



## NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

# BARS Billerica Amateur Radio Society

JUNE 2026

**Members are encouraged to bring flea market items to the meetings. We have a table in the back of the hall for folks to sell or give away excess items from your shack!**

## A Message from the President By Doug Bruce, N1WRN

Greetings, Fellow Members,

We are approaching that magical time of year, Field Day Weekend, June 26-28! This is ham radio's open house and it gives us a chance to put the word out about our great hobby. Ham radio is about the people, not just the equipment and how to set up and operate. One of the best parts of Field Day for me is getting together with Club members that ordinarily do not get to come to Club Meetings and other Club functions. Field Day is not a contest, but rather a chance to come out and be with other hams and operate and make contacts all over the world. Making contacts is important, but to me, it is far more important to build relationships with other hams. There is nothing quite like a relationship with an Elmer. Spending time with my Elmer are/were some of the best times I fondly remember as a ham.

I would like to take this time to acknowledge our new Field Day Director, Tim, K1DC. Tim has stepped in and filled Mark Nelson's shoes quite admirably. I like Tim's energy and focus on the task at hand! Tim is very personable, as well as being a technical genius. His set up of the gear last year was amazing! I am looking forward to the same quality of set up this year at Nan's house! I also wish to thank Mark for his tireless efforts the last few years as Field Day Director, and I wish him well in his new life in Florida.

The meal schedule for Field Day will be pizza on Saturday afternoon before Field Day officially begins at 2:00 PM

EDT18:00 UTC. For dinner Saturday night, I am in negotiations with my lovely wife Sheila about cooking us a delicious meal. I am sure the membership will be very happy with the meal she comes up with for us! For breakfast on Sunday morning, Nan has graciously volunteered to cook us a great meal. Everyone last year was very happy and full with the breakfast Nan cooked for us. On Friday night, June 26, we will be looking for volunteers to help with putting up antennas and general set up duties to prepare for the next day's operations. Any time you can give us on Friday night and over the weekend will be greatly appreciated!

We will be discussing Field Day plans at the Club Meeting at the Church on Wednesday night, June 3, so I encourage everyone to come! Bruce W1LUS will again be providing the coffee and donuts for the meeting, so come on by and mingle with your fellow Club members!

As always, our Club motto is G.O.T.A. (Get On The Air!) so Field Day weekend will give any and all members the chance to get on the air and make some contacts and socialize with the members of our great Club!

73 and good DX,  
Doug  
N1WRN

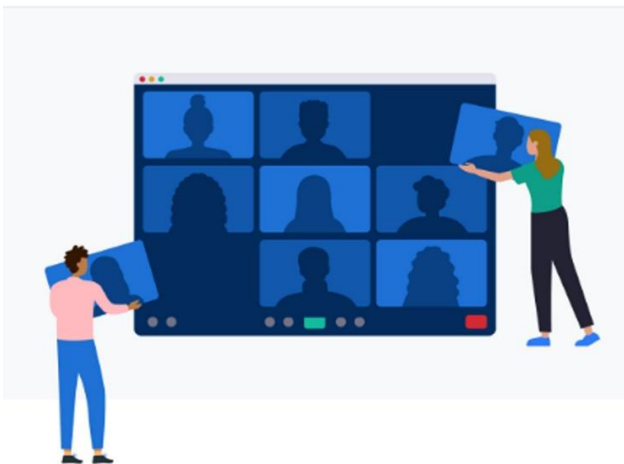
## Next BARS meeting: June 3 at 7:00 PM - "Trains and Amateur Radio" Speaker: Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

It gives me great pleasure to announce that our Guest Speaker for the June 3, 2026 Club Meeting at the Church will be Anthony Luscre, K8ZT, and he will be presenting a talk on Trains and Amateur Radio, highlighting his adventures mixing Amateur radio with various train excursions he has taken over the years. This will be a great talk, so you won't want to miss

it! We have had Anthony speak to the Club before and I was very happy with his last presentation on Portable and Field Operations. Here is Anthony's bio:

- First licensed in 1981 as KA8NRC, Anthony has been a QRP operator from his very first QSO (no one told him Novices should not start with a 2-watt QRP rig). He changed his callsign to K8ZT in June 2000 after upgrading to an Extra Class License.
- Anthony enjoys sharing his Amateur Radio interests with others by maintaining websites, including [www.k8zt.com](http://www.k8zt.com), writing articles for a variety of publications, developing an online course for the ARRL and doing hundreds of club presentations both virtually and in person.
- He also serves as ARRL Ohio Section Youth Coordinator.
- He is active in a variety of Amateur Radio activities, but his favorite activity is operating! Whether it is contesting, DXing, rag chewing, satellites, etc. CW, phone or digital, the QRP contacts have added up and are now top 115,000.
- First drawn to contesting by his love of working DX, he has consistently finished in the top ten of various major contests and finished first in the World and US in both CQ Worldwide Phone and CW QRP categories multiple times.
- As a bonus, his QRP DXCC total recently topped the 328 mark, and he has completed 11-band WAS QRP.

# zoom



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](mailto: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.

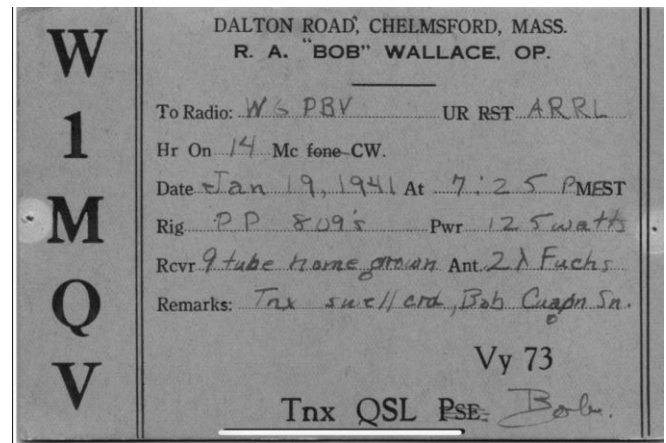
I am looking forward to “seeing” many of you there on Wednesday, 6/3, at 1900.

Doug, N1WRN  
President, Billerica Amateur Radio Society

## From the Editor's Desk By Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

Our June club meeting takes place on the birthday of the ham who originally held the W1HH license: my father, Bob Wallace. He would have been 106. Many of you knew him.

Bob was first licensed in 1940 with the callsign W1MQV



(which is so horrible on both CW and phone that nobody has picked it up as a vanity call since it went vacant over fifty years ago!). With the advent of “incentive licensing”, he obtained his extra class certification. When the “vanity callsign” program was introduced, he was able to get W1HH and operated under that call for the rest of his life.

He was an avid DXer, having worked 382 countries. For a time, he operated through the early Russian and AMSAT satellites, but got out of that game before the ISS was built. He worked Field Day almost every year.

When he died, Andy and I arranged for BARS to obtain W1HH as our club's callsign.

## Feature Article: A Word from Our Field Day Chairman

By Tim Carter, K1DC

ARRL Field Day is quickly approaching (June 27-28) and BARS will be active again this year with the club callsign, W1HH.

We will be at the same site as last year; Nan/NK1A's has graciously offered to host at her QTH in Chelmsford. Thanks Nan! We'll have two HF stations and a 6M 'bonus' VHF station active. The HF stations will be Icom 756s and the 6M station will be an Icom 756 Pro II. All stations will be configured for SSB, CW (BYO Key) and digital operation. We'll be running 'barefoot' (no amps) with 100W or less transmit power.

Antennas will be wire dipoles for 40 & 80M, a tribander on a modest tower for 10/15/20M and a small yagi for 6M. We will be participating in class '2A', meaning a station specifically set up for FD with 2 transmitters (the 6M station is considered a 'VHF Bonus' and does not count in the classification).

We'll also be having a go earning some bonus points by sending a Radiogram and copying the W1AW bulletin broadcast.

A key idea to keep in mind is that Field Day is a ham radio exercise, not a contest (although there are points and scores are tallied and rankings posted, hihi). While some of us may operate as if it were a contest (fast, terse contacts) the goal of BARS FD is to explore areas of the hobby that may be new to you and meet and chat with other hams. There is no schedule for operating; if there is a free chair have a seat, put on the 'cans and have at it!

We'll be hosting an antenna raising party the Friday evening before FD - mark your calendars now (June 26)! All hands are welcome.

Details on all the festivities will be posted on the email list. Look for messages that include 'FD:' in the subject line. Feel free to contact me directly with questions or comments – [k1dc.radio@gmail.com](mailto:k1dc.radio@gmail.com).

73 and hope to see you there!

## Strays

W1RJT (Rick Tedesco) became a silent key on 5-16-26.

## Announcements

### Nantucket Lightship to be Activated

We are planning to activate the Nantucket Lightship (LV-112) in Boston Harbor on Saturday, June 6th. If you would like to join us and operate from the radio room or would like to get more information about this and future activations, contact me.

Cheers & 73,  
Wayne, KC1ONM

### 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 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ARRL Field Organization along with a year-long Worked All States (WAS-250).

I am the state manager for Massachusetts.

For one week in August 2026, there is the ability for stations located in Massachusetts to operate as W1AW/1. ARRL membership is not required. The dates are 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, please contact:  
Larry Krainson, W1AST [FunHamRadio@gmail.com](mailto:FunHamRadio@gmail.com)

--de Jon W McCombie, N1ILZ  
ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager  
[n1ilz@arrl.org](mailto: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

[keliu@hamx.org](mailto:keliu@hamx.org)

### Upgrading Your License? Here's a Resource

If you are thinking of upgrading your license, I recommend that you use [HamStudy.org](http://HamStudy.org) for your practice exams because their practice exams use the same software, that is used to create online exams and BARS in-person exams. With HamStudy.org practice tests you should use a touch screen or keyboard to select the answer, A, B, C, or D.

A mouse is not allowed for in-person or online exams.

--de Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

### Making ZOOM available to Elmers

For a number of years, 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](mailto: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 6<sup>th</sup> of every month at 1200 UTC  
[http://www.skccgroup.com/operating\\_activities/weekend\\_sprintathon](http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon)

### BARS Membership

Our current combined membership is 139, with 36 that haven't renewed their membership for 2026.

Anyone with a question about their renewal status can email me at [W1LUS@hotmail.com](mailto:W1LUS@hotmail.com) to get your current membership status.

from Bruce Anderson, W1LUS, Treasurer

## Secretary's Report for May 2026

Doug called us to order at 1905 EDT. Coffee and donuts were provided and consumed by those attending in person – locusts! Like locusts they were, I tell you!

Club Business: \$500 was allocated for Field Day expenses.

The program, which was TBD until the day of the meeting, began at 1915. The topic was amateur radio operation using orbiting satellites. It's simpler than you'd think, though the equipment required has to have a few features that not every piece of gear or antenna provides.

After the presentation and a lively discussion, the program portion of the meeting ended at 2008. We adjourned moments later at 2010. There were 8 participants attending via zoom.

## Treasurer's Report for June 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](mailto: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 May we had three new / renewals for \$45 income. Our expenses were Zoom \$18.05, PayPal \$1.01, coffee and donuts at the general meeting \$36.63. We now have \$920.87 in the bank and \$1481.73 in our PayPal account for a total of \$2402.60.

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](#)

## June 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 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 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 8:01PM 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. Kentucky QSO Party  
<http://www.kyqsoparty.org/rules/>  
1300Z, June 6 to 0100Z, Jun 7, 2026  
Exchange: non-KY: RS(T) + (state/province/"DX")
2. RSGB National Field Day  
<https://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2026/rnfd.shtml>  
1500Z, Jun 6 to 1500Z, Jun 7, 2026  
Exchange: RST + Serial No.  
Comment: this is a chance to work the United Kingdom with hams (guess what?) out in the field! It's just like our Field Day (which is 6/27-28, below) except they put their keys and mikes to the left of the radio.
3. ARRL Inter. Digital Contest  
<https://www.arrl.org/arrl-digital-contest>  
1800Z, Jun 6 to 2400Z, Jun 7, 2026  
Exchange: 4-character grid square  
Comment: for those of us allergic to mikes and keys.

4. VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA  
<https://ft8activity-na.net/rules/>  
 144MHz: 0000Z-0500Z, Jun 4, 2026  
 432MHz: 0000Z-0500Z, Jun 11, 2026  
 1296MHz: 0000Z-0500Z, Jun 18, 2026  
 144MHz: 0000Z-0500Z, Jul 2, 2026  
 432MHz: 0000Z-0500Z, Jul 9, 2026  
 1296MHz: 0000Z-0500Z, Jul 16, 2026  
 Exchange: 4-character grid square
5. Portugal Day Contest  
<https://portugaldaycontest.rep.pt/rules.php>  
 1200Z, Jun 13 to 1200Z, Jun 14, 2026  
 Exchange: non-Portugal: RS(T) + Serial No.
6. **ARRL June VHF Contest \*\***  
<https://www.arrl.org/june-vhf>  
 1800Z, Jun 13 to 0259Z, Jun 15, 2026  
 Exchange: 4-character grid square
7. West Virginia QSO Party  
<https://www.qsl.net/wvqp/>  
 1600Z, Jun 20 to 0400Z, Jun 21, 2026  
 Exchange: non-WV: RS(T) (state/province/country)
8. ARRL Kids Day  
<http://www.arrl.org/kids-day>  
 1800Z-2359Z, Jun 20, 2026  
 Exchange: name + age + QTH + favorite color  
 Comment: Blue. No, RED! Aaaaaaaaargh!!!!!!
9. **ARRL Field Day \*\***  
<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>  
 1800Z, Jun 27 to 2100Z, Jun 28, 2026  
 Exchange: W/VE: Number of transmitters (see rules)  
     + Operating class  
     + ARRL/RAC section  
 Comments: this is THE BIG ONE, folks. It's a contest that's not officially a contest. Non-WARC ham bands will be jam packed with signals the whole time. BARS is having its own Field Day at Nan's house again – see the blurb surely in this issue! You can participate even if you are staying inside the house on grid power, so make any excuse to avoid mowing the lawn and get on the air!

### \*\* 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:

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](mailto: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



**The W1DC Site**

*Photo courtesy of Dwight Doane  
 annotations by Bob DeMattia, K1IW.*

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](mailto: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 June 2026

Only the VEs showed up for the May 14 VE exam session.

Our next exam session will be on June 11 at 7:00 PM at the Chelmsford Bible Church.

Thanks to Peter, N1ALO, Shawn N1CVO, and Gary W1GFF for showing up for this null exam session.

While walk-ins are always welcome it speeds the process up if you pre-register for your BARS VE exam session at [HamStudy.org](http://HamStudy.org).

--de Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

## Future Meetings

**The next BARS General Meeting will be held via Zoom and in-person at the Chelmsford Bible Church on July 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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.

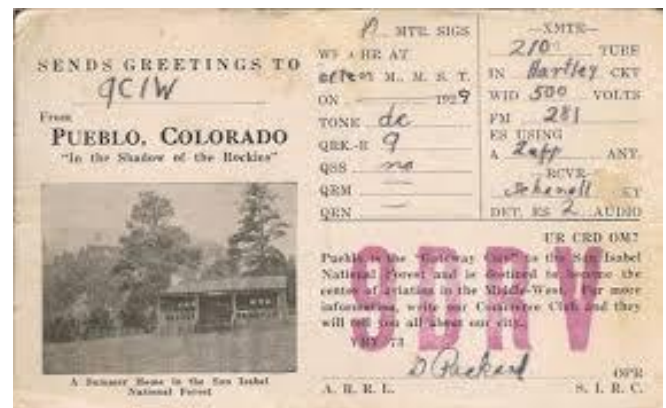
To post to the list, address your email to [bars@w1hh.org](mailto:bars@w1hh.org)

## Photo Feature: From the Mailbag

Back in 2023 I sent off a card to a famous (in technology circles at least) ham. Last week I received a large packet of cards from the bureau and a single card directly. While I'm still working through the pile from the bureau I ripped open the direct card to find a nice surprise; N1UL sent me a card! N1UL is the US call for Dr. Ulrich Rohde, the 'Rohde' of Rohde & Schwarz, the Hewlett-Packard of Europe.

That got me thinking about famous folks that are/were hams. A quick Google search returned a few; David Packard (9DRV), Joe Walsh (WB6ACU), Steve Wozniak (WV6VLY/WA6BND), Marlon Brando (KA6BJW), Yuri Gagarin (UA1LO), Barry Goldwater (K7UGA) and King Hussein of Jordan (JY1). I've personally seen cards from Goldwater and King Hussein; both were held by my original Elmer, K8CJQ.

Have you worked any famous/infamous hams? Youtubers?





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](mailto:k1dc.radio@gmail.com) and I'll share them with the group!

73, Tim/K1DC

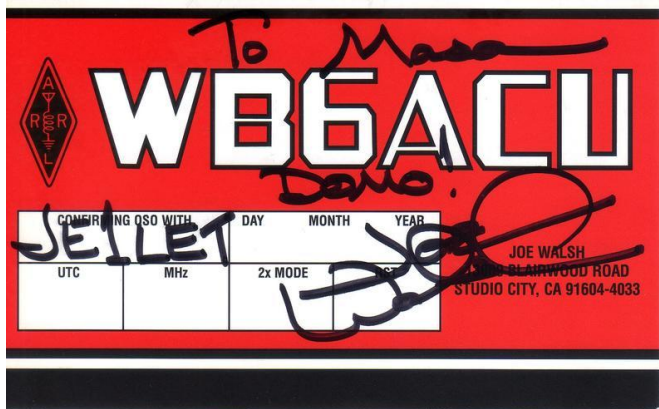
### BARS Leadership Team

**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



### Parting Shot

Q.: Why is exposure to UHF more dangerous than exposure to HF?

A.: Because UHF signals have more Hertz.

