



BARS Billerica Amateur Radio Society

NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER 2024

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

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

--BARS Management.

A Message from the President By Doug Bruce, N1WRN

Greetings Fellow Members,

I hope everyone enjoyed the summer this year. (It was too hot for my tastes.) They say we are about to get into some cooler weather for the Labor Day weekend, which will be a nice change.

With the turning of the seasons comes a turning of the DX seasons as well, as we are heading into the colder months of the year when we have less and less light and more darkness. This winter should be especially good since we are at the solar maximum for sunspot activity, with routine Solar Flux Index readings in the low to mid 200's. The sun has been quite angry this summer so hopefully we can avoid any more major solar flares and storms as we head into prime DX season shortly.

I am very proud to announce to Club Members that the BARS. Newsletter took home the silver medal at the Ham Exposition in Marlborough! This is quite an honor to be selected in second place out of 14 New England Club Newsletters.

Editor Marla Wallace, WA1GSF, is the glue that holds the newsletter together, but without all our fine member submissions, we would not have such a great newsletter. Kudos to all who contribute to our newsletter.

I had the chance to attend the Northeast Ham Exposition this past weekend and it was a great take. There were four rows of tables at the flea market, which seemed a bit light, but there were some good bargains to be had. I was able to pick up a copy of the 2006 ARRL Antenna book (\$44.95 retail price) for a measly \$5.00. Well worth it I believe!

There were a good number of vendors inside the hotel conference areas as well. I was particularly fascinated by the Remote Ham Radio RHR booth. RHR is a website that offers access to 41 ham radio tower sites around the US for a yearly subscription fee of \$99, with per minute usage rates ranging from \$.19 per minute to \$1.29 per minute depending on how sophisticated the antenna site is. This is good for people who do not have elaborate antenna sites who want to work DX.

I saw a great demo of this product and I was very impressed. All you need is a laptop and a headset with microphone to work the world on the 41 antenna sites remotely. This is the wave of the future for ham radio and opens the hobby up to those in antenna challenged living arrangements. It is well worth checking out on their website at [Remote Ham Radio – On the air from anywhere](http://RemoteHamRadio.com). Big stacks. Kilowatts of power. DX has never been closer.

I also want to thank all BARS members who worked as volunteers at the Exposition. It did my heart good to see fellow members taking part in such a great event. It's good exposure to the other New England hams to see our members working in this capacity.

In closing, I want to mention that we will be resuming in person meetings with our upcoming meeting, which is on September 4th at 7:00 PM at the Chelmsford Bible Church. Please feel free to join us in person, but if you need to, we also offer a Zoom session for those who would rather access the meeting remotely. I hope to see a lot of members at our meeting!

As always, we are a “Get on the Air” club, so turn on the radio and have some fun communicating with other hams around the globe!

Until next time,

73,
Doug
N1WRN

Next BARS Zoom meeting: September 4 at 7:00 PM - "It's not Your Father's HF Rig"

Presenter: Mike Walker, VA3MW

I am pleased to announce that we will be having Mike Walker, VA3MW, as our Guest Speaker for the September 4, 2024 hybrid Club meeting. Mike will do a presentation entitled "Flex Radio: Not Your Father's HF Radio"

Mike, from FlexRadio Systems, will spend about an hour showing how today's HF radio is not only better than yesterday's super-hot radio, but you get more performance for your dollar. He will show how your radio now 'scales' towards the future and does not grow old beginning the day you buy it.

Bio: Mike has been active in amateur radio since 1974 and loves every minute of it – from repeaters, HF, HF Contesting, satellites, and tinkering in EME digital modes and 10 GHz microwave. As well as being a GA Pilot, he loves HF station integration and remote HF operation. Mike currently represents FlexRadio Systems with its Marketing and Education team. He is very well versed in the FlexRadio technology and he is someone for whom technology is genuinely his hobby.

I hope everyone can join us for this very informative and worthwhile presentation!



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 9/4 at 1900.

Doug, N1WRN
President, Billerica Amateur Radio Society

From the Editor's Desk By Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

The BARS Newsletter Takes Silver at HamExposition

At the recently concluded HamExposition convention, awards were given to newsletters submitted from clubs in Northeast area. I'm very proud to say that our May 2024 issue took second place among the 14 newsletters submitted. Hence the badge that now appears in the masthead. (You no doubt have noticed the new look on Page 1.) We get to display that badge until the September 2025 issue.

I've been the newsletter editor since the December 2019 issue. I couldn't do this without the articles, announcements and regular feature columns that our members submit. The fact that our newsletter placed so high in the recent competition reflects the quality of these submissions. The BARS newsletter is a product of the club as a whole; I just assemble it.

I feel privileged to be a member of a club that can put out such a high-quality (and now we can say award-winning) publication each month. Thank you all for your contributions to the BARS newsletter over the years.

Strays

Becoming an ARRL member or is your membership up for renewal?

One of the benefits of being an ARRL Affiliated Club is a commission for recruiting new ARRL members and securing timely ARRL member renewals.

Each new ARRL member earns the club a \$15.00 commission. New members are defined as never having been a member or a returning member that has not been a member for two years. Each renewal earns the club a \$5.00 commission. There is no limit to the amount a club can earn in this program.

Multiyear memberships earn only one commission. Life, Family, International, Blind, and Student memberships are not eligible for a commission. The member will not be eligible to receive a gift or incentive if the club collects a commission on the membership.

Currently at least 82 BARS members are also ARRL members. If we all renewed through the club, we could potentially receive \$410 per year from the ARRL.

If you are interested in renewing your ARRL membership through the club fill out the following form [ARRL Affiliated Club Membership Application \(pdf\)](#). Then forward it to WILUS@hotmail.com

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

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, WILUS@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

Upgrading Your License? Here's a Resource

If you are thinking of upgrading your license using one of the Online exam sites. I recommend that you take some free practice exams on HamStudy.org. I recommend it because the software used to generate practice exams on HamStudy.org is the same software that is used to create exams for online tests. By doing that when you take an online upgrade exam the test question format will be familiar. With HamStudy.org practice tests you should use the keyboard to select the answer, A, B, C, or D and not your mouse as that is the way online exams are run.

--de Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

Secretary's Reports

from Marla Wallace, WA1GSF, Secretary

August BARS General Meeting

For technical reasons (the program was to be a video), we decided that the meeting would be easier to run as a virtual session via Zoom.

Mark, KA1INE, was in charge -- Doug could not make the meeting. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:05.

Announcements:

- In-person meetings will resume in September.
- Jarvis Island (NJ5) is on the air.
- NEARFest will be at the Hillsborough County 4H Fairgrounds, New Boston, NH from 10/4 through 10/5.
- HAMEXPO is at the Best Western in Marlborough Friday through Sunday, 8/23 to 8/25.

The program started at 7:15. It was a YouTube video, since the speaker resided six time zones west of us. It ended at 8:00.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15. There were 13 participants.

August BARS Board of Directors Meeting

There was no Board of Directors meeting in August.

BARS Membership

Our current combined membership is 143, with 18 that haven't renewed their membership for 2024. Please check your email and your "Junk email" to see if you have a renewal invoice from PayPal.

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

from Bruce Anderson, W1LUS, Treasurer

2024 BARS Member Dues

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

- pay our bills,
- maintain our great web page,
- fund field day,
- and bring the membership a great variety of informative meetings and speakers.

Treasurers Report for September 2024

Dues for 2024 are now due. Dues for 2024 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 one new member for \$15 income; our expenses were Zoom \$16.99, and one stamp at \$0.56. We now have \$427.56 in the bank and \$1185.42 in our PayPal account for a total of \$1612.98.

Bruce Anderson
W1LUS

BARS Needs You!!!

We are looking for a few good hams to act as net control on the regularly scheduled Wednesday night nets! All it takes is one night a month; if you are interested contact Doug, N1WRN.

Also, the club needs volunteers for light tasks of about 1 hour a month. Are you able to pitch in? Contact Doug Bruce, N1WRN.

Wednesday Night Net

Join us on the Westford 146.955 Repeater for the weekly BARS net each Wednesday at 8:00 PM (**except on the first Wednesday of the month which is club meeting night**). *Note: Thanks to the Westford Police Amateur Radio Team (PART) for their generous act of making their repeater available to us.*

Repeater info:
WB1GOF
146.955 MHz
-600 kHz (normal) offset
Encode CTCSS 74.4 Hz

Reminder: "kerchunking" the repeater is not only impolite, it's illegal. It constitutes an unidentified transmission. If you need to check that you're making the repeater, say something like "This is <your call> standing by on the frequency." Thanks for your courtesy.

Club Meetings

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

Club meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 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 August 2024

We had five people show up for the August 8th VE exam session. We created three new Technicians: KC1VGF, KC1VGI, and KC1VFZ; one new General: KC1VGE; and one new Extra: AC1SN. Be sure to greet them if you hear them on the air. Thanks to Gary W1GFF, Peter N1ALO, Neice KA1ULN and Bill W1ZL for helping run this exam session.

Our next exam session will be on September 12 at 7:00 PM. At the Chelmsford Bible Church. 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

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](#)

Future Meetings

The October meeting will be on 10/2 and will be hybrid – in person and via Zoom.

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

September Get-on-the-Air Suggestions from Scott Ginsburg, K1OA

BARS is a “get-on-the-air” (GOTA) club. We encourage members to participate in the varied events on HF and VHF.

Here are the popular suggestions for this month:

Date	Event
Sep 8	North American Sprint, CW https://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf
Sep 14-15	WAE DX Contest, SSB https://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/referat-conteste/worked-all-europe-dx-co ntest/en/
Sep 14-16	ARRL September VHF Contest ** http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf
Sep 15	North American Sprint, RTTY https://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf

** Top recommendation for this month

Recurring Events – visit webpage for exact times and dates:

K1USN Slow Speed Test - Every Friday 20:00 UTC / Every Monday 00:00 UTC
<http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html>

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

Details on each contest above and more events can be found every week on the WA7BNM contest calendar at:

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php?mode=custom&week=current>

BARS Leadership Team

OFFICERS:

President: Doug Bruce, N1WRN
Vice President: Mark Nelson, KA1INE
Treasurer: Bruce Anderson, W1LUS
Secretary: Marla Wallace, WA1GSF
BoD: Bill Poulin, WZ1L
BoD: Steve Wedge, W1ES/4
Ex Officio: Gary Frascarelli, W1GFF

VOLUNTEERS:

Net Coordinator: Doug Bruce, N1WRN
Newsletter Editor: Marla Wallace, WA1GSF
New Member Outreach: John Fisher, KC1FTJ
Field Day Chair: Mark Nelson, KA1INE

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