



BARS Billerica Amateur Radio Society

NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

AUGUST 2025

The August BARS general meeting will only be on Zoom.

A Message from the President By Doug Bruce, N1WRN

Greetings, Fellow Members,

I hope that everyone is having a good summer. The mercury reached 98 degrees here in Reading today, 7/29, but the next week or so will be much cooler and drier.

As the days get shorter, the DX “nights” are getting longer. Over the last few days, the sun has quieted down some, making 15 and 17 meters open to Europe and Asia in the late afternoon and early evening here on the East Coast. Hopefully the sun is quieting down for the Fall and Winter DX season. We are definitely starting on the downside of cycle 25 so get out there and make those contacts on 10 and 12 meters before those bands go away by December of 2030 at the next Solar minimum.

I would like everyone to know that I will be bringing a \$50 Bertucci's Gift Card and thank you note to the upholstery shop across from Nan's house. That was a wonderful gesture on their part and I want them to know how much the Club appreciated being able to use their parking lot for Field Day. Hopefully they will allow us to use the lot again next year, as we will be having Field Day again next year at Nan's house and the porch that we used will be totally refurbished and should look very nice for our Field Day operations.

On another note, I would like to put the word out that we will be needing Net Control Stations to periodically take over running the W1HH Net on Wednesday nights. It is very easy to do and it is a lot of fun, and would be a good way to give back to the Club if anyone is interested. If you are interested, please email

me at douglas.bruce1@comcast.net and I will get you into the NCS rotation on Wednesday nights!

In other news, I heard that the Billerica repeater may be back on the air real soon. When it is back on, I will be sending out an email poll asking our members which repeater we should use for the W1HH Net. I got an email from the MMRA indicating that if we go back, they would like a donation from the Club to help defer expenses of the new repeater. I will keep the membership posted on the progress of getting the 147.12 machine back on the air.

Lastly, I am quite intrigued by the recent discussion of a B.A.R.S. membership patch! I think this is a great idea and we should further explore it for the Club. The design is great and any member would be proud to have one! Keep up the lively discussion and design work that I have seen on the B.A.R.S reflector email lately! Nice to see members talking to other members via the email.

We could incorporate the design on tee shirts, sweatshirts, drinkware etc. in order to raise money for Club operations and functions.

Until Next Month, G.O.T.A. (Get On The Air)! Those microphones do not key themselves!

73,
Doug
N1WRN

**Next BARS meeting: August 6 at 7:00 PM
- “TBD”**

Speaker: TBD

As of press time, a speaker for the August meeting has not been secured. Watch the email reflector for an announcement when a speaker has been found.



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@wlhh.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, 8/6, at 1900.

Doug, N1WRN
President, Billerica Amateur Radio Society

From the Editor's Desk

By Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

Think the peak of solar cycle 25 has been achieved? Maybe not. While the general consensus is that the peak occurred in July, observations show that the sunspot distribution between the northern hemisphere and the southern hemisphere of the sun is asymmetrical, causing a few solar scientists to wonder if this cycle still has a surprise left for us.

In the usual sunspot cycle, the earliest sunspots appear at high latitudes in both the northern and southern hemispheres. As the sunspot cycle progresses, the sunspots appear closer to the sun's equator and are symmetrically distributed with respect to their latitude. That's not the case with Cycle 25. The sunspots in the southern hemisphere are further from the sun's equator (on average) than the sunspots in the northern hemisphere.

While predictions of sunspot activity are always “your mileage may vary”, the thinking in some quarters is that we will either get a second peak or the peak will be broader than it typically is.

Anyway, we are still getting geomagnetic storms and flares. Monitor the space weather sites and expect the unexpected when it comes to both propagation blackouts and surprise VHF openings. So Get On The Air and see what's possible.

Photo Feature: Field Day 2025

By Mark Nelson, KA1INE

Hello BARS!

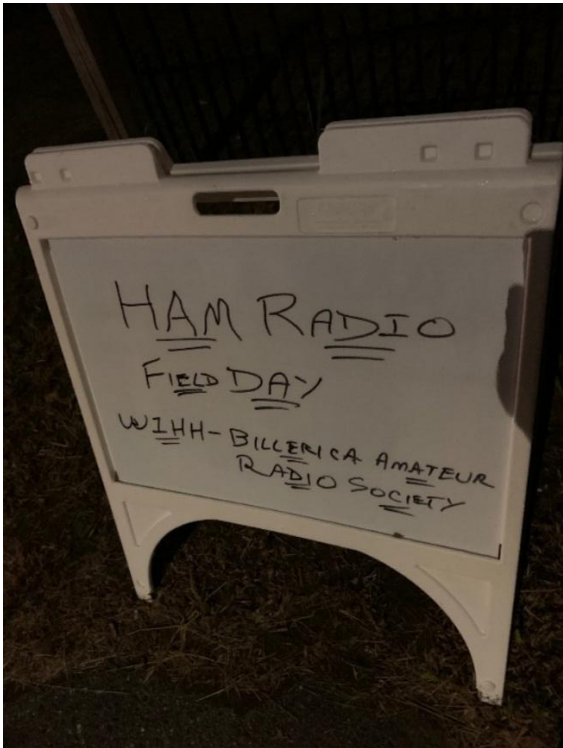
We had another successful field day this year even with a last-minute change of venue and a new choice of food for the weekend. Thankfully Nan Araway, NK1A, generously volunteered to host the event at her home so we could all enjoy field day. Doug, N1WRN, arranged for the food from 'What the Fork' so we could all be well fed and energized to make contacts during the day.



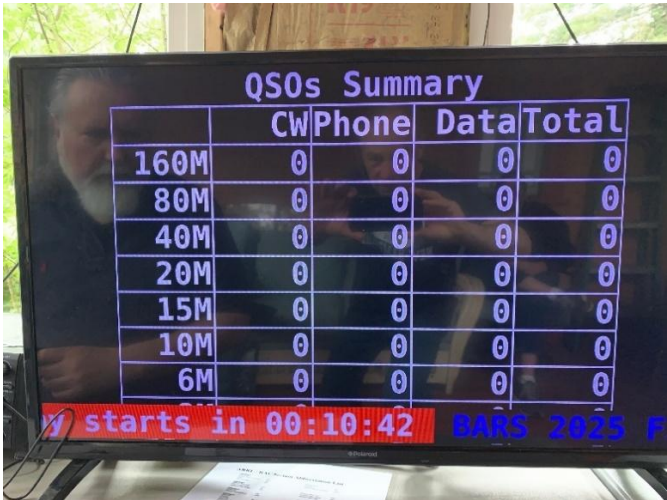
Friday night we had a good-sized group of volunteers to help scout out and place the antennas so we would be ready to operate at 2:00 on Saturday.



The dipoles were placed using a drone this year which worked out really well, with a minimum of problems getting ropes in the trees. This was a method I had not seen before so it was great to see a new way of hoisting antennas, Thanks go to Dwight Doane, KC1WXT, for the use and skilled operation of his drone.



Saturday operation started on time, and we began to make contacts after a slow start.

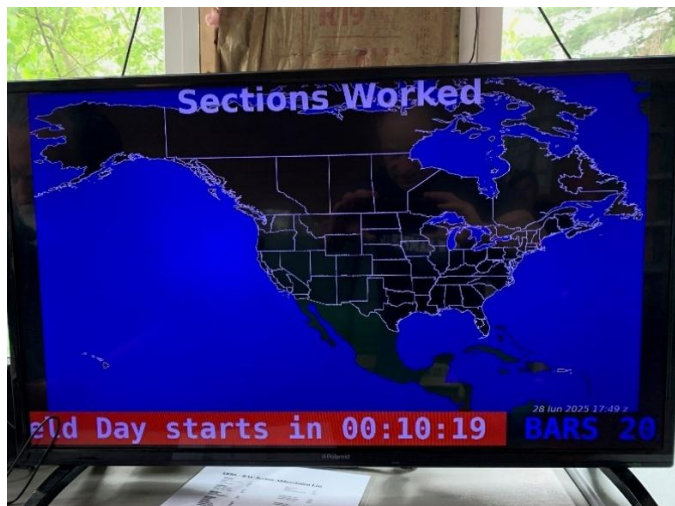


We ran full-time on emergency power using a generator supplied by Peter Norden, N1ALO, so we could receive an extra 100 points.





Slowly but surely, the map of states began to be populated with new contacts as everyone had a chance to get on the air and operate.



The porch area was a cozy spot to sit and make new friends from people within the group who had never met in person before. We shut down operations around 9:00 and began again early Sunday morning.



In all we had over 30 people attend the event and the weather turned out well with no rain this year. We earned 562 points from QSO's and 880 from bonus activities for a total of 1,442 points! Many of these were from FT8, CW, and SSB, so many different modes contributed to the total score.



The activity ended promptly at 2:00 and the antenna take-down crew began bringing down the dipoles and tower to be stored away under Nan's barn for next year. The Billerica EOC had

asked for all the BARS equipment to be removed so we needed a new place to store the tower and tribander.



The weekend ended with many good memories and the satisfaction of a job well done by all. I want to thank everyone for participating and making this year's field day another success. It wouldn't have happened without the help of all involved.

73,
Mark Nelson
KA1INE
Field Day Coordinator

Announcements

The Northeast HamXposition is this month!

(This is what many of us old-timers remember as Boxborough.)

We are working hard to improve HamX by bringing in more vendors, more sponsors, better forums, a better flea market, and great prizes. We also need help from clubs to promote HamX within the local clubs. We need more participation that gets more vendors excited to attend.

For example, the Friday night DX themed banquet is sponsored by DX Engineering this year. DXE has donated a \$3300 Icom IC-7610 HF transceiver.

As of now, there is \$8000 in door prizes to be awarded, and we expect more. If you attend Saturday night's banquet, you could win a Yaesu FT-710 Field. There are some great prizes that will be awarded at Sunday afternoon's door prize drawings, too.

We need your help publicizing HamX and urging your members to attend. *[therefore, we are running this announcement in the BARS newsletter through the August issue – ed.]*

Larry, W1AST
Chair, HamXposition Marketing & Promotion
Chair, HamXposition Prizes

HamX - The Northeast HamXposition
August 21 - 24, 2025
ARRL New England Division Convention
The Northeast's largest gathering of radio amateurs, featuring in-person experts presenting on timely topics, trends and technologies

Thursday Night Comedy Kick-Off
Featuring Comedian Justin McConery
Thursday, August 21, 2025

Friday Night DX/Contest Banquet
Featuring Ned Shearn, AA7A
Friday, August 22, 2025

Convention Keynote Address
Featuring Thomas Witherspoon, K4SWL
Saturday Morning, August 23, 2025

Saturday Grand Banquet Presentation
Featuring Nathaniel A. Fissell, W2NAF
Saturday Evening, August 23, 2025

Over \$14,000 in prizes • Large Outdoor Flea Market • W1XPO GOTA Station
ARRL • ACOM • FlexRadio • Elecraft • Quicksilver Radio • Reliance Antennas • VE2DX Electronics
Lido Radio • Gold Medal Ideas • Scanner Master • plus many more!

Talks and Presentations: 2.4 GHz xcvr Build • Kit Building Workshops • MARS • YL Meet & Greet • 3-D Printing • Youth Forum • FEMA Talk • SWR and S-Parameters • Remote Radio Transmitter IMD • Demystifying Quantum Computing • ARRL Section Meetings • Operating all Bands • Club Forum • Andy's Linux • MESH Update • and more!

August 21 - 24, 2025 • Boston-Marlborough MA • hamx.org

And the Northeast HamXposition needs YOU!

Please follow the link to <https://hamxposition.org/volunteer-with-us/> and see how you can help.

Besides enjoying HamXposition, the following “perks” are available:

If you work 2 x 2 hr shifts

- Free admission (or)
- Lunch voucher for Friday or Saturday (no lunch on Thursday or Sunday) (or)
- Another ticket for the Sunday drawings

If you work additional 2 x 2 hr shifts, you can get

- one additional lunch voucher-if you haven't taken the admission option

Questions? Contact Barbara Irby, KC1KGS, at kc1kgs@hamx.org

--de Bruce, K1BG
ARRL ACC / EMA

Technician In A Day Class

At the 2025 Northeast HamXposition and New England Division Convention, Sponsored by the Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association

Our Technician In A Day Session is a study course. The course allows you to become licensed by the Federal Communications Commission as an Amateur Radio Operator.

You should obtain a copy of the ARRL Technician Class License Manual. You may purchase this book at Ham Radio Outlet or any other amateur radio related store.

You should read the book. The information contained therein will allow you to answer questions on a 35-question test for obtaining your Technician License.

There are videos on Youtube.com at W4EEY that explain the theory and cover the questions to enhance your knowledge. You may also take practice exams at <https://hamstudy.org> for comprehension.

TECH IN A DAY CLASSROOM (HUDSON) — SESSION – SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2025 8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

1. You should apply and obtain a FCC Registration Number at: <https://apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do>

2. You will be charged a slight fee for this course. \$40.00. For Adults and Teenagers 18+ (Normally, \$15.00* for the Examination \$15.00 for study materials and \$10.00 for snacks and drinks which will be provided for the session.) *Minors under 18 years Test Fee is \$5.00 -- Course cost: (\$30.00)

3. The Tech In A Day Session will be almost a full day session (8 AM to 5 PM)

Registration begins 8:00am - 8:50 am.

a. The first Study Session begins at 9:00 AM for 45 minutes and you will be given a 15-minute break before the next session begins at 10 AM.

b. Three study sessions will be held before a lunch break (approximately 11:45 AM-1:00 PM)

c. There will be three more study sessions in the afternoon to run to 3:45 PM.

d. Testing will begin approximately at 4:00 PM.

You will be administered an examination of 35 questions of which you must score at least 26 out of 35 or better to PASS.

Upon completion of your successful examination, you will be handed a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE Form).

Your Exam results will be forwarded to the ARRL VEC in Newington, CT for processing to the Federal Communications Commission. When your license has been processed, you will receive an email from the FCC requesting the \$35.00 Application Fee.

Note:

PLEASE USE A COMPUTER TO MAKE THIS PAYMENT – (TABLETS AND CELLPHONES DO NOT WORK!)

Upon receipt of your payment, you will receive an email with instructions on how to download a copy of your new license.

If you would like more information, you may email us at caarave@caara.net or Telephone (978) 504-9112 for more information.

Thank you

73,
Bill Poulin, WZ1L

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.

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).



-- 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

July 2nd BARS General Meeting

Doug called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:05.

Club Business:

- The membership authorized \$205 (in addition to the allocation approved last month) to cover excess Field Day expenses.
- Nan graciously indicated that she was willing to host FD again next year.
- We made 230+ QSOs.

The program began at 7:30 and ended at 8:50.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55

There were 11 attendees.

There was no July BARS Board of Directors Meeting.

BARS Membership

Our current combined membership is 146. There are twelve 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 July 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 July, we had one renewal for \$15 income and two ARRL renewals for \$10 income Thanks to Mike, KE1LU, and Tim, K1DC. Our expenses were Zoom \$18.05, PayPal 11.66, Field Day \$535.74 for food, \$14.25 for generator fuel and a \$50 Gift certificate to Michael's Custom Upholstery for parking. We now have \$1091.82 in the bank and \$881.35 in our PayPal account for a total of \$1973.17.

Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

BARS Does breakfast every Saturday.

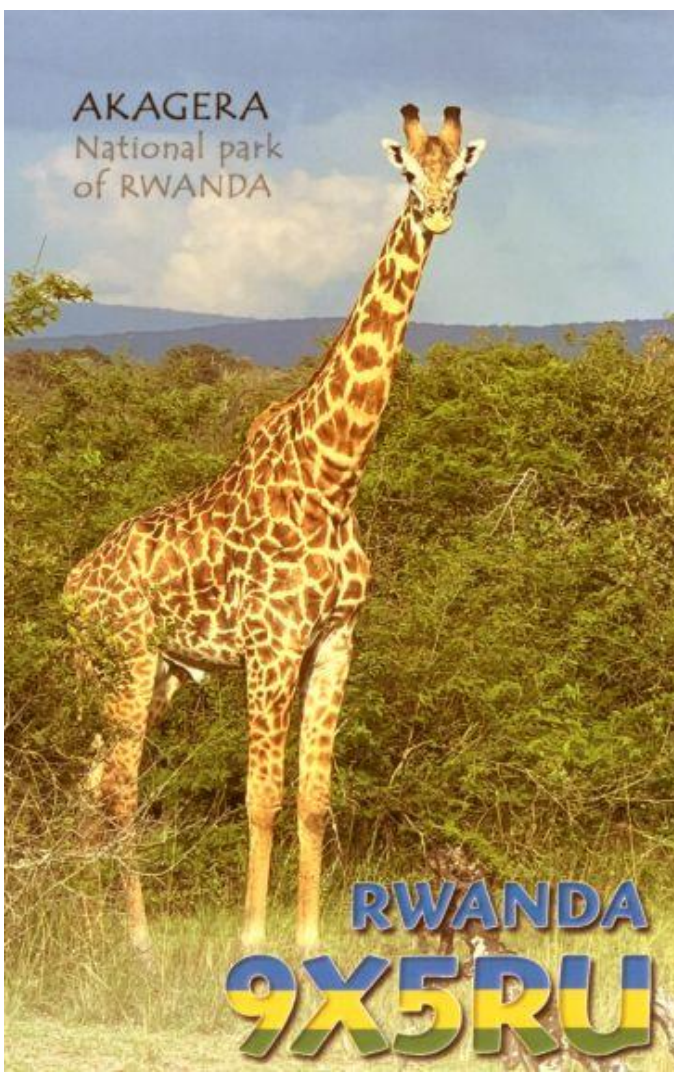
On Saturday mornings at 8:15AM, we meet for a casual, social breakfast at Stelio's restaurant in Billerica.

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

Photo Feature: From the Mailbag

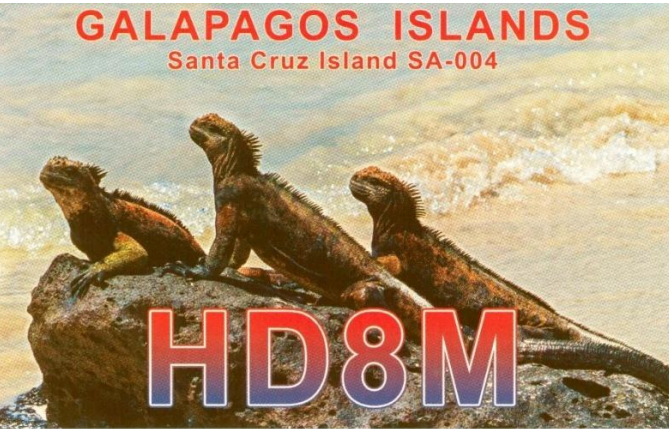
I've not received a great many QSL cards in my short time as a ham, a few hundred at most. Enough to be representative of the genre I should think. Among the ones I have received many common themes of QSL design have emerged; photos of the shack, of antennas, the operator themselves, exotic locales, etc. For the next few months I'll highlight some of those themes from cards I've received.

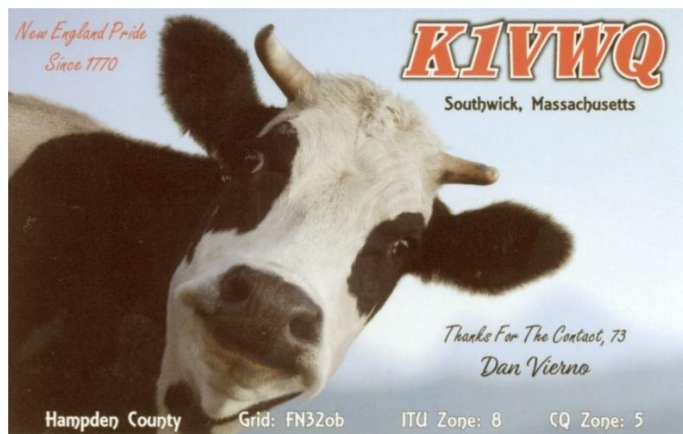
This month, I'm going with animals. Specifically, photos of real animals, not cartoons. Although the animalistic nature of this species is well established, I'll not be including humans in this category. <hihi>





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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>

Of note: contests are listed in UTC (Coordinated Universal Time or Greenwich Mean Time or Zulu) 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 use 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. 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? And for Eastern Standard Time we'd be 5 hours behind.

Before we get to this month's list of contests, an admission:

MAJOR EGG ON MY FACE / HUMBLE APOLOGY / DROPPED THE BALL!

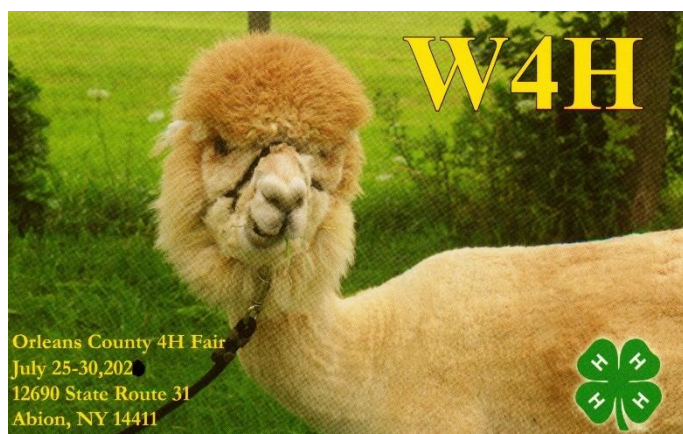
I am SO sorry I did not research further last month and instead relied on WA7BNM's list only. I missed one of the best contests: 13 COLONIES!

<http://www.13colonies.us/>

See the website to see what you missed this year. ☺ It's a great contest involving stations from the original 13 colonies (states now), plus England and France.

To avoid repeating this mistake in the future, I really should resubscribe to the ARRL Contest Calendar to get a wider range of events. For instance:

<https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2025/August%202025%20Corral.pdf>



As always, if you have received any interesting cards, animal included or not, please send them along to k1dc.radio@gmail.com and I'll share them with the group!

73, Tim/K1DC

July 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. These are contests which can be

Anyway, here is KA1GTT's list of top contests for August 2025
- and please remember these are best-guesses on my part.

1. 10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB
<http://www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules>
0001Z, Aug 2 to 2359Z, Aug 3, 2025
Exchange:
10-10 Member: Name + 10-10 number +
(state/province/country)
Non-Member: Name + 0 +
(state/province/country)
Comments: the Ten-Ten club (no relation to Ten-Tec!) specializes in 10m operations. You can see <https://www.ten-ten.org/> about the club. They issue serial numbers to members but you don't need one to play in the contest. The sunspots are back and the high bands are open. Get on 10!
2. **North American QSO Party, CW ****
<https://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>
1800Z, Aug 2 to 0559Z, Aug 3, 2025
Exchange: NA: Name + (state/DC/province/country)
Comments: if you know Morse Code, this is one of the BIGGEST contests. It will be wall to wall signals in the low portion of every band.
3. Kentucky State Parks on the Air
<https://k4msu.com/kypota/>
1400Z-2200Z, Aug 10, 2024
Exchange: W/VE: (state/province)
4. Maryland-DC QSO Party
https://www.w3vpr.org/Maryland-DC_QSO_Party
1400Z, Aug 9 to 0400Z, Aug 10, 2025
Exchange: non-MDC: (state/province/country)
5. **North American QSO Party, SSB ****
<https://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>
1800Z, Aug 16 to 0559Z, Aug 17, 2025
Exchange: NA: Name + (state/DC/province/country)
Comments: this is another BIG contest for voice this month!
6. ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY
<https://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>
1800Z-2359Z, Aug 17, 2025
Exchange: NA: Name + 2-digit year first licensed +
(state/province/XE area/DX)
Comments: the Rookie Roundup is for amateurs licensed 3 years or less. However, if you have been licensed longer (gosh I've been on the air FORTY-FOUR YEARS) the object is to work the rookies!
See note, below.
7. Hawaii QSO Party
<http://www.hawaiiqsoparty.org/>
0400Z, Aug 23 to 0400Z, Aug 25, 2025

Exchange: non-HI W/VE: RS(T) + (state/province)
Comments: Marla's kitty ears just perked up! KH6 can be a challenge to work from Massachusetts and when the stations are on, it's usually a crowd calling them (slang: DX pileup). Get on and see if you can work The Aloha State.

8. Ohio QSO Party
<http://www.ohqp.org/index.php/rules/>
1600Z, Aug 23 to 0400Z, Aug 24, 2025
Exchange: non-OH: RS(T) + (state/province/"DX")
9. U.S. Islands QSO Party
<http://usislands.org/qso-party-rules/>
1200Z, Aug 30 to 0300Z, Aug 31, 2025
Exchange: Non-Islands: RS(T) + (state / province / country) (see rules for digital)
Object: To promote the U.S. Islands Awards Program (USI) to amateur radio operators worldwide. To promote verifiable amateur radio contacts with stations located on islands in the United States and its Territories and Protectorates. U.S. island stations work everyone. Non-island stations work only U.S. islands stations.
10. Colorado QSO Party
<http://ppraa.org/coqp>
1300Z, Aug 30 to 0400Z, Aug 31, 2025
Exchange: W/VE: Name + (state/province)
11. Kansas QSO Party
<https://ksqsoparty.org/rules/KSQPRules2024.pdf?1>
1400Z, Aug 30 to 0200Z, Aug 31 and 1400Z-2000Z, Aug 31, 2025
Exchange: non-KS: RS(T) + (state/province/"DX")

** Top recommendation for this month

More information about RTTY for those not familiar with it:
RTTY stands for Radioteletype. RTTY is one of the original "digital modes." In the dark ages, it required hooking a RTTY converter (demodulator) to a receiver and connecting that to a large, oily, loud mechanical teletypewriter. Take a look at this video to see what this involved:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxkygWI-Wfs>

and also

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EO1QOt9DVzI>

Marla built a computer in the 1970s where the interface was a mechanical teletype [KSR-15]. BARS member Jesse Creamer, W1DEA (SK), enjoyed RTTY a lot and was published in RTTY journals.

RTTY is a conversational mode. If you enjoy FT8 you must also know the exchange is predefined and short. On RTTY you can talk more! And since technology has marched on, running RTTY nowadays is as simple as hooking a USB cable between your computer and transceiver.

<https://www.aa5au.com/rtty/getting-started-on-rtty/page-01/>

and other sites may help.

If nothing else, this contest is a good time to set up your RTTY software and make sure it's working. I use an iPhone and one interesting app I have installed is Black Cat Systems' NAVTEX PAD. This uses the iPhone mic to decode RTTY audio playing from the speaker of your HF receiver. It can work well. This sort of thing can allow you to eavesdrop on RTTY and decide whether to make the jump to try it on transmit. See:

[black cat systems RTTY article](#)

Final comment: Wow, there's a raft of state QSO Parties this month, plus NAQPCW and NAQPSSB. If you get on and enjoy operating one of these events, please send an email to Marla at walgsf@comcast.net

Reminder: details on each of these contests 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 July 2025

We had Four people show up for the July 10 VE exam session. Results were one Extra upgrade and three new Technicians, Teresa, KC1YAH, Sean, KC1YAQ, and Christopher, KC1YAR. Be sure to say hello if you hear then on the air. Our next exam session will be on August 14th at 7:00 PM, at the Chelmsford Bible Church. Thanks to Gary, W1GFF, Shawn, N1CVO, Bammi, WS1M, Peter, N1ALO, 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 via Zoom and at the Chelmsford Bible Church on September 3rd at 7:00 PM. For those who prefer, a Zoom link will be sent in the club email feed prior to the meeting.

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