



BARS Billerica Amateur Radio Society

NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER 2026

The September meeting will be hybrid (in-person and also via Zoom).

A Message from the President By Doug Bruce, N1WRN

Greetings, Fellow Members,

As I write to you this month, the days are definitely getting shorter. That means as the days get shorter, the DX night gets longer, enhancing the chances to work that rare DX station, (provided you have the propagation in your favor!)

Speaking of rare DX stations, on Saturday, August 22, I received my Holy Grail of a QSL card with the arrival of my QSL card from Bouvet Island! When I worked 3Y0K, they were the #38 most wanted DX entity in the world! The card is a nice glossy full color card with the boat and helicopter in the foreground with the island itself in the background, and a nice small Norwegian flagged tucked in the bottom right corner. It is a double card, and on the inside of the front cover, there is a photo of the Team and a list of their call signs and their roles on the DXpedition. On the other side, there is a detailed description of the DXpedition itself along with a map of the island and photos from the island. This Team got it right as they were able to make over \$100k Q's while they were on the island. I will cherish this card and contact as long as I am a ham!

In other news, we will be having the September 2, 2026 Club Meeting in person and on Zoom. This will allow us to re-open the "Free Stuff" tables so feel free to donate or sell items so that you can declutter your shack! Remember, one man's trash is another man's treasure, especially in ham radio circles!

Hopefully everyone got a chance to attend the Hamvention a couple of weeks ago. This event gives hams a great opportunity to meet face to face with other hams and enjoy some good camaraderie. The next big event will be NearFest on October 2nd and 3rd in New Boston NH. Let's have a strong B.A.R.S member presence for that event. It is a good time and who knows what you will find or who you run into! The new venue is more compact than Deerfield which makes it better to get around and see everyone and everything.

In Club news, keep in mind that Club Elections will be held during the November (in person and Zoom) meeting. As most of you know, I will be stepping down as President after 5 great years at the helm. Please be thinking of filling this vital role so that B.A.R.S. Will continue to be relevant and vibrant.

As always, this is a G.O.T.A. Club, so get out on the air and have some fun! Those microphones will not key themselves!

Until next month, 73 and good DX,
Doug
N1WRN

**Next BARS meeting: September 2 at
7:00 PM - "Ham Radio Maps and
Charts"**

Speaker: Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

It gives me great pleasure to announce that our Guest Speaker for the September 2, 2026 in person/Zoom Club Meeting will be Anthony Luscre, K8ZT and he will give a presentation on Ham Radio Maps and Charts for the Club. I am sure that this will be a very informative talk, so you won't want to miss this one! Here is Anthony's Bio:

Anthony Luscre, K8ZT, is a long-time amateur radio operator and educator from near Akron, Ohio, with a career spanning over four decades in the hobby. He

was first licensed in 1981 as KA8NRC and later upgraded to an Amateur Extra-class license in 2000, changing his callsign to K8ZT www.contestuniversity.com.

Anthony is renowned as a QRP (low-power) operator, having started with a 2-watt rig and now boasting over 115,000 QRP contacts and a DXCC total exceeding 328. His passion for operating has led to top-ten finishes in numerous major contests, including multiple first-place results in the CQ Worldwide Phone and CW QRP categories at both the World and U.S. levels. He also operates on HF and VHF/UHF, using CW, phone, and digital modes ARRL.

Beyond contesting, he enjoys DXing, rag chewing, and satellite operations. He is active in a variety of amateur radio activities, often sharing his expertise through club presentations, webinars, and publications. He maintains the website k8zt.com, writes for CQ Magazine (column "Ham Radio Explorer"), the DX Engineering blog "On All Bands," and is developing an online course for the ARRL.

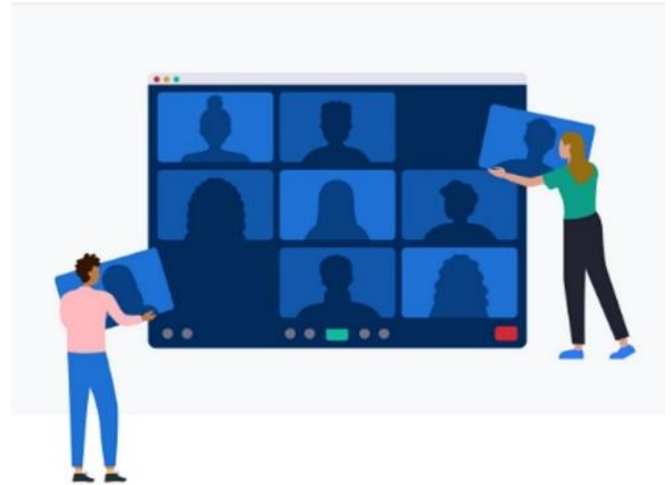
He serves as ARRL Ohio Section Youth Coordinator and is an officer in the Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club ARRL. He has presented over 500 sessions since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, including appearances at Contest University, the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo, Dayton Hamvention®, and the Long Island CW Club's weekly class "The Joy of Operating" ARRL.

Before retiring in 2017, he worked 20 years as a Medical Technologist in Clinical Microbiology, served as a private computer consultant, and spent 20 years as a Computer Technology Coordinator/Technology Director, most recently as a Technology Integration Specialist for 30 school districts.

In retirement, he volunteers as a Trainman on the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad and remains deeply involved in amateur radio education and youth outreach.

Anthony Luscre's career reflects a blend of technical expertise, competitive achievement, and a strong commitment to mentoring new hams and advancing the hobby.

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

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, 9/2, at 1900.

Doug, N1WRN
President, Billerica Amateur Radio Society

From the Editor's Desk

By Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

Your editor has been relaxing instead of composing her column. But can you blame me when I am ensconced in such a beautiful place? Someday, I'll schlep a rig and some wire and operate from here.



Feature Article: Activation of the Nantucket Lightship

By Wayne Geiser, KC1ONM

On August 15, the following operators descended on the Nantucket Lightship (LV-112) in Boston Harbor for International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend:

- K1DC (Tim Carter)
- KC1ONM (Wayne Geiser)
- N1AI (Dave Cherkus)
- N1ALO (Peter Norden)
- W1TKO (Mike Swatko)
- W2BPL (Chris Lennon)
- WA1GFZ (Frank Carcia)

Note: Chris brought his friend and logging partner, Jim Kuhn, along as well.



It was a beautiful day, and Boston Harbor was very busy. The ship was open for visitors, and there were quite a few. Several visitors told us that they had come specifically because the ship's newsletter mentioned that we would be activating aboard that day.

We operated for approximately 4 hours and 42 minutes, making contacts to 138 unique callsigns. We made all these contacts on 20 meters, most of us on SSB, but Chris and Jim made 23 CW contacts as well.

We worked two lighthouses, St. Augustine Light and St. Johns River Light (both in Florida). We also had DX contacts in Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Germany, Denmark, UK, and the Netherlands. There is more data on <https://www.w1nls.com>, including pictures and an interactive map on the page for this specific activation.

Mike and Frank worked with a couple of the antennas aboard ship (the beacon antenna that is strung between the towers and a vertical above the radio room). They were not able to get a stable SWR reading on the beacon antenna, so we never tried to do anything with it. Mike found a reasonable SWR reading for 40 meters on the vertical antenna, but when they connected the antenna to the radio, the noise floor was so high that they didn't try to use it to make any contacts. Mike has a few things he'd like to try next activation that might be more successful.

Our next planned activation will be in June of 2027 for Museum Ships Weekend. Join our mailing list if you would like to join us, or get updates on what is going on with the Nantucket Lightship Amateur Radio Club. There is a link on the w1nls.com website, or you can contact me (KC1ONM).

Feature Article: Final Thoughts about Field Day, 2026

By Tim Carter, K1DC

NOTE: Please take a few minutes and complete the 2026 Field Day survey. It is very important that all club members complete the survey as it will guide our planning for future Field Day activities. The survey is here: <https://forms.gle/g2bgtPjYAya18fNH9> Thanks!

2026 marks my 5th Field Day as a licensed ham and my first in the role of Field Day Coordinator. Frankly, I would suggest an adjustment of that title to 'Field Day Factotum' (see [merriam-webster dictionary > factotum](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/factotum)). I have a much greater appreciation for the time and energy required to perform this role that I may have had in the past. I was able to lean on a few folks that had performed this role in the past, Mark / KA1INE, Ken / WO1N and Jim / NIHTS. Thank You!



It was decided that we would again setup at the home QTH of Nan / NK1A in Chelmsford. She has made available an enclosed porch for operations and large grass field for antennas and large storage area to hold our tower and antennas between events.



After several weeks of planning, the time had come to put some aluminum in the air! We had several folks lined up to do the antenna raising the night before the event (Friday) but Mother Nature had other plans. The predictions were for severe thunderstorms with lightning. Well, after much consideration I concluded that pushing a large metal spike into the air with possible lightning in the area was not a good life choice. Antenna raising was deferred until Saturday morning. As expected, the evening was mostly clear with reasonable temperatures; perfect for antenna work. DRAT! The promised storms did not arrive until well after 9PM.

However, so as not to waste the time, Wayne / KC1ONM and I set up the radios and logging PCs. We then adjourned to the Center Brickhouse for a frosty beverage.

On Saturday morning, after a hearty carb and coffee breakfast the crew (Jim / N1HTS, David / KC1TLF, Dwight / KC1WXT, Ken / WO1N, Doug / N1WRN, Bruce / W1LUS and two young hams (whose names escape me) and myself constructed the A4S tribander and the 6M Yagis on the crank-up tower and wrestled it into the air. A minimum of hardware was lost in the

grass. ;-) Also raised were a multi-band OCF dipole for 40-10 and a 40/80M fan dipole provided by Bruce / W1LUS. We were able to reuse two lift ropes from last year's event and a third was threaded through a tree by Dwight / KC1WXT with his drone. It was during our antenna raising party that ARRL New England Regional Director Tom Frenaye / K1KI stopped by for a quick chat. Our first QSO was in the log just before 4PM local.



Conditions were OK-ish on 20 and 40. Two stations were active on SSB most of the afternoon and evening. Dave /

KC1TLF sent several RadioGrams via APRS and gave a presentation on DMR.



Dinner included chili (Jim / N1HTS) and grilled sausages (Mike / K1TWF) with potato salad and cole slaw by Nan. We shut down for the night at approximately 9PM local.

The party restarted on Sunday with a hearty breakfast provided by Nan / NK1A. The new day also added our first CW contacts from Chris / W2BPL. We closed out operations at 2PM local and began tearing it all down and packing it up for next year. The tear-down crew included ayne / KC1ONM, Chris / W2BPL, Jim / N1HTS, Doug / N1WRN, Bruce / W1LUS, two young men that Doug conscripted from Michael's Upholstery Shop, and myself. We had cleared the site by 5PM.



During teardown we replaced the lift-line loop rope on the western most tree which had gotten snagged on multiple joining knots when elevating the 40/80 fan. It is now a single loop of polystrand.



Here is a quick overview of our results:

Call Used:	W1HH
Entry Class:	2A
Participants:	20
Operators:	K1DC N1WRN W2BPL KC1OWN KC1WUV (5)
Power Source:	Gas Generator
Power Multiplier:	2 (100W max PO)

Claimed Bonus Points: 1050

QSO Totals by band & mode:	40M CW: 10	20
	40M SSB: 12	12
	20M CW: 10	20
	20M SSB: 133	133
	15M CW: 21	42

Total QSO Points:	186	227
Claimed QSO score:	454	
Total Score:	1504	

Equipment:

Radios:	Icom IC-756 & Icom IC-756 ProII
Antennas:	Cushcraft A4S tribander, 3 element 6M Yagi (both Yagis on ~35ft crank up tower), multi- band OCF dipole, 40/80M fan dipole

Announcements

EchoLink is now available for the BARS net

For the weekly W1HH net, EchoLink can be used by connecting to W1MRA-R. The W1DC repeater will be linked to the W1MRA/HUB1 system in Marlboro during this time.

With the recent upgrade to the interface for the Minuteman Repeater Association HUB1 system, multiple connections can be made. Other repeaters that are normally linked to HUB1 will also be part of the net. A map of those repeaters can be found at [MMRA Linking Info](#). If you are an MMRA member, you can link 147.120 to HUB1 to use EchoLink at other times.

--de Bruce Pigott, KC1US

Weekly Technician Class Licensing course on Zoom

If someone you know wants to get their tech license then I highly recommend classes with these people. This is a class where people will learn the stuff for their license and not just how to pass the test.

Anyone wanting to sign up needs to send email to: roland.anders@comcast.net and not to me or to the MMRA. 73 de Kevin (K1KWP)

A free, weekly, live, Amateur Radio Technician Class Licensing course on Zoom will begin on Thursday, Sept 3, and will run through Thursday, October 15 (seven sessions). The three-hour sessions will start at 6:30 PM Eastern Time.

These are the classes that we have been holding for years sponsored by the National Electronics Museum. Those wishing to sign up should send email to roland.anders@comcast.net. (Rol Anders, K3RA)
--de Tom Christovich K3YH

Join the monthly (on the last Wednesday) PIXIE NET

The monthly PIXIE net is always the last Wednesday of the month. We use netlogger.org and will monitor 7.023 and 14.060.

We are ordering chips so all amateur radio operators can join us with these amazing radios. We have the crystals ordered for 7.060 and when the crystals arrive, all hams will be able to build their PIXIE and have their first CW QSO on the monthly PIXIE net with us.

It is also okay to come to the net and tell us of your PIXIE trouble; we have helped many PIXIE users get their up and running.

So on August 26th at 0100 UTC, please get on netlogger.org and join us with your PIXIE.

73 de Niece, KA1ULN

Linux and Ham Radio Class

TL;DR: Linux and Ham Radio class is starting again. Send email to Andy (KB1OIQ) if interested: kb1oiq@arrl.net OR andystewart@polarismail.net

I've had a few people ask me if I would once again teach the "Linux and Ham Radio Class". I did this back in January 2026, and if I can get 4 - 6 students, I'll do it again.

The class will meet at the Cameron Senior Center on these 4 consecutive Tuesdays:

- Sept 15
- Sept 22
- Sept 29
- Oct 6

Meeting time: 12:00 noon - 4pm

To get the most benefit, please plan on attending all 4 classes.

What you need to bring:

- Your own laptop with nothing on the storage medium. We will erase ALL of it and install Xubuntu Linux and then "Andy's Ham Radio Linux". A minimum of 8GB of memory is preferable. It will work with 4GB but definitely no less than that amount. Exception: if you already have a laptop with Xubuntu and "Andy's Ham Radio Linux" installed, bring that computer. We won't erase it, but we will update it as needed.
- While it is possible to "dual boot" Windows and Linux on the same laptop, I won't do that in this class. Please be sure that there's nothing on the storage medium, or that it is OK to delete whatever is there.
- Power brick, mouse, etc. for the laptop
- Laptop: normal everyday 64-bit laptop computers, not much older than 5 years. We won't be doing Raspberry Pis this time around.
- Knowledge of how to get into your BIOS so that you can change the boot order
- Not for the first class, but be prepared to bring your ham radio, cables, dummy load, power supply, etc. We will hook them up to your computer and ensure that everything works with FT8.

What you will learn:

- basic Linux commands
- howto update Xubuntu software
- howto use some software in "Andy's Ham Radio Linux", e.g. wsjtx (FT8)
- sound configuration
- howto connect your ham radio to the computer for digital modes
- logging
- hamclock, gridtracker
- high level overview of the programs in "Andy's Ham Radio Linux"
- many other things, including ideas that you might have

This class is free of charge. The only request is that you bring some items for the Westford Food Pantry (downstairs in the Senior Center).

If you are interested, please send an email directly to me: kb1oiq@arrl.net OR andystewart@polarismail.net

--de Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)

Women's Ham Radio 'Technician' (beginner) Class

This class is taught by women, for women!

The Sept.-Oct. 2026 class will be offered online via Zoom

2026 Schedule for Sept.-Oct. 24, 25, 26, 1, 2, 3, 8 (7 sessions)

(All times given are Pacific Standard time)

Thursday Sept. 24: 7 – 9 p.m.	Thursday Oct. 1: 7 – 9 p.m.
Friday Sept. 25: 7 – 9 p.m.	Friday Oct. 2: 7 – 9 p.m.
Saturday Sept. 26: 1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Saturday Oct. 3: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
	Thursday Oct. 8: 7 – 9 p.m. (Q&A, review)
	Local VE session: Saturday Oct. 16 10 a.m.*

We suggest either The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, 6th ed.
Level 1 Technician, 2026 – 2030, or

Fast Track To your Technician Class Ham Radio License by Michael & Kerry Burnette.

To register for class: <https://yrl.net/classes-technician/> For more information contact:
Barbara Yasson AC7UH (that's her ham radio call sign)
Via email: AC7UH@arrl.net

The class is free, the textbook is available online, the local license exam costs \$15,
The FCC \$35 Amateur Application Fee is assessed after receiving new license info.
Contact Barbara for access to online class

*Saturday October 16 session will meet for license exam at 10 a.m. at the
49th St, LDS Chapel
14219 NE 49th St.
Vancouver, WA 98682



The link to register is: <https://yrl.net/classes-technician>

Upgrading Your License? Here's a Resource

If you are thinking of upgrading your license, I recommend that you use 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, 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

BARS Membership

Our current combined membership is 133, with 35 that haven't renewed their membership for 2026. Reminder: if your dues are not paid up, you will not be able to vote at the November meeting.

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 August 2026

I did not get the Zoom link in time for the meeting. (Comcast held onto the message for three hours – I didn't see it until about 8PM!) So, I'm relying on the AI summary that Zoom made. Errors, misattributions and omissions are computer-generated this month, instead of your secretary's usual sloppy job. Anyway, here's what the Artificial Stupidity had to say:

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The meeting was a club presentation featuring Bart W9JJ, a radio sport personality from the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), who discussed various aspects of radio sport including Logbook of the World (LOTW), awards, and contesting activities. Bart presented information about the new America 250 WAS (Worked All States) award that will be available within 36-48 hours, explaining how members can log their state contacts and qualify for the award with three possible endorsements. He demonstrated how to use LOTW to check award status, apply for awards, and manage certificates, including a feature that allows downloading all current certificates as a single file. The discussion covered various radio sport activities including VHF operations, DXing, and the use of JT Alert for monitoring needed contacts, with Bart sharing his personal experiences and challenges in working rare stations like Bouvet Island. The conversation ended with a question from Tim about the WRTC competition issue involving alleged pirate activity, to which Bart responded that such

matters would be handled by WRTC organizers rather than ARRL directly.

Next steps

David:

Post the 2026 Field Day results on the club website once the ARRL November QST results are published.

Tim:

Encourage all club members, especially those who were not present at Field Day, to fill out the Field Day survey.

Doug:

Share the PowerPoint presentation provided by BART with the club members.

Find a new president for the club before the November elections.

Set up and activate the newly purchased OpenSpot 4 Pro.

Summary

Ham Radio Operations Discussion

The meeting involved a discussion about ham radio activities, with participants sharing experiences and technical details. Doug and Rick briefly discussed the club officer role, but Rick indicated it wouldn't be suitable due to limited home availability. Bart joined later to discuss remote ham radio operations using FT8, explaining how he can monitor and control his station remotely while doing other activities, and shared insights about remote amplifiers and equipment assemblies.

Amateur Radio Updates and Activities

The group discussed various personal updates and amateur radio activities. Wayne mentioned his upcoming involvement in activating the Nantucket Lightship in Boston Harbor for International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend on the weekend of the 15th. Doug shared details about his new 186-foot inverted L antenna system using 14 gauge speaker wire and a chain link fence as a counterpoise. David briefly discussed his remote APRS setup using an HT connected to a DigiRig and micro PC back at his Massachusetts home.

Radiogram System and Club Updates

David reported that his radiogram registration system has processed over 3,200 radiograms since March, with approximately 100 new registrations added daily, and he shared a new map feature showing the geographic distribution of submissions. Doug announced that club elections will be held in November, with the current president stepping down after five years in the role. The group briefly

discussed Field Day results, with David mentioning that historical results from 2011 are available on the website and waiting for ARL's November publication for current year results.

Radio Sport Presentation Meeting

The meeting began with casual conversation about radio equipment and tower installations, including discussion of a 140-foot tower for sale in Vermont. Tim requested that all members complete the Field Day survey, especially those who did not attend the event. The meeting then transitioned to a presentation by Bart W9JJ about radio sport, which was just starting when the transcript ended. The presentation was expected to cover the current state of radio sport, including the upcoming America 250 WAS event that would be announced within 36-48 hours.

America 250 WAS Award Tool

Bart demonstrated a new tool for the America 250 WAS award program that will allow logbook users to track their progress toward working all 50 states. The tool will display stars and show users their status for three different endorsements: triple play (CW, phone, and digital), W1AW portable operations, and affiliated ARL club contacts. Oklahoma will be the last state to activate for the W1AW portable endorsement within the next two weeks.

Logbook of the World System

Bart led a discussion about the Logbook of the World system, focusing on certificate management and award tracking. He demonstrated how to view and download certificates through the online system, addressing Steve's question about a missing certificate renewal for one of his call signs. The group discussed checking certificate status through the account interface and using TQSL to manage certificates.

Chrome Certificate Management Process

Bart explained how to download and manage certificates in Chrome, noting that users can access all their certificates through the download feature and reload them as needed without requesting resends from ARL. He discussed certificate validity periods, suggesting a change from three-year to ten-year renewals, and clarified that old call sign certificates are not necessary unless there are specific uploads to be made. The group also briefly touched on awards, with Bart mentioning the challenge of applying for awards as a way to populate logging gaps.

JT Alert Configuration and Updates

Bart discussed the use of JT Alert for identifying new countries and configuring it for states or countries, explaining that manual configuration is required. He shared his progress in various award programs, including DXCC and WAS, and highlighted the growing activity in VHF weak signal work, including achievements on higher bands like 222 MHz, 70 cm, and 902 MHz. Bart encouraged the group to consider configuring JT Alert for more meaningful alerts and mentioned the potential for introducing 10-band WAS in the future.

Amateur Radio Opportunities and Awards

Bart discussed the extensive opportunities in amateur radio that many inactive operators may not be aware of, including tools like JT Alert for monitoring band activity and remote operation capabilities. He demonstrated how to use JT Alert to show real-time station activity and explained the award application process in Logbook of The World (LoTW), including how to select and apply for various awards like DXCC and WAS. Bart showed how the application system allows users to choose specific categories or apply for all credits at once, with costs displayed for each application.

Award Applications for Ham Radio

Bart explained the importance of applying for awards or credits when reaching certain milestones to avoid losing progress due to incorrect station location updates. He mentioned that Diamond Club and Maxima Society donors can apply for awards without paying fees. The discussion included details about active ham radio operators and their achievements, including specific call signs and operating locations.

VHF DXing Experiences and Challenges

Bart shared his experiences with VHF DXing, including working Alaskan stations and participating in rare winter ESkip openings. He discussed the challenges of VHF operations, noting that being in the right place at the right time is crucial, as propagation windows can be limited to about 12 hours per day. Bart also mentioned his early ham radio experiences with a local club member named Reno who worked rare countries while at work.

10-Band DXCC Award Discussion

Bart discussed the 10-band DXCC award and shared information about its webpage and order process. He explained that the awards are dated-based rather than numbered and featured Gary Dixon, K4MQG, as the first recipient. When asked about the WRTC controversy involving alleged pirate activity, Bart clarified that WRTC is handled by WWROF and

ARL would not be making decisions about the incident. The conversation ended with a reminder about the principle "Work them first, worry later" and the announcement of the next meeting at the church in September.

Treasurer's Report for September 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 August we had two new/renewals for \$30 and sale of a donated HRO 500 for \$100 income. Our expenses were Zoom \$18.05, PayPal \$1.46. We now have \$749.16 in the bank and \$1470.11 in our PayPal account for a total of \$2219.27

Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

September 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. Tennessee QSO Party
<https://tnqp.org/rules/>
1700Z, Sep 6 to 0300Z, Sep 7, 2026
Exchange: non-TN: RS(T) + (state/province/country)
2. MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint
<https://miqrp.net/contest>
2300Z, Sep 7 to 0300Z, Sep 8, 2026
Exchange: RST + (state/province/country) + (member no./power output)
3. VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA
<https://ft8activity-na.net/rules/>
144m: 0000Z-0500Z, Sep 3, 2026
Exchange: 4-character grid square
4. VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA
<https://ft8activity-na.net/rules/>
144m: 0000Z-0500Z, Sep 3, 2026
Exchange: 4-character grid square
5. Colorado QSO Party
<https://coloradoqsoparty.org/>
1400Z, Sep 12 to 0359Z, Sep 13, 2026
Exchange: W/VE: Name + (state/province)
6. Ohio State Parks on the Air
<http://ospota.org/>
1400Z-2200Z, Sep 12, 2026
Exchange: W/VE: (state/province)
7. Africa FT4 DX Contest
<https://mysarl.org.za/contest-resources/>
1500Z-1800Z, Sep 12, 2026
Exchange: Signal report + 4-character grid square
Comment: those of you who do FT8 may enjoy trying FT4 - and work DX to boot!

8. ARRL September VHF Contest **

<https://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>

1800Z, Sep 12 to 0300Z, Sep 14, 2026

Exchange: 4-character grid square

9. North American Sprint, CW **

<https://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf>

0000Z-0400Z, Sep 13, 2026

Exchange: [other station's call] + [your call] + [serial no.]
+ [your name] + [your state/province/country]

10. Texas QSO Party

<https://www.txqp.net/>

1400Z, Sep 19 to 0200Z, Sep 20 and 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 20, 2026

non-TX: RS(T) + (state/province/country/MM region)

11. Iowa QSO Party

<http://www.w0yl.com/IAQP>

1400Z, Sep 19 to 0200Z, Sep 20, 2026

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

12. New Hampshire QSO Party

https://w1wqm.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/NHQP_Rules.pdf

1600Z, Sep 19 to 0400Z, Sep 20 and 1200Z-2200Z, Sep 20, 2026

Exchange: non-NH W/VE: RS(T) + (state/province)

13. Washington State Salmon Run

<http://salmonrun.wwdxc.org/>

1600Z, Sep 19 to 0700Z, Sep 20 and 1600Z-2400Z, Sep 20, 2026

Exchange: non-WA: RS(T) + (state/province/country)

14. Wisconsin Parks on the Air

http://wipota.com/files/WIPOTA_contest_rules.pdf

1600Z-2300Z, Sep 19, 2026

Exchange: Non-Park: (state/province/country)

15. CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY **

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

0000Z, Sep 26 to 2400Z, Sep 27, 2026

Exchange: 48 States/Canada: RST + CQ Zone +
(state/VE area)

16. Maine QSO Party

<http://www.wslsm.com/MEQP.html>

1200Z, Sep 26 to 1200Z, Sep 27, 2026

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

17. YU DX Contest

<https://www.yudx.yu1srs.org.rs/>

1200Z, Sep 26 to 1159Z, Sep 27, 2026

non-YU/YT: RS(T) + Serial No.

Comment: Bonus points if you work Yugoslavia while operating mobile from your 1992 Yugo!

18. Masonic Lodges on the Air

<http://cqmorelight.com/rules>

1400Z-2200Z, Sep 27, 2025

Exchange: non-Lodge: (State/Province/"DX")

Comment: another interesting contest.... I believe a few BARS members are (not stone-)Masons.

19. AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party

<https://antiquewireless.org/homepage/am-qso-party-details/>

2000Z, Sep 27 to 2400Z, Sep 28, 2025

Exchange: Name + (state/province/country)

Comment: A great time to power up your vintage AM rig - but even modern rigs like the IC-7300 do decent AM. Be sure to tune your antenna well. Your carrier will be 25 (ish) watts and more powerful sidebands. But people should hear you.

**** Top recommendation for this month**

Final comments: A lot of great contests this month! For state hunters, we have TN, MI, CO, OH, TX, IA, NH, WA, WI, and ME! I hope everyone has their antennas in good order for the coming fall and winter. Get on the air and enjoy yourselves!

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>

If you get on and enjoy operating one of these events, please send an email to the BARS email reflector, bars@w1hh.org.

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](#)

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 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 \(map\)](#)

There was no VE Session in August.

The September VE exam session will be on September 10 at 7:00 PM at the Chelmsford Bible Church.

While walk-ins are always 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 on September 2nd at 7:00 PM local time. 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: Antenna Farms Up High By Dwight Dwain

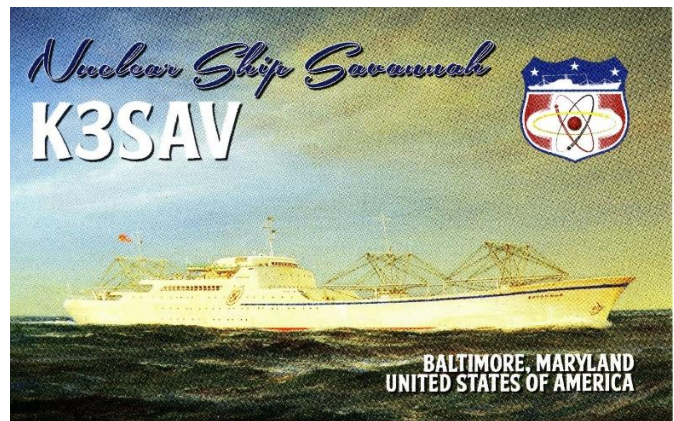
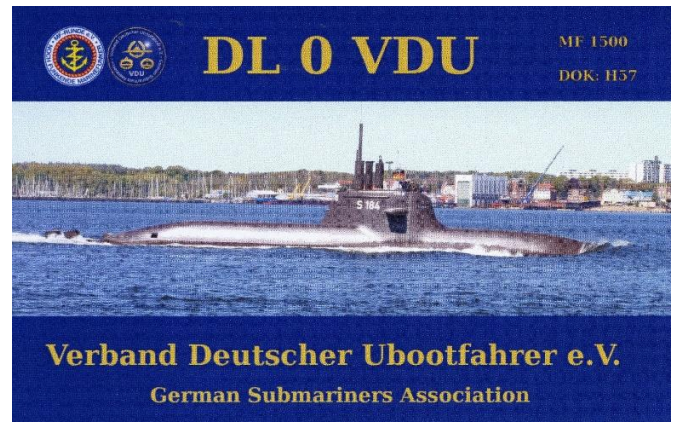
This month I had an opportunity to do some flying around two Middlesex repeaters and thought they might be of some interest to our members. The first one is from Signal Hill in Marlboro (love this tower) and the second is from the North Reading Water tower which the antennas are just above the tree line and the trees are real close to the tower.

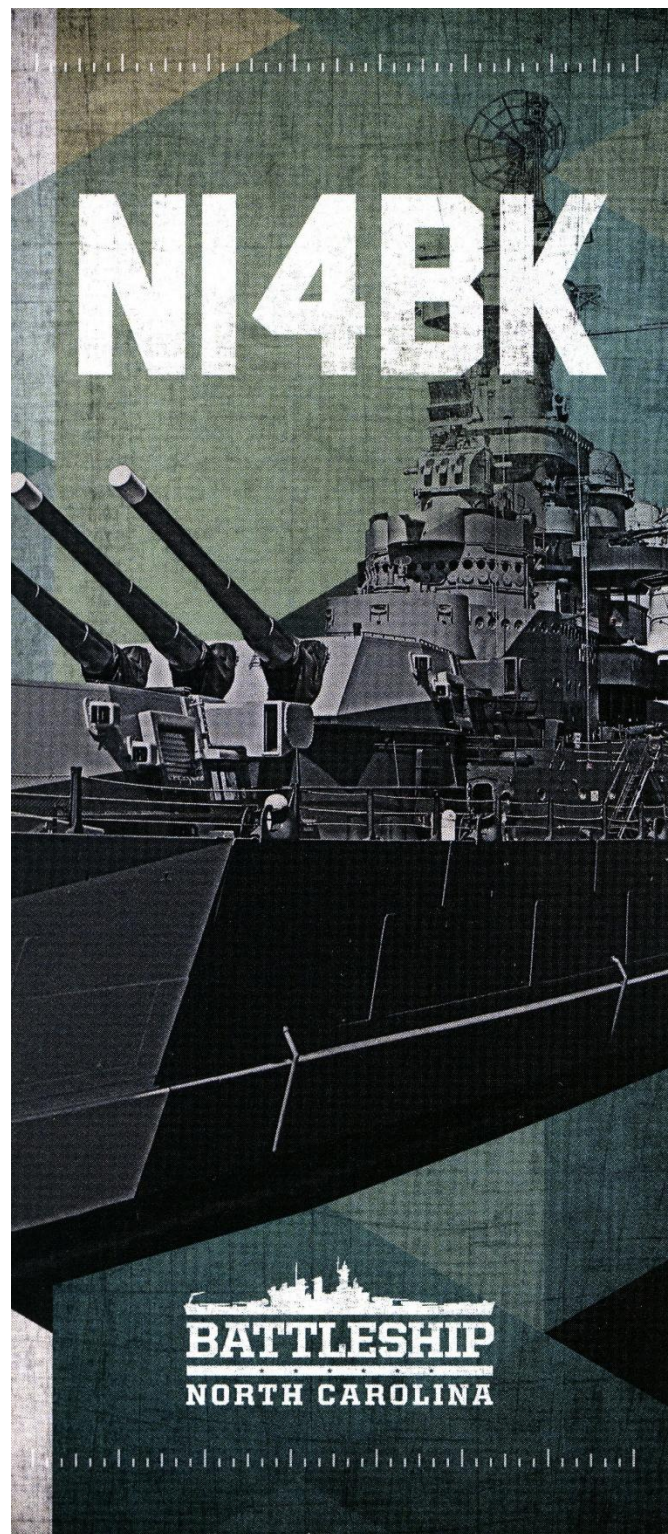
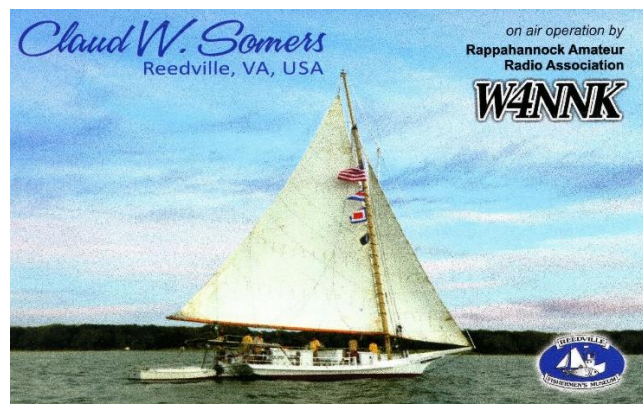
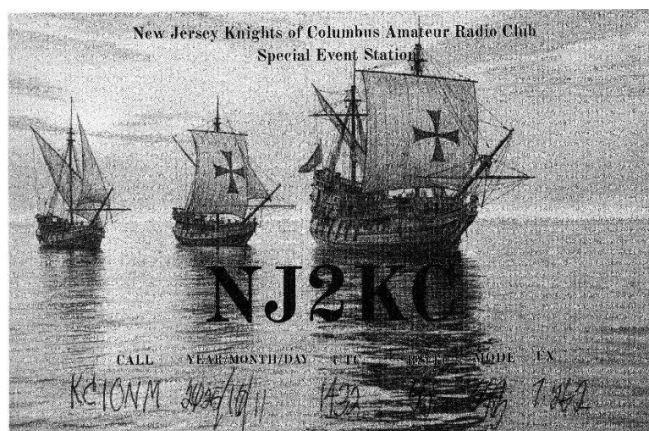
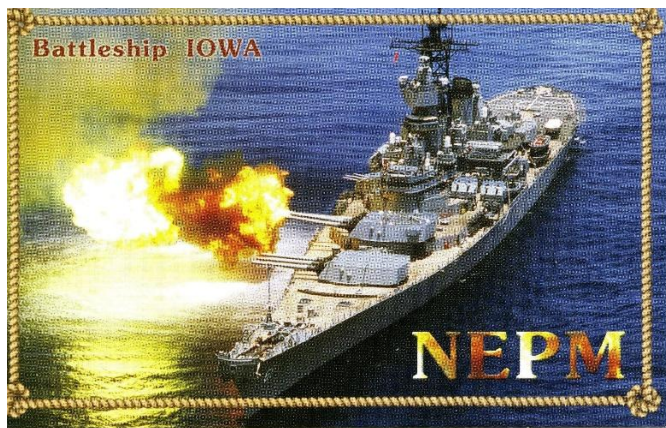


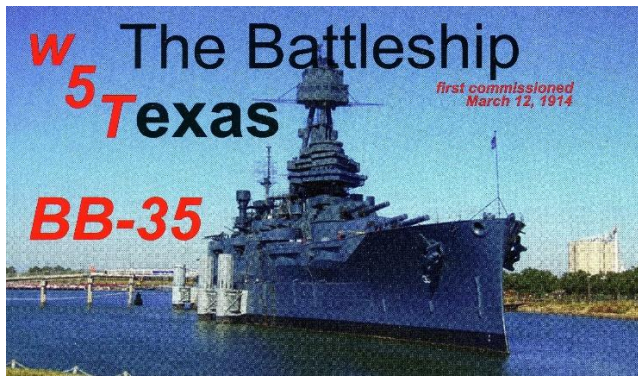
Photo Feature: From the Mailbag

In July of this year we celebrated the 250th 'birthday' of these United States. July also brings the annual 13 Colonies event which occurs on the first week of July. (I was one of the operators activating the MA event station K2H.) Most of the individual state activating stations recognized this milestone with special QSL cards. I didn't manage a 'clean sweep' this year so I gathered up the card images from the individual state websites. Delaware (K2E) and Georgia (K2G) have not publicly posted their card designs so they are missing from this collection.

For those of you that requested K2H cards we are holding a QSL stuffing party on Aug. 9th. You should receive them within the following week.







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

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