



BARS Billerica Amateur Radio Society

NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

NOVEMBER 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 is having a great fall season. Hopefully we will get some much-needed rain soon. I had the great experience of attending Nearfest a few weeks ago at the new venue in New Boston, NH. For the most part, I thought it was a great venue for the largest ham radio flea market and festival in the Northeast. It seemed a bit smaller and more compact than Deerfield was, but there was plenty of room for everyone who wanted to sell, and the walk to see all the sellers was not nearly as long as it would take at Deerfield. The weather this year was fantastic, as was the comradery among hams who had gathered to share experiences, catch up with old friends, and to buy that piece of equipment that “you can’t live without”.

I will have to say, though, that there were a lot of hams that kept their hands in their pockets and were very unwilling to buy, and those who did buy were often looking for an unreasonable bargain from the seller. Deals were to be had by sellers that were willing to give the item away.

On the other side of that coin, buyers have to realize that there are no warranties at flea markets. If you were willing to pull the trigger on buying an item, you should be willing to take “the flea market risk” involved as well. All in all, I feel that the most recent edition of Nearfest was a great success, and that I hope we can stay at this

venue for many years to come. I am sure there were a few bugs to be ironed out, but I am sure the Committee can work these out prior to May of 2025 when the next edition of Nearfest is scheduled for.

On another note, we will be having the Club Elections on Wednesday night, November 6, at the hybrid Club Meeting at the Church. I encourage anyone to nominate a candidate for any of our elected offices whom you feel can make an impact on the Club, with a modest time commitment. Any Club Member is eligible to be nominated, and you can even nominate yourself for an office if you would like. We are always looking for energetic members for the Board or for any of our elected offices.

Additionally, we are looking for volunteer positions and for someone who would like to help with updating and maintaining the Club website, which is vital to “getting the word out” regarding Club events and other happenings of B.A.R.S.

On a personal note, I want to tell everyone that I have totally enjoyed being your President this past year, and I hope that you will consider me again for the position. I will pledge to every member that I will try and do what is best for the Club. My favorite part of being President has been lining up Guest Speakers every month. I try and make the topics wide and varied, so as to appeal to as many members as possible. I also enjoy being part of Field Day every year, and Mark Nelson has done a fantastic job as Field Day Director. Again, I offer my thanks for you allowing me to be President of this great Club.

As always, I encourage everyone to G.O T.A. as this is our Club motto. The microphone will not key itself (unless you are using VOX!!!)

Until next time,

73,
Doug
N1WRN

Next BARS Zoom meeting: November 6 at 7:00 PM - "Successful Operating Tools for Assessing Performance"

Presenter: Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

I would like to announce our Guest Speaker for the November 6, 2024, hybrid club meeting.

Here is Anthony's biography:

- 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 updating to an Extra Class License.
- Anthony enjoys sharing his Amateur Radio interests with others by maintaining websites, including 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.



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, 11/6, at 1900.

Doug, N1WRN

President, Billerica Amateur Radio Society

From the Editor's Desk

By Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

Alas, the weather is turning colder. This is not my favorite time of the year, though the opportunity to get on the air seems to happen more often as the length of darkness increases.

Is anybody else using a wire end-fed, dipole or dipole-like (e.g.: G5RV) antenna? How are the ends attached? I'm assuming you put it up when the weather was warmer than it is now.

If the ends of your antenna are attached to fixed points by insulated ropes, you need to consider that metal shrinks when it gets cold. This can put excess stress on the wire itself, on the insulators, or on the terminals of a balun at the feed point or traps along the elements, causing the antenna to fail. Not to mention what can happen in a sticky snowstorm or an ice storm when many pounds of extra loading will be applied.

One solution is to run the attachment ropes over a pulley and put a weight on the end. Under load, the weight is simply lifted higher, relieving the strain on the antenna. But this is not always a convenient thing to arrange, as many antenna installations start by throwing (or shooting) a rope over a high branch of a convenient tree.

Lacking the pulley and weight system, it's worth looking at how taut the antenna is and letting out a little more slack in the ropes if necessary. A few feet of droop might be just the thing to ensure that your antenna stays up all winter. Do it before there's snow on the ground.

I learned this the hard way last year. As the saying goes, 'experience is directly proportional to equipment damaged'.

On another note, this issue marks the end of my fifth year as newsletter editor (I started with the December 2019 issue). How time flies!

Meanwhile, for a little while I'm off to a place which doesn't have to deal with snow load, ice, or low temperatures. My flight leaves about 12 hours after the November meeting, so I will not be attending it. See you all in December and have a happy Thanksgiving.

Announcements

Candidates for Club Officers

Our election for the 2025 set of BARS club officers will take place at the monthly general meeting on Wednesday, November 6th. Paid-up members are eligible to vote at that time. Here are the candidates, as of the time this newsletter was assembled, for your consideration:

PRESIDENT

- Doug Bruce, N1WRN*

VICE PRESIDENT

- Mark Nelson, KA1INE*

TREASURER

- Bruce Anderson, W1LUS*

SECRETARY

- Marla Wallace, WA1GSF*

DIRECTOR #1

- Bill Poulin, WZ1L*

DIRECTOR #2

- Steve Wedge, W1ES/4*

(*) Candidate for re-election.

Nominations from the floor will be accepted before the election as well.

Algonquin Amateur Radio Club Flea Market

The Algonquin Amateur Radio Club will hold its annual Flea Market on February 15, 2025 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. The event will be held at the 1LT Charles W. Whitcomb School, 25 Union St or off Bolton St (Rt. 85), Marlborough, MA 01752.

The following is the link to the Flea Market flyer:

<https://www.qsl.net/n1em/2025flyer.pdf>

Thank you,
Ken, KA1GFN
Treasurer and Newsletter Editor
Algonquin Amateur Radio Club

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 W1LUS@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

- 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 October, we had four new/renewals for \$60 income; our expenses were Zoom \$16.99, and PayPal \$4.04. We now have \$442.59 in the bank and \$1221.39 in our PayPal account for a total of \$1663.98.

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 October 2024

We had five people show up for the October 10th VE exam session, resulting in two new Technicians, one General upgrade and one Technician to Extra upgrade. Thanks to Gary W1GFF, Peter N1ALO and Bill W1ZL for helping run this exam session.

Our next exam session will be on November 14th 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 December meeting will be on 12/4 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

October Get-on-the-Air Suggestions from Scott Ginsburg, K10A

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:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Nov 2-4	ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW https://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes
Nov 9-10	WAE DX Contest, RTTY https://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste/wae-dx-contest/en/
Nov 16-18	ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB https://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes
Nov 23-24	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW ** https://www.cqww.com/rules.htm

**** 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](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