



NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

JANUARY 2026

There will be no January BARS general meeting. Instead, we are having the BARS Holiday Party on January 14th at the Great Wall Restaurant in Bedford at 6:30 PM. General meetings will resume with the February meeting, which will be in-person at the Chelmsford Bible Church and on Zoom (hybrid).

A Message from the President By Doug Bruce, N1WRN

Greetings, Fellow Members,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season to close out 2025. As a reminder, we are having our B.A.R.S. Holiday Party on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 6:30 PM at The Great Wall Restaurant in Bedford, MA. We will be having the buffet, which will cost \$33.25 per person (including tax and gratuity.) The food here has always been good, as has the ham radio fellowship of the night. We will also be doing a Yankee Swap, (\$20.00 maximum gift value) for all of those who wish to participate. This is a great chance to meet up with fellow hams and match a name to a face to those that you may talk with during the year over the radio.

This party will be in lieu of our January 2026 Club Meeting. We will resume regular hybrid meeting for the February Meeting, which will be held at the Chelmsford Bible Church, 128 Gorham St in Chelmsford, MA on Wednesday night, February 4, 2026. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at these two events, so I hope you can join us for both gatherings!

My latest project is sprucing up my mobile radio set up in my 2015 Toyota Corolla (which only has 37,400 miles on it!). The radio that I am using in the car is a golden oldie, a Standard Twin Bander. A 2m/440 radio that I purchased a few years

back from Willie Smith, N1BJJ. This rig has the controls and screen all included in the microphone. It has been a learning curve to negotiate the Owners Manual for this rig. The radio has the control box that resides in the trunk of the car, while the hand microphone stays up at the front of the car with the driver.

It is a fun rig to use once you figure out how to program and use it. I had one issue though. Every time I would key the mike, it would send out a pager tone over the repeater, which was annoying to others who use the repeater I was on. I scoured the manual for several hours trying to turn off these tones. Eventually I discovered that the pager function was turned on and all it took to remove it was one press of the 6 key on the microphone! I was a happy camper to get this resolved, and I am sure all the folks on the repeater were just as happy to not hear the pager tones!

On another note, Winter Field Day 2026 is coming up in a few weeks. This event is a good time to get on the air and make a lot of contacts during the winter months. Some hams brave the cold and set up outdoors, but this is not a requirement. You can participate in Winter Field Day from the comfort and warmth of your shack at home. I have listed two links below, one being the rules, and the other is the Winter Field Day organization's web page that has further information if you wish to participate. As a G.O.T.A (Get On The Air!) Club, I encourage everyone to get out there and key those microphones and participate! I guarantee you will have fun!

<https://www.winterfieldday.com/>

<https://winterfieldday.org/downloads/2026-rules-v3.pdf>

Lastly, I would encourage any member who is interested to consider becoming a Volunteer Examiner. I have been to my first session as a VE and it was rewarding to be able to participate in a very special night for a ham, that being Exam Night, to get your first license that being Technician Class, or upgrade to a General Class or Extra Class Operator. The latter two classes can administer exams to an equivalent or lower class license exam.

There is nothing like the feeling of telling a candidate that they have passed the exam they are sitting for! Being a VE is a great way to give back to our wonderful hobby! I hear also that one of the VE's wives makes great cinnamon raisin cookies for Exam Sessions (Thanks to Peter N1ALO's wife for providing these treats!)

Until Next Month,

73 and good DX,
Doug
N1WRN

BARS Holiday Party: January 14 at 6:30 PM at the Great Wall Restaurant in Bedford, MA

I am looking forward to "seeing" many of you there on Wednesday, 1/14, at 1830.

Doug, N1WRN
President, Billerica Amateur Radio Society

From the Editor's Desk By Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

I'm in New Zealand starting the middle of January. I'm going to miss the February meeting. And I'm going to have to ask that submissions for the February newsletter be sent to me before February 8th, since the newsletter for February will already be late, unfortunately, due to my trip.

Announcements

USA 250 Semiquincentennial Special Operating Event

Dear Massachusetts Hams,

I am reaching out to you, would like to be part of the 2026 ARRL Celebration of the USA 250 Semiquincentennial Special Operating Event. This is part of the Year of the Club and the 100th Anniversary of the ARRL Field Organization along with a year-long Worked All States (WAS-250).

I am the state manager for Massachusetts.

For two weeks in 2026, there is the ability for stations located in Massachusetts to operate as W1AW/1. ARRL membership is not required. The weeks are as follows:

- February 11-18
- August 12-21

August 14th & 15th will be an SSB operation from the New England HamXposition in Marlboro. They will have precedence in choosing the band and mode (probably SSB) for a block of time. We are looking for ops that can get on multiple times during this week, from your club, home, mobile or portable stations and work stations that will be hunting you. Your transmitter MUST be in Massachusetts.

Modes that can be operated are:

- SSB
- CW
- Digital
- Satellite

ALL Logging MUST be done with computer logging that can export in ADIF format. The log will be sent to me once your operating has completed.

All volunteers will need to work together and share operating times with the team of ops. There will be an operation guide emailed a few weeks before the operating week to all volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering for the first Massachusetts operating in February, please contact:

Larry Krainson, W1AST
FunHamRadio@gmail.com

Thanks and 73

--de Jon W McCombie, N1ILZ
ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager
n1ilz@arrl.org



Call for Speakers

HamX is the largest amateur radio convention in the Northeast! With close to 1,800 attendees each year, HamX draws radio amateurs from all over and is an ideal venue to present your ideas and experiences.

This is a call for speakers on topics of general interest to the amateur radio community. Some examples include: Operating practices, contesting, DXing, mobile stations, emergency communications, emerging activities, STEM outreach, club improvement, radio history, restoring antique gear, test equipment, kit building, antenna design, AI in amateur radio, VHF/UHF/Microwave/Mesh, EME and more. If you have a story to share, we would like to hear about it.

To submit a talk proposal, please go to the following website and enter the requested information.

<https://registration.hamx.org/speaker/>

If you have any further questions, please reach out to the program chair at the e-mail address listed below.

We look forward to your contribution at HamX 2026!

--de Mark Noe KE1IU
HamX Program Committee Chairperson
ke1iu@hamx.org

Amateur Radio Volunteers needed for the 2026 Boston Marathon

Hello to all...

We appreciate everyone's patience as we make a post on the need for Amateur Radio Volunteers for the 2026 Boston Marathon. We are still in need of a large number of volunteers for the 2026 race. In addition, there will be no volunteer deadline extensions unlike past years so if you are even considering registering, please register before the listed deadline below of Friday 2/6/26.

In addition, there is a continued need for medical volunteers for the 2026 Boston Marathon and those interested in volunteering as a medical or general volunteer can use the register.hamradioboston.org link and they will be brought to the general volunteer page which can be utilized for those that are not Amateur Radio Operators to volunteer. Further details for Amateur Radio volunteers follow below:

Volunteer registration for the 2026 Boston Marathon is open and ongoing. If you've already registered to volunteer at the 2026 Boston Marathon, we'd like to thank you for your interest in joining our team!

For anyone who hasn't yet, please don't delay! Volunteer registration closes on Friday, February 6. It would help our planning processes if you could complete your registration by Friday, January 30. Registration Link (for new and returning volunteers):

<https://www.baa.org/races/boston-marathon/info-for-volunteers/>

Step by Step Sign Up Guide:

<https://hamradioboston.freshdesk.com/support/solutions/articles/44002570599-2026-volunteer-registration-step-by-step-guide>

A few notes for volunteers:

Almost all amateur radio positions are single person assignments. We are not able to group people on a single assignment, but we will try to accommodate which segment you are assigned to in order to allow for similar start/end times.

We'd like to extend our sincerest congratulations to the winner of the Boston Marathon ARO bib lottery, Sparsh Bansal, KC1MGP. We're looking forward to cheering you on!

Final documentation is generally released during the first week of April. Before this can happen, we need the final logistical details from the various area coordinators for Start, Course, Finish, and Transportation. Where possible, we will release documents as they become available. In this case, look out for emails from the committee and your Team Captain.

As always, we appreciate your help in getting the word out to prospective volunteers. Please send this to hams or clubs that you think may be interested in joining us on the amateur radio team for the 2026 Boston Marathon!

If you have any questions about the content of this message or about volunteering at the marathon in general, please don't hesitate to send them to contact@HamRadioBoston.org.

We're looking forward to seeing you all again soon!

Thank you, and 73,

Boston Marathon Communications Committee
contact@HamRadioBoston.org

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

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

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

BARS Membership

Our current membership is 146. There are eleven members who haven't renewed for 2026.

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

Secretary's Report for December 2025

Doug called us to order at 1900. This meeting was Zoom-only.

Club business:

- We are switching the net to W1DC. Doug will announce it before the next session.
- Our meetings will stay hybrid. The membership prefers this format. Dave suggested a different microphone or a second one for audience participation in the hall.
- Dave described the improvements to the W1HH.org website that he has made, including a request-to-use-the-club-callsign form.
- The Holiday Party will be at the Great Wall on Jan 14.

The program began at 1930 and ended at 2030.

We adjourned 2045.

There were 19 attending.

Secretary's Report for December 1st, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors meeting was convened at 1900.

Attending: Doug, Marla, Bill, Bruce, Dave, and Steve.

Business:

- Doug will be taking over for John re the new ham outreach.
- The board proposed Zoom-only meetings except for special purposes.
- We discussed switching to the Billerica repeater (W1DC) for the net and decided to let the membership choose at the December general meeting.
- To help defer operating expenses, a donation to the MMRA and to encourage club members who use the repeater to obtain membership in MMRA.
- Use of club callsign - Dave will present the process.

The meeting adjourned at 2005.

Treasurers Report for January 2026

Reminder: 2026 Dues are due starting January 1, 2026. BARS Dues are from January 1 to December 31. Dues for 2026 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 December we had eight new/renewals for \$120 income, \$5.00 from the ARRL (thanks to KC1ONM's renewal) and a \$100 donation for the MMRA in support the Billerica Repeater (thanks to Paul K1VK). Our expenses were MMRA donation \$100, Zoom \$18.05, PayPal \$7.07 and \$16.88 to renew the W1HH.ORG domain name. We now have \$911.86 in the bank and \$1012 in our PayPal account for a total of \$1923.91.

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](#)

January 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 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° meridian (Greenwich, U.K.). If you are new to ham radio, 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 Standard Time right now, so that means UTC is 5 hours ahead of us. 0000Z being midnight Zulu/UTC/GMT translates to 7:00 PM EST. So, for a typical contest, the start of the contest is 00:01UTC November 7 (Saturday). Subtract five hours and you better have your rig ready at 7:01PM EST Friday evening.

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

1. **North American QSO Party, CW ****
<https://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>
 1800Z, Jan 10 to 0559Z, Jan 11, 2026
 Exchange: NA: Name + (state/DC/province/country)
2. **North American QSO Party, SSB ****
<https://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>
 1800Z, Jan 17 to 0559Z, Jan 18, 2026
 Exchange: NA: Name + (state/DC/province/country)
3. **Winter Field Day**
<https://www.winterfieldday.com/>
 1600Z, Jan 24 to 2159Z, Jan 25, 2026
 Exchange: Category + ARRL Section (or MX or DX)

** Top recommendation for this month

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>

Final comment: It is a VERY sparse contest calendar for January, but you can still have fun. If you don't do these contests, at least get on and call or answer! If you get on and enjoy operating one of these events, please send an email to the BARS email reflector, bars@w1hh.org.

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 Billerica 147.120 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**).

Repeater info:

W1DC

147.12 MHz

+600 kHz (normal) offset

Encode CTCSS 146.2 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 January 2026

We had one person show up for the December 11 VE exam session. Results were one new Technician, John KC1YRW. Be sure to say hello if you hear him on the air. Our next exam session will be on January 8 at 7:00 PM at the Chelmsford Bible Church. Thanks to Peter, N1ALO, Gary, W1GFF, 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 February 4th 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.

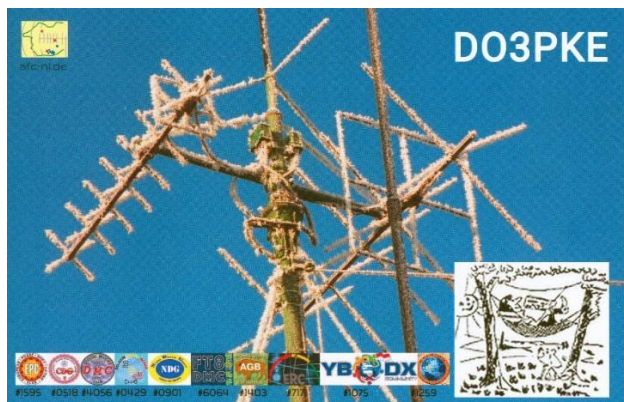
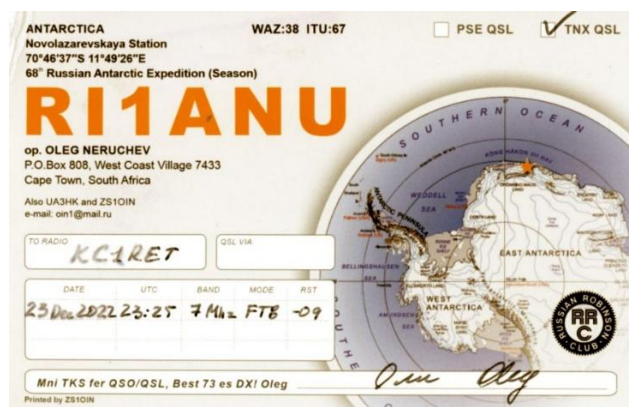
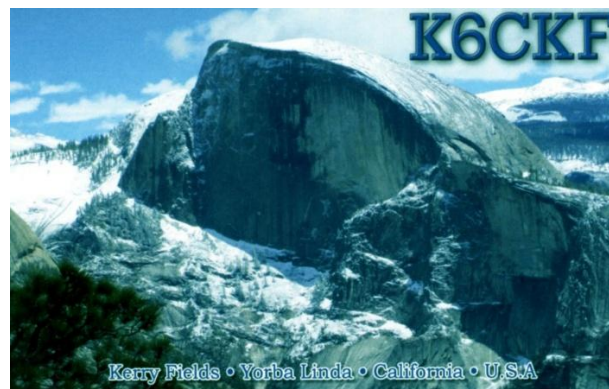
Reply to that message from the list server and you are then subscribed.

To post to the list, address your email to bars@w1hh.org

Photo Feature: From the Mailbag

During these months in New England the WX is not conducive to antenna work so most of us focus on work in the warmer climes of our shacks. Perhaps that New Year's resolution to finally get that spaghetti wire behind the radio desk organized and labeled (Why does the snake pit scene from *Raiders of the Lost Ark* come to mind?...). Or, perhaps it is to track down and banish and all those QRM inducing wall warts. Or, perhaps, to catch up on your QSL cards! (You see what I did there – pretty smooth, eh?)

For this month's theme I needed look no further than outside my window. Winter. Granted, there are far more tropical beach scenes on the cards I have but winter is also represented. The cards from RI1ANU and TF3VE many not exactly be in winter but there is snow, so it counts. ;-)





Show Me Your Cards! I would like to highlight cards from our club members. Send me a scan of your card or just mail one to me. Or bring one to the next club meeting and I'll collect them. Thanks!

As always, if you have received any interesting cards, hand-drawn or not, please send them along to

k1dc.radio@gmail.com

and I'll share them with the group!

73, Tim/K1DC

BARS Leadership Team

OFFICERS:

President:	Doug Bruce, N1WRN
Vice President:	David Marcucci, KC1TLF
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:	Doug Bruce, N1WRN
Field Day Chair:	Tim Carter, K1DC
Webmaster:	David Marcucci, KC1TLF



GERMAN AMATEUR RADIO STATION

DL1ARS



OP Michael • DOK P36 • LOCATOR JN48JH

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