something hard, something most hams would never do.

They challenged us to use the “Manhattan Style” PCB Construction technique. Pads are cut from copper-clad PCB material and glued atop another copper-clad PCB board. The board below the pads becomes the ground plane, and the pads (or islands) are the connection points for wires and components.

The Resource Manager (Jay, KA1PQK) of the ham shack at my makerspace (MakeIt Labs, Nashua, NH) decided this would be a great project to do as a group. Each week, we built and tested our own copy of one of the modules. Many thanks to Jay. Without his (and the rest of the group's) help, I wouldn't have been able to complete this.

The receiver consists of the following modules. Each module is built and tested independently. The schematics can be found on the SolderSmoke Discord channel. There are other versions

around the Internet. You should use those on the Discord channel, as they contain important corrections. Discord is the “official” home. They also produced videos for their YouTube channel on the construction and testing of each module. *[See the links under “Resources”, below. – ed.]*

Variable Frequency Oscillator

This is a simple Colpitts oscillator circuit. The variable inductor is a 3D printed form with some magnet wire wound around it. Screwing a brass screw in and out of the coil varies the inductance to tune the receiver.

Mixer

This is a diode ring mixer design with a diplexer at the output.

Bandpass Filter

It is a dual-tuned circuit with a pair of toroidal windings.

Audio Amplifier

They rejected using an IC amplifier as they wanted it to be completely analog. Instead, they designed a three-stage common-emitter amplifier with an audio output transformer.

Observations

Construction

I’ve read complaints about winding toroids in various places. I found this to be easier than I expected, even when we had to wind three strands of wire together before winding them around the “doughnut.”

The “Manhattan-style” construction was pretty straightforward. Each junction on the schematic became a pad whose size was based on how many connections needed to be made. It is still important to plan out the complete circuit beforehand. For the amplifier, I constructed it phase-by-phase and found myself out of room on the last phase. I had to make a sharp left-hand turn for the last part. That made some of the connections longer than I would have liked. It didn’t affect the operation.

Testing

It was comforting to be able to test each module separately. By doing that, there was a much better chance of the receiver working when the modules were combined. The Oscillator was tested using an oscilloscope. We used this to both prove that the circuit was oscillating (seeing the sine wave on the ‘scope) and also to adjust the coils on the 3d printed form to get the output of the oscillator in the range for the 40-meter ham radio band (having the ‘scope display the frequency). Jay had a dual-output signal generator, which made testing the mixer very easy and precise. The signal generator is not hard to learn to use, but I didn’t have one.

We used a nanoVNA to adjust the bandpass filter output shape to reject as many frequencies out of the 40-meter band as possible. I had never used one before, and having help using one (both calibration of the tool and reading the output to adjust the module) was a great help.

Integration

The last night that we got together, we connected the modules together. Each module was attached to a small board, and its base was connected to the others with a solder braid ground strap. A nine-volt battery powered the radio.

When completed, we took our radios to the ham shack and connected them to an antenna for “proof of life.” The SolderSmoke hosts requested a video showing that your radio could receive different kinds of signals as you tuned up and down the band to be included in the “Hall of Fame” topic on the Discord channel. Three out of four worked properly. The fourth had worked, but before coming in that night, the builder connected it to a power supply that he “thought” was nine volts. It wasn’t, and it blew out every transistor on the board. A day later, he had repaired the damage done and made his video. Four new receivers in the HoF!

Finishing



I was not satisfied with the “bare board” look, and so, I made a few “improvements.” I found a cigar box of the proper size to hold all the boards and cut a thin piece of plywood to fit within the box.

I used the MOPA laser at MakeIt Labs to mark the purpose of each module directly on the copper cladding on the PCB and created a name plate for the top using the same technique.

I performed some carpentry on the cigar box to allow the BNC antenna connector, the brass tuner bolt, a power LED, and the volume knob to be installed through the sides.

I used the CNC router at MakeIt to cut slots in the lid for the speaker to play through.

I used the 3D printers at MakeIt to print the tuner form, a holder for the nine-volt battery, and a bracket to attach the speaker to the underside of the lid. I also improved the look of the speaker cutout with a two-color “button” as an homage to the SolderSmoke podcast that started me on this journey.

I bought a jewelry box clasp from Rockler to make sure the lid stays closed until I want to open it.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly for performance, I replaced a number of the longer runs of wire with shielded wire.

When first tested, the radio seemed more sensitive to higher volume levels than it does now.

One last lesson I learned ... if things don't seem to be working right, replacing the battery can do wonders!

Resources

Complete details of how to build the receiver can be found at:

<https://hackaday.io/project/190327-high-schoolers-build-a-radio-receiver>

SolderSmoke Discord Server:

<https://discord.gg/Fu6B7yGxx2>

SolderSmoke YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@soldersmoke>

YouTube video (on my channel) showing the final build and operation:

<https://youtu.be/bXsmMfDWvOA>

Feature Article: Field Day Update

By Mark Nelson, KA1INE

It's that time of the year again to look forward to field day which is right around the corner! It will be held over the weekend of June 28th and 29th. For new hams who may not know about field day, it is a chance to hone your operating skills making as many contacts as possible within a 24 hour period. The contest extends

across the whole country and Canada and gives the club a chance to work together as a team. It's a great event to practice setting up antennas and equipment for emergency communications.

In past years we've held the event at the Billerica Emergency Communications Center (EOC). They have indoor facilities, generators, and sleeping quarters, and have been gracious in allowing us to store some equipment there from year to year. There have been requests made to again have access to the EOC but we have not heard back from management after a couple of requests. There have been some changes made at the location so we may have to seek an alternative site this year. I would like to ask the club to submit ideas on other possible field day locations since time is short to get everything in place.

Kevin Fallon, who is our liaison and safety officer between the EOC and BARS, also a BARS member, has also said that the equipment stored there should also be relocated after this year's field day.

Generally, we have a few people meet on the Friday before field day to inspect the antennas and raise the 80 Meter dipole. Saturday morning, we also need volunteers to build the beam antenna and to set up the radios to begin operating at 2:00. On Sunday we'll also need a team to help break down the equipment after the operation ends. As you can see, it takes a good team to make all of this happen so please volunteer to be on one of these teams.

We're also waiting for further confirmation of who will be providing the food and to act as the group chef. If this is of interest to anyone willing to help make it a success, then please contact me at my email address below.

The main objective is to get the group together to operate different equipment, meet new people and most of all have fun making contacts. It's always the highlight of the year and we look forward to everyone joining us. Again, if anyone has suggestions on an alternative location, please contact me ASAP.

Thank you!

Mark Nelson

KA1INE@ARRL.net

Announcements

Looking for operators from New Hampshire to join the K2K team

I'm excited to invite you to be an operator of the K2K team from New Hampshire for the 13 Colonies Special Event, taking place July 1-7, 2025!

This annual event, which celebrates the original 13 American colonies, is a fantastic opportunity to engage with fellow amateur radio operators from around the world, enjoy the camaraderie and teamwork of the K2K team, and contribute to a memorable and historic event.

We welcome operators of all experience levels and will provide the support and guidance needed to make the experience both successful and fun for everyone.

To confirm your participation, please send a quick email to k2k@hamlog.online

Feel free to share this invitation with your fellow amateur radio friends who might be interested in joining the fun!

Looking forward to hearing from you!

--

73 de W1UAA, Eugene
K2K manager

Westford MA Apple Blossom Parade ham radio operators needed - Saturday May 17, 2025

Hello fellow ham radio community members. It is that time of the year when we start pitching for ham radio support for the annual Westford Apple Blossom Parade.

As of 11 April, we have 14 ham radio operators who have volunteered. We could use at least 2 more hams to staff the event optimally. All you need is a handheld 2 meter radio. This is a GREAT first time event for anyone who has never tried their hand at a public service event with ham radio. Its great entertainment and rivals Halloween for those who have a sweet tooth!

This year's parade will be held rain or shine on Saturday, May 17th. The parade starts in Westford Center and ends at the Abbot School. It has been hosted by the Westford Kiwanis (<https://westford.org/kiwanis/>) and has a long history in town. PART has been providing comm support for many years. Parade starts at 10 AM, we usually muster around 8AM for any last minute updates and to insure adequate coverage. The parade is done usually before noon. Your assignment could finish earlier.

All you need is a 2-meter FM handheld that works with the Westford 146.955 WB1GOF repeater. Some assignments are stationary at specific parade route locations, others may be to be a shadow to one of the Kiwanis Parade organizers. We are looking for 12 (minimum) to 16 hams for this event.

The photo below is of last year's team.

If you'd like to sign up or need more information, please contact me, Terry KA8SCP ka8scp@arrl.net

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

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 through the process. An Elmer could have Zoom on their cell phone and show a new ham how their shack was set up. 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

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).

K1USN

SLOW
SPEED
LIMIT
20
WPM

BRAINTREE, MA

K1USN SST

Weekly CW Slow Speed [Con]Test

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-- de Tom Walsh, K1TW

Another recurring event:

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

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 the way online exams are run.

--de Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

Secretary's Reports

from Marla Wallace, WA1GSF, Secretary

April 2nd General Meeting Minutes

I forgot the date of the meeting night, so I missed it. Bad secretary! Bad secretary! No biscuit!

April BARS Board of Directors Meeting

There was no Board of Directors meeting in April.

BARS Membership

Our current combined membership is 158. There are thirteen members that haven't renewed for 2025.

Anyone with a question about their renewal status can email me at W1LUS@hotmail.com to get your current membership status.

from Bruce Anderson, W1LUS, Treasurer

2025 BARS Member Dues

A \$15 annual BARS membership begins on January 1st and expires on December 31st. Any renewal or new membership made after September 1st will be valid until December 31st of the following 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 May 2025

Dues for 2025 are now due. Dues for 2025 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,
- or with cash or check by mailing \$15 to Billerica ARS, 16 Regis Road, Tewksbury, MA 01876

In April we had 2 new/renewals, for \$30 income. Our expenses were Zoom \$16.99, PayPal \$1.01. We now have \$676.74 in the bank and \$1908.12 in our PayPal account for a total of \$2584.86.

Bruce Anderson
WILUS

BARS Does breakfast every Saturday.

On Saturday mornings at 8:15AM, we meet for a casual, social breakfast at Stelio's restaurant in Billerica.

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

Photo Feature: From the Mailbag

Since before there was an amateur radio service hams have embraced, and in many cases, invented new technologies. Subjects such as satellite communications, the alphabet soup of digital modes and SDRs are great examples of where amateurs have moved technology forward. The venerable QSL card is no exception.

The concept of an 'electronic QSL card', or eQSL was introduced in the late 90s by the website [eqsl.cc](https://www.eqsl.cc) (<https://www.eqsl.cc>). eQSLs replace a physical QSL card with an electronic confirmation of a QSO. Generally, they take the form of an email message often with a graphic attached simulating a paper QSL card. Typically, the process to exchange eQSL confirmations is that an op will export a log from their logging software, upload that log to the eQSL service, and then download a listing of confirmations. Many online eQSL services also support generating email messages to your QSO partners. The QSO confirmations are created when your QSO partners also upload their logs to the service. The service matches the logs and generates the confirmations.

Because there are many of these eQSL services and you can't know which service your QSO partner uses it may be necessary to upload your logs to many online services to receive your confirmations. Many computer logging programs offer the option to upload contacts directly in real time as you log new contacts.

The most widely used of these services is Logbook of The World (LoTW – <https://lotw.arrl.org>) run by the ARRL. It is open to all hams, worldwide; you do not need to be an ARRL member to participate. Personally I have a 65% confirmation rate on LoTW. Sadly, LoTW does not offer an email based eQSL service. In addition to being the most widely used of the eQSL services, the contacts uploaded to LoTW qualify for all ARRL awards (WAS, WAZ, DXCC, etc.).

The ARRL does not recognize eQSL confirmations made through other services. If you are a paper chaser, this is a huge benefit.

A few of the other eQSL services offer their own award programs, QRZ.com (<https://qrz.com>) for example has many awards available to ops who upload logs to their service.

There are also software packages that will generate eQSL emails on your computer. This skips the need to upload your logs to an online service and sends the eQSL directly to your QSO partner, often with a generated image of a QSL card. I'm sure that most of you have received at least a few of these. The advantage of this approach is that it is immediate (or at least as immediate as email can be). However, they do not provide any confirmation of a two-way contact that you will get with an online service. I have quite a few of these messages that report contacts that are not in my log.

Personally, I'm a sucker for a paper card. Call me old fashioned (I prefer the term 'traditional') but I get a real kick out of opening the mailbox to find a card from some far off place (Like New Jersey, hihi). But like so many things in this hobby of ours, to each our own.

This month's cards come from my collection of eQSL cards.





What interesting/meaningful cards have you received? Send a scan of them to k1dc.radio@gmail.com (who instigated this new column), or directly to me (see the masthead for my email address), and we'll share them with the group. Extra credit if they have a story to go with them!

April Get-on-the-Air Suggestions from Andy Wallace, KA1GTT

KA1GTT, Andy Wallace, here. I am offering my input for this month's Get on the Air column for May. These are contests which can be on HF or VHF/UHF, and may be SSB (voice), CW (Morse code) or digital (FT8, etc.) modes. If you are a beginner, contests can still be a lot of fun. Most of the time the rules expect you to submit electronic logs of your activity, but I know hams who simply want to exchange QSLs for confirmation.

Contests can be frantic - rapid exchanges (what info the stations pass back and forth) and careful rules of engagement. But others are more casual. It always helps to tune in stations and listen to the exchange and get a feel for the methods.

One of the best resources for finding out what contests are upcoming is the WA7BNM website and his 8-day contest calendar at:

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php>

This gives a snapshot of the next 8 days and you can instantly see what contests are longer term (like across weekends) and thus more popular.

The 12-month calendar is excellent for getting a snapshot of an entire month in advance. Surprisingly, I find it has more contests listed than the "Perpetual" site view. The 12 month is what I used to compile this month's hot contests.

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.php>

Note: contests are listed in UTC (Coordinated Universal Time or Greenwich Mean Time) day and date. This is the time going

through the 0 degree meridian (Greenwich, U.K.). If you are new to hamming you need to know hams historically have used UTC to align with hams around the world in a way that being on the air at a certain time is simple. We're in Eastern Daylight Time right now, so that means UTC is 4 hours ahead of us. 0000Z being midnight Zulu/UTC/GMT translates to 8:00 PM EDT the night before. So taking for example the 10-10 contest below, the start of the contest is 00:01UTC May 3 (Saturday). Subtract four hours and you better have your rig ready at 8:01PM EDT Friday evening. Get it?

Here is KA1GTT's list of top contests for May 2025 - and please remember these are best-guesses on my part.

[The format of this list is new. For each entry, there is first a link to the contest/event description, then a link to the contest rules. Next is the schedule and finally any comments. —ed.]

1. NRAU 10m Activity Contest

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestdetails.php?ref=562>

<https://nrau.net/nrau-contests-in-general/>

1800Z-1900Z, May 1 (CW)

1900Z-2000Z, May 1 (SSB)

2000Z-2100Z, May 1 (FM)

2100Z-2200Z, May 1 (Dig), 2025

Exchange: RS(T) + 6-character grid square

Comments: this contest may be interesting to someone wanting to work Nordic countries. The membership includes: Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway, Finland, and Sweden.

2. 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestdetails.php?ref=5>

<https://www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules>

0001Z, May 3 to 2359Z, May 4, 2025

Exchange: 10-10 Member: Name + 10-10 number + (state/province/country)/Non-Member: Name + 0 + (state/province/country)

Comments: the 10-10 club is a longtime group of 10m enthusiasts. The sunspots are good so you may hear a lot of activity this time. Note you don't need a 10-10 membership. This one is CW only but they also do an SSB one during the year.

3. 7th Call Area QSO Party

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestdetails.php?ref=404>

<http://7qp.org/>

1300Z, May 3 to 0700Z, May 4, 2025

Exchange: 7th Area: RS(T) + 5-letter state/county code / non-7th Area: RS(T) + (state/province/DX)

Comments: Need those 7 district states in your log? Get on and grab WA/ID/OR/NV/MT/WY/UT and AZ!

4. Indiana QSO Party

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestdetails.php?ref=8>

<http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html>

1500Z, May 3 to 0300Z, May 4, 2025

Exchange: IN: RS(T) + county / non-IN: W/VE: RS(T) + (state/province) / DX: RS(T) + "DX"

5. Delaware QSO Party

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestdetails.php?ref=240>

<https://www.fsarc.org/>

1700Z, May 3 to 2359Z, May 4, 2025

Exchange: DE: RS(T) + County / non-DE: RS(T) + (state/province/"DX")

6. New England QSO Party **

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestdetails.php?ref=10>

<https://neqp.org/rules/>

2000Z, May 3 to 0500Z, May 4

1300Z-2400Z, May 4, 2025

Exchange: CT,ME,MA,NH,RI,VT: RS(T) + state + county / non-NE: RS(T) + (state/province/"DX")

Comments: this is a BIG ONE for our area. As posted to the BARS email list, there will be LOTS of New England stations on and lots of folks clamoring to get New England! Now's the time to rack up QSOs with rarer states like VT and beloved (KC1FTJ) RI!

7. Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestdetails.php?ref=672>

<https://wvsac.com/rules.html>

0100Z-0159Z, May 6, 2025

0100Z-0159Z, May 13, 2025

0100Z-0159Z, May 20, 2025

0100Z-0159Z, May 27, 2025

Exchange: RS + age group (OM, YL, Youth YL or Youth)

8. Canadian Prairies QSO Party

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestdetails.php?ref=717>

<https://cpqp.ve6hams.ca/>

1700Z, May 10 to 0300Z, May 11, 2025

Exchange: VE4/5/6: RS(T) + district code / Non-VE4/5/6: RST + (state/province/"DX")

Comments: Get on this one to work Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba!

9. Arkansas QSO Party

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestdetails.php?ref=132>

<http://www.arkqp.com/>

1400Z, May 17 to 0200Z, May 18, 2025

Exchange: AR: RS(T) + County / non-AR: RS(T) + (state/province/"DX")

10. CQ WW WPX Contest, CW **

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestdetails.php?ref=29>

<https://www.cqwpw.com/rules.htm>

0000Z, May 24 to 2359Z, May 25, 2025

Exchange: RST + Serial No.

Comments: this is another BIG CW contest. You will hear all the bands hopping.

**** Top recommendation for this month**

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 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 about 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 held in person (weather permitting) and via Zoom. A link will be sent via the BARS email reflector to all currently paid-up members who might wish to attend via Zoom.

Club meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM Eastern time.

VE Sessions

Our VE sessions are 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 April 2025

We had Three people show up for the April 10 VE exam session. Results were one new Technician, John, KC1WPH, plus two Extra upgrades. Be sure to say hello if you hear them on the air.

Our next exam session will be on May 8 at 7:00 PM at the Chelmsford Bible Church. Thanks to Gary, W1GFF, Shawn, N1CVO, and Bill, W1ZL, for their help conducting this exam session. While walk-ins are still welcome it speeds the process up if you pre-register for your BARS VE exam session at HamStudy.org.

--de Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

Future Meetings

The next BARS General Meeting will be held at the Chelmsford Bible Church on June 4th at 7:00 PM. A Zoom link will be sent in the club email feed prior to the meeting for those who would prefer not to attend in person.

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

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