



PARTicles

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

October 2012

President's Column

- *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*

By now, you have probably heard the sad news of the passing of our friend John (G3BVU) Beanland (SK). John frequently was seen at PART meetings, the monthly breakfast, Field Day, and he gave us a couple of presentations about the "murky mirror in the sky" and antennas. He was thrilled to be able to give us another talk at Field Day, despite its abrupt ending with a loud clap of thunder. His copper quadrifilar helix antennas were functional, rugged, and almost works of art. I saw John about 3-4 weeks before his passing, and he was very happy to hear that we had 100 active members. I learned a lot from John, and I hope you did, too. He will most certainly be missed.

I'd like to dedicate the October 2012 meeting of PART to John's memory. Toward that end, and recognizing John's interest in the satellites, Ernie (N1AEW) will give us a talk entitled "Introduction to Satellites".

PART had 10 volunteers at the Grace Race in Chelmsford in late September. The event was a complete success, and the race director was very pleased with the quality of our service. I'd like to thank the following hams for their help during this event: Andy KB1OIQ, David KG1H, Dave WI1R, Jon N1ILZ, Geoff KB1USE, Andy KB8JDO, Peter KB1PBA, Carlos KB1WUI, Ed KB1HLX, John WB2OSZ. For Carlos KB1WUI, this was his very first public service event, and

he did a great job! I brought the canopy and a small table on which I setup the net control station. The PART banner saw the light of day once again! Several people came to visit and asked about our activities.

Pumpkin Patrol is coming soon! On the evening of Halloween, volunteers provide eyes and ears to the Westford Police, reporting any suspicious activities to net control, who is located inside of the police station. This year, we are looking for a chairman to coordinate the volunteers of this event. This event is a longstanding PART tradition. If you are interested in stepping up to be the event chairman, please contact me at kb1oiq@arrl.net. Training can easily be provided if you're not sure what to do. Remember: for everything, there is a first time! Please don't make me twist your arm...you *know* you want to volunteer! :-)

PARTicles is always looking for interesting articles from the membership. If you are building an interesting kit, restoring an old tube rig, or some other ham radio related project, please consider writing a few short paragraphs, perhaps including a photo, and send it to Terry (KA8SCP). Your enthusiasm about your project may spark another person's interest, and we all know that enthusiasm is contagious!

Have a lot of fun, and 73!

*Next PART Meeting – Oct. 16th 7:30 PM-
@ the Westford Police Station
Speaker: Ernie Bauer-N1AEW –
Introduction to Satellites*

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

October 12th & 13th, 2012

- NEAR-fest. Deerfield Fairgrounds (<http://near-fest.com>)

October 16th, 2012

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9 p.m. Westford Police station

November 3rd, 2012

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$14/\$9; kids: \$8 – see note below)

November 20th, 2012

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9 p.m. Westford Police station

December 1st, 2012

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$14/\$9; kids: \$8 – see note below)

December 18th, 2012

- PART Annual Holiday Dinner – Yangtze River, Littleton – 6 to 9 PM.

Monthly PART Events

- Every Sunday, 8 PM – PART Net on 146.955 repeater
- Every 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 PM – PART Meetings at Westford Police station
- Every 1st Saturday, 8 AM, Regency Inn Westford – PART Monthly Breakfast
- Every Wednesday, 6 AM, Owl Diner Lowell – Breakfast

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 21-August '12 & 17-September '12 (As of 18 September '12)

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	\$2,890.74	\$1,435.50	\$4,326.24
Income	\$3.08	\$17.00	\$20.00
Expenses	(\$126.95)	(\$0.00)	(\$126.95)
Net	(\$123.95)	\$17.00	(\$106.95)
New Balance	\$2,766.79	\$1,452.50	\$4,219.29

PART 2012 Membership as of 5-October '12

	Individuals (= New for 2012 (+ Renew for 2012)	Households (= New for 2012 (+ Renew for 2012)
Full (\$25)*	45 (= 14 + 31)	45 (= 14 + 31)
Senior (\$15)*	32 (= 6 + 26)	32 (= 6 + 26)
Family (\$30)	19 (= 4 + 15)	9 (= 2 + 7)
Student (\$15)	0 (= 0 + 0)	0 (= 0 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	2 (= 2 + 0)	1 (= 1 + 0)
Grand Total*	98 (= 26 + 73)	87 (= 23 + 64)

* Starred lines denotes changes since last report

Latest new PART members

(none)

* To pay dues *

PART, P.O. Box 503, Westford, MA 01886-0015

-or-

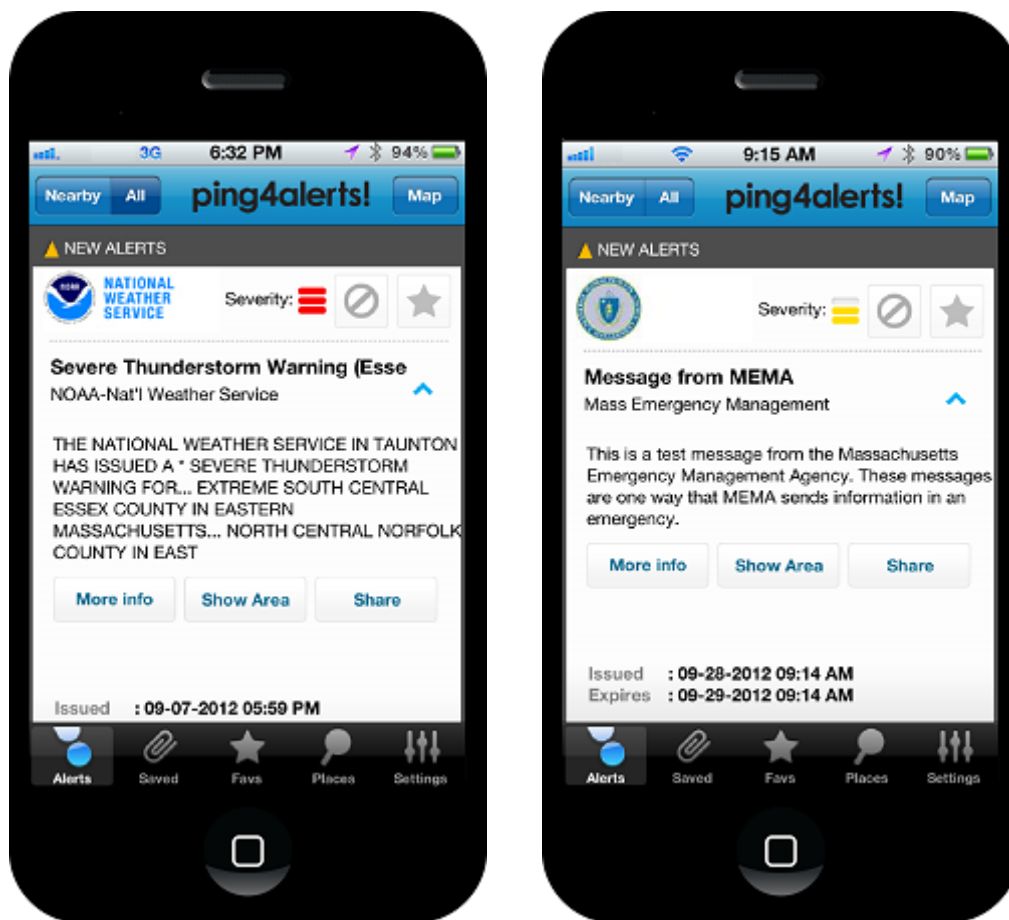
Club Meeting, Westford P.D., 7:30PM, 3rd Tuesday

Consumer Information

Get Emergency Information on Your Smartphone

Ping4alerts! is a new mobile communications app for alerting the public in emergencies and disasters. Through geofencing technology, *ping4alerts!* enables the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to send highly targeted, instant multimedia alerts to iPhone and Android devices to notify citizens about situations and events happening near them. The *ping4alerts!* FREE mobile app is one way that MEMA sends emergency information and messages.

Sample screenshots of National Weather Service and MEMA alerts:



The *Ping4alerts!* app is currently available for iPhone and Android platforms. Download it today:



New England Area Ham/Electronic Fleas:

<http://web.mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>

2012

12, 13 Oct Deerfield NH NEARFest XII @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235
14 Oct Queens NY HoSARC @HoS Stephen WB2KDG 718 898 5599 A
20 Oct Longueuil PQ CRAR-SdeM \$7@9 +\$10/T@6 Guy VE2GGY 450 679 2318 R+
21 Oct Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F
27 Oct Gales Ferry CT TCARC Auction @FireCo @10 Darryl WA1DD 860 443 7799 T
28 Oct Hicksville NY LIMARC @LevitHall Richard K2KNB 516 694 4937 A
2 Nov Feeding Hills MA HCRA Auction @CongCh @6:30PM Jim KK1W 413 237 4666
3 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/S@7 Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422 F
3 Nov Londonderry NH IRS @Lions \$3@8 S@6 Chris KB1QVM 603 434 6137 F+
1 Dec Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518

2013

16 Feb Marlboro MA AARC @MidSc \$5@9 \$20/T@7 Timothy KA1OS 508 919 6136 T+
2 Mar Feeding Hills MA MtTARA @TurnverneinClb Mary N1TOY 413 222 1990 +
1 June Hermon ME PSARA @HS \$5@8 Jerry K1GUP 207 848 3400 +
15 June Newington CT NARL @StMarySch \$5@8 \$15/T Vinnie W1VJA 203 987 2108 +

Repeater Nets

146.955 Nets – There are a number of nets that are regularly scheduled on the 955 repeater.

- Sunday night at 2000/8:00 PM Sunday Night PART Net – every
- Sector 1C Emergency Communications Net – this net occurs the 1st Monday or every month (except when it is a holiday).
Skywarn and ARES Nets – these nets are spontaneous when local conditions warranted.

NOTE: You can LISTEN ONLY to this repeater audio by linking to this URL:

<http://www.radioreference.com/apps/audio/?feedId=10933> (effective 2/2012)

442.450 D-Star Nets – There are a number of nets that are regularly scheduled.

- Sunday 8:00 PM [Ozark Mtn D-STAR Net](#) – Reflector 001C
- Tuesday 8:00 PM [New England Amateur D-STAR Net](#) – Reflector 010C

NOTE: The Port B node (442.450) is connected to [REF010C](#) Mon – Fri from 10:00 am until 3:30 pm. The Port C node (145.330) is connected to [REF050C](#) Mon – Fri from 10:00 am until 3:30 pm. Users can LISTEN ONLY to D-Star Reflector 10C by linking to this URL: <http://www.radioreference.com/apps/audio/?feedId=5031>

Nashoba Valley ARC Annual W1 QSL Sort

The Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its annual QSL sort for the W1 QSL Bureau during its regular meeting on Thursday, 18 October. We meet at 7:30pm at the Pepperell Community Center, at the junction of Routes 111 and 113 in Pepperell MA. The Center is the first building on the left north of the rotary.

While this activity has been a long-time NVARC event, we have had guests from other clubs participate over the past few years. This year we have five boxes of cards to sort. That's 93 pounds of DX acknowledgements! (I guess since it's DX I should have weighed it in metric, rather than American units...)

We'd be honored if you could come along and join the camaraderie. Soda and pizza follow the sort.





PART Pumpkin Patrol - October 31st, 2012

As we have done for many years, PART will once again be providing the Pumpkin Patrol service to the Town of Westford. Many of you are veterans and others may be volunteering for the first time... whichever you are... thank you in advance for your help!

Pumpkin Patrol involves the use of Amateur Radio volunteers providing additional eyes and ears to the Town of Westford during the annual Trick or Treat event. Our purpose is to observe and report any potential safety concerns back to the PART Pumpkin Patrol Net Control Station

which will be located at the Westford Police station. A report from one of our patrols will get handed off to the Westford PD dispatcher and addressed by the Town's public safety services. Our role is **ONLY** to report what we see and provide input to our Town's public safety departments.

We normally require 5 - 8 radio operators per "shift" that will patrol various geographical sections of town. Maps and a checklist of locations to watch will be provided when you check-in for your assignment. Check-in occurs at the Westford Police station where we record your call sign and your vehicle information. You do **NOT** need to be a resident of the Town of Westford to volunteer, but a basic familiarity to the town's geography is a plus!

We have quite a few new hams and club members this year. If warranted, a meeting prior to the event may be scheduled. This will give our new folks and veterans a chance to interact and become comfortable with the operation.

The normal time for Trick-or-Treaters is 6 PM until 8 PM. Our activities have varied over the years, but we normally will run the operation from 5:30 PM until 10:00 - 11:00 PM. If the weather is lousy, the net closure time will be adjusted accordingly. We try and accommodate every individual's schedule, we have run with 2 shifts in the past... an early and a late shift. We will accept your offer to assist at any time throughout the course of the evening.

The plans are to use the WB1GOF 2 meter repeater, 146.955 (PL 74.4), for the entire event. So all a volunteer will need is a radio capable of operating on that frequency. A vehicle will help too... but if you don't drive and want to ride shotgun with another ham, that can be accommodated as well. If you'd like to do a bike or foot patrol, please contact me and we could talk thru that kind of an operation.

Contact Andy-KB1OIQ (KB1OIQ@ARRL.net) or Terry-KA8SCP (KA8SCP@ARRL.net) if you are interested or need more information.





And these are pictures of
what?



Monthly PART Breakfast

Don't forget the monthly PART breakfast the 1st Saturday of each month at the Westford Regency Inn at 8 AM. The full hot & cold buffet breakfast costs about \$14 (includes tip) per person, a cheaper, lighter fare is available for adults and children. **NOTE: PLEASE let the folks who are settling the bill with the staff know whether you had a full or continental breakfast!**

Monthly Breakfast Pricing

The full breakfast is $\$10.95 + 18\% + 6.25\% = \14.00 (rounded up slightly). This price is unchanged. Here is the math for completeness and full disclosure.

Continental breakfast: \$9.00 (new price)

Full breakfast: \$14.00 (same price)

Kid's breakfast: \$8.00



Copyright WB1GOF,
Robert Schmeichel
2011

ARRL News

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is the national association for amateur radio, connecting hams around the U.S. with news, information and resources. URL: <http://www.arrl.org>



[Scouts and Scouters Take to the Airwaves for the 55th Jamboree on the Air](#)

October 09, 2012 - Each year, more than 500,000 Scouts in more than 100 countries take to the airwaves on the third full weekend in October -- and this year on October 20-21, it will be no different. The Jamboree on the Air (**JOTA**) is an annual Scouting and Amateur Radio event sponsored by **the** World Scout Bureau of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM). JOTA is an annual event where Boy Scouts, Girl ...



[MFJ's Martin F. Jue, K5FLU, Honored at ARRL Day in the Park](#)

October 08, 2012 - To celebrate 40 years in the Amateur Radio business, **MFJ Enterprises** hosted **ARRL Day in the Park** in Starkville, Mississippi, October 5-6. Martin F. Jue, K5FLU, started MFJ in October 1972 in a Starkville hotel room with one product: a CW filter kit that sold for less than \$10. Today, MFJ consists of six different ham radio companies that manufacture more than 2000 products.



[The ARRL Offers Five New Books for Fall](#)

October 08, 2012 - The ARRL has just released five new books that you are going to want to have in your shack. This fall, two favorites have been re-released and are chock-full of new information: **hardcover** and **softcover** editions of *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications (90th edition)*, *The ARRL Operating Manual (10th edition)*. In addition, the ARRL is proud to offer three new titles: *The Amateur Radio Public...*



[FCC Seeks to Change Amateur Radio Licensing Rules, Allow Additional](#)

[Emission Types](#)

October 08, 2012 - On October 2, the FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* in WT Docket No. 12-283 that seeks to change the Amateur Radio licensing rules, especially as they concern former licensees. Acting upon an **April 2011 Petition for Rulemaking filed by the Anchorage VEC** to give permanent credit to radio amateurs for examination elements they have successfully passed, the FCC proposes to revise...



[Amateur Radio Quiz: Ham Horizons](#)

October 06, 2012 - By H. Ward Silver, NOAX
noax@arri.net

Part 97.1 points out five bases and purposes of the Amateur Radio Service. The third principle -- encouragement and improvement of the Amateur Service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art -- has been a hallmark of the Amateur Radio Service from the beginning. This quiz lists a few of those ...



[Rare Grid Rove Around](#)

October 05, 2012 - The Olympic Peninsula is in the far corner of the Pacific Northwest and contains a huge area of remote, isolated and largely undeveloped wilderness. The peninsula has but one single main road, Highway 101, which gives access to the distant coastline. Although most of it is within a hundred miles of the densely populated greater Seattle area, the tall peaks in the Olympic Mountain range will blo...



[The K7RA Solar Update](#)

October 05, 2012 - A coronal mass ejection (CME) hit the Earth on September 30, triggering a jump in geomagnetic indices. The planetary A index on October 1 was 31, and the K index jumped to 7, making aurora visible across the northern tier of the United States. The northern latitude college A index was 23 (near Fairbanks, Alaska), about the same as the mid-latitude index -- which was 21 -- in Fredericksburg, Vir...



[Surfin': Radio Tricks with Google Maps](#)

October 05, 2012 - By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU
Contributing Editor

This week, Surfin' reveals a cool radio trick for measuring distance with Google Maps.

Whereas, last time, the topic **here** was performing radio tricks using **Google Earth**, this time, the topic is performing radio tricks with **Google Maps**.

One of my radio pastimes is DXing on the AM and FM broadcast bands. It is something I can do with radio when I don't hav...



[The Weather Channel to Begin Naming Winter Storms](#)

October 04, 2012 - Beginning this winter, **The Weather Channel** will begin naming what it calls "noteworthy winter storms." As The Weather Channel **explained on its website**, "[a] storm with a name is easier to follow, which will mean fewer surprises and more preparation. In addition to providing information about significant winter storms by referring to them by name, the name itself will make communication and info...



[Peter Lake, ZL2AZ, Appointed Chairman of IARU Region 3](#)

October 03, 2012 - The Directors in IARU Region 3 have voted to appoint Peter Lake, ZL2AZ, of Wellington, New Zealand, as the Chairman of **IARU Region 3**. He replaces Michael Owen, VK3KI, who **passed away** unexpectedly last month. Owen, who was also President of the Wireless Institute of Australia (**WIA**), had served as Region 3 Chairman since 2006.

“I am extremely grateful to my fellow Directors for their support in th...



[SARA Solicits Papers for New Mexico Conference](#)

October 03, 2012 - The Society of Amateur Radio Astronomers (**SARA**) -- an organization for those interested in radio astronomy -- is soliciting papers for presentation at its **2013 Western Regional Conference**, February 9-10, 2013 in Socorro, New Mexico. Papers on radio astronomy hardware, software, education, research strategies, observations and philosophy are welcome. SARA members or supporters wishing to present...



[ARRL Invites Nominations for 2012 International Humanitarian Award](#)

October 03, 2012 - Nominations are open for the **2012 ARRL International Humanitarian Award**. This award is conferred upon an amateur or amateurs who demonstrate devotion to human welfare, peace and international understanding through Amateur Radio. The League established the annual prize to recognize those radio amateurs who have used ham radio to provide extraordinary service to others in times of crisis or disas...

[Attention Kit Builders: The ARRL Wants to Hear from You!](#)

09/27/2012 - The ARRL wants to hear from kit builders about simple useful, educational and exciting kits. These kits should have a high probability for success and would serve as stepping stones for more advanced projects. We are looking all sorts of kits, but RF detector kits that work in the 380 MHz-2.5 GHz range are of special interest. The kits should also have a “Wow, I built this and *it works!*” factor. If you know of such a kit, please let us know by filling out a simple form [here](#) by October 31.



The digital edition of October QST is available now! Go to this link and start reading: [October 2012 QST](#).

Repeater Information

Repeater Interference

The 146.955 repeater continues to see interference to existing conversations as well as at random quiet times throughout the day and night. The repeater interference committee needs your help in collecting data. If you hear any type of interference, please report the following info to "**repeater**" at "**wb1gof.org**":



- Time: When did the event happen?
- Observing location: Where were you? Were you mobile?
- Frequency: Input only (146.355 MHz)
- What you heard: Voices, tones, kerchunking or whatever.
- Signal strength: Either by ear (noisy, quiet or full quiet) or S meter
- Radio: To get an idea of the reporter's radio situation.

* Most important - what direction: How did you determine direction? This is the most essential piece of information. Even if it's an estimate as in "Roughly east" or "from the Northeast" it's useful. NEVER EVER reply or direct any thing to the sick person causing the interference. Because some of us have answered this person, he knows we are aware of him and that is what keeps him doing it. Also since you are communicating with a non IDing station you are operating just as illegally as he is. YOU ARE BROADCASTING! NEVER TALK ABOUT INTERFERENCE on air. NEVER

If you are interested in assisting in helping us identify the sources of interference, contact Terry-KA8SCP.

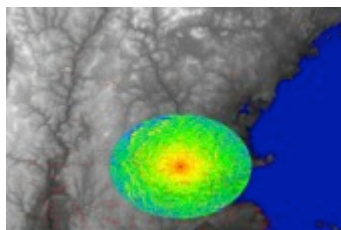
EmComm events and repeater use

Most everyone knows that the 146.955 repeater is used during times of emergency situations, drills and exercises. Skywarn and the monthly EmComm drills are the normal events.

So what does this mean to those that are just looking for regular QSOs with other users? It means that if you are in a regular QSO and there is a significant weather situation that has been getting press/air-time lately, you can expect that if severe weather develops in our area, the folks from Taunton-WX1BOX may interrupt a QSO and ask anyone on frequency what may be happening weather wise. The BOX operator will probably ask for specific information, hail, wind damage, property damage from lightning or wind, etc. Please give him the information he needs or tell him that you've not heard of any such activity. You don't need to tell him it is sunny in Nashua!

There may come a time when an unexpected emergency situation arises. These will significant events that may affect life and property. This is where EmComm activity may step in. Usually an NCS will interrupt a QSO and announce the situation and ask for a QSO to cease or to be "aware" of the possibility of priority calls/traffic. Please make sure you leave breaks between transmissions so stations with traffic can get in between QSOs. If there is enough traffic, it may be necessary for your existing/interrupted QSO QSY to another frequency. You should use your best judgment or check with the NCS on what he feels is best.

If you have any questions, please feel free to correspond with either Hugh-N1QGE (Westford EmComm/Skywarn NCS) or Terry-KA8SCP (MEMA Region 1 Communications Officer and Skywarn NCS) . They will be more than happy to talk about these programs with you.



Repeater info is now available on the PART [website](#). Check out the links to the summit information as well as coverage and plot plans maps for the WB1GOF repeaters. Complete info on the site can be found at this [URL](#).

PART Gear

The PART Quartermaster has lots of great PART-ware for sale including mugs and shirts. You can get information how you can obtain your PART-ware at the monthly club meetings.

Club members are also encouraged to obtain an official PART badge from [The Sign Man](http://thesignman.com/clubs/part.html) (<http://thesignman.com/clubs/part.html>) PLEASE NOTE: There is a new PART badge available if you'd like to order one. Price for badge is \$15 which includes shipping and handling.



EmComm

Emergency Communications – The WB1GOF 146.955 repeater is used on the first Monday of every month (except federal/state holidays) for an EmComm Net starting at 1930 local time. If you are interested in being part of the local emergency communications team in your community, feel free to contact any of the following folks:
Terry Stader – KA8SCP, MEMA Region 1 Communications Officer
Hugh Maguire – N1QGE, for the Town of Westford
Bill Ohm – W1OHM, for the Town of Chelmsford
- We need radio operators that can pass messages on to the local emergency management directors in several towns in northern Middlesex County.



Skywarn - The WB1GOF 146.955 repeater is also used for reporting significant weather events to the National Weather Service from our local spotters. We expect to have a local Skywarn training class in 2010, more information as it becomes available. You can provide valuable information even if you have not attended one of the training sessions. Listen to the Skywarn Net Control Station for reporting criteria, when you have information that qualifies, please advise him with your report.

Situational Awareness – Recently, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency has asked the Amateur Radio community to provide situational awareness and disaster intelligence information within your local community via EmComm nets and/or Skywarn stations. Significant events such as widespread power outages can be reported and by agencies such as MEMA to evaluate the scope of a blackout for example. Initially, you should try and contact the EmComm Net Control Stations on the Westford 146.955 repeater to pass this information. More on this new program will be forthcoming.

PART Sunday Night Net – The PART Net each Sunday night is an IMPORTANT part of our regional EmComm function. With each station that checks in from the surrounding communities, we test our ability to communicate vital information to the ham radio community. Sure we announce club info but we can also communicate regional disaster news and serve as a “hub” for news of situations in our communities. The repeater is on a generator, so even if we loose power in the region, an HT with a supply of batteries will reconnect you to other local hams.

PARTicles © 2012, a publication of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

This month's editor: Terry Stader – KA8SCP

PART official mailing address is:
PART, PO Box 503, Westford, MA 01886

Our website is: <http://wb1gof.org>
Our forum is: <http://wb1gof.net/forums/>
Contact us at: info@wb1gof.org
Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/wb1gof
Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wb1gof



Scan this QR code

