



PARticles

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF



Celebrating 40 years of public service 1975-2015

President's Column

- Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)

I'm happy to report that we had 22 people attending breakfast earlier this month at Paul's Diner in Westford. As always, it was great to see everybody. We filled one very long table and one shorter one. I'm wondering...can we reach an attendance number of 25 people? Let's try!

Weather permitting; we're still planning to hold the fox hunt training on the Westford Common on Saturday, April 21st, at 11 AM. The rain date will be Sunday, April 22nd, at the same time. John (KB1MGI) and Andy (KB1OIQ) will be there with fox transmitters and receivers, teaching the techniques of finding the location of a hidden transmitter. The fox transmitters will be on the 80m, 2m, and the 70cm bands. I recently taught these techniques to a group of Boy Scouts who were working on their ham radio merit badges. No ham radio license is needed to listen to a signal and track its location. It is not necessary for you to bring any gear, but if you have any fox hunting gear (2m/70cm HT and an appropriate antenna), please bring it with you. I hope you will come visit us on that day, to socialize, to encourage new fox hunters, and to learn an area of ham radio that might be new to you.

How many of you attended the recent flea market held by FARA in Framingham? I was there, and saw perhaps 6-8 PART members, as well as lots of other hams who I know. I didn't buy much, but I had fun looking around and chatting with others, especially while wearing my affiliated club coordinator hat.

We're trying to resurrect the "after the net ragchew", as it used to be called, on the WB1GOF 955 repeater on Sunday night, around 8:15 PM. I was there for a couple of weeks and enjoyed chatting with quite a few people. Please join us! New hams are especially encouraged to participate. Several people found us by scanning

the local repeaters and hearing lots of chatter. This is a good thing!

My work on the uBITX project continues. With my custom modifications, it is intended to be accessible to blind and visually impaired hams. I was recently introduced to Joe (W1HAI), a visually impaired ham living in Natick. We chatted on the phone twice, and he's a great guy! Per his very constructive feedback, I modified the uBITX software (Arduino). I brought my breadboarded uBITX to his home and let him "field test" it. He had no trouble using this rig, and I was very encouraged. It was also interesting to see his station and watch him as he very deftly operated it. This is an ongoing learning experience for me. All of these modifications, hardware and software, have been released and are available on Sourceforge (search for KB1OIQ). My next task is to find or create a suitable enclosure.

Field Day will take place on June 23rd and 24th. Our Field Day chairman, George (K1IG), is doing a great job with lining up the stations, stations chiefs, and the gear necessary for us to have a great event. It is my hope that each station chief will have an understudy. It is important that we pass along what we know to other hams, and not try to do everything ourselves. At Field Day, I would like to see more elmering on the part of each club member. I am encouraging the station chiefs to train less experienced operators to run the station. I'm less concerned about the points, and more interested in maximizing participation and learning. Of course, the overall focus is having a great time with your fellow hams and their families!

Have a lot of fun, and 73!

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

Apr 17th 2018

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9:00 p.m. LOCATION: Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant St.

May 4th 5th 2018

- **NEARfest, Deerfield Fairgrounds**

May 5th 2018

- PART monthly breakfast. Paul's Diner. 8-10 AM

May 22nd 2018

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9:00 p.m. LOCATION: Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant St.

Jun 2nd 2018

- PART monthly breakfast. Paul's Diner. 8-10 AM

Jun 19th 2018

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9:00 p.m. LOCATION: Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant St.

Jun 23rd & 24th 2018

- **PART Field Day 2018**

Jul 7th 2018

- PART monthly breakfast. Paul's Diner. 8-10 AM

Jul 17th 2018

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9:00 p.m. LOCATION: Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant St.

Monthly PART Meetings and Social Events

- Every Sunday, 8 PM – PART Net on 146.955 repeater, Echolink Node 380799
- Every 3rd Tuesday - 7:30 PM – PART Meetings at Cameron Senior Center
- Every 1st Saturday, 8 AM, Paul's Diner Westford – PART Monthly Breakfast
- Every Wednesday, 6 AM, Owl Diner Lowell – Breakfast

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 20-Feb'18 and 19-Mar'18

(As of 20-Mar'18)

	General Fund	+	Repeater Fund	=	Checking Total
Old Balance	= \$5790.57	+	\$5450.02	=	\$11240.59
Income	+ \$ 424.27	+	+\$ 50.59	=	+\$ 474.86
Expenses	- \$ 221.03	+	-\$ 0.00	=	-\$ 221.03
Net	+ \$ 203.24	+	+\$ 50.59	=	+\$ 253.83
New Balance	= \$5993.81	+	\$5500.61	=	\$11494.42
Acc. Receivable	+ \$ 0.00	+	+\$ 0.00	=	+\$ 0.00
Acc. Payable	- \$ 189.63	+	-\$ 0.00	=	-\$ 189.63
Net Credit	- \$ 189.63	+	-\$ 0.00	=	-\$ 189.63
Net Worth	= \$5804.18	+	\$5500.61	=	\$11304.79

##To pay dues##
PART, P.O. Box 503, Westford, MA 01886-0015

-or-
Club Meeting, Cameron Senior Ctr., 7:00PM, 3rd Tuesday
Renew online by PayPal at: http://www.wb1gof.org/F_join/part_dues.html

PART 2018 Membership as of 6-Mar'18

	Individuals (= New for 2018 + Renew for 2018)	Households (= New for 2018 + Renew for 2018)
Full (\$25)*	25 (= 2 + 23)	[25 (= 2 + 23)]
Senior (\$15)*	35 (= 3 + 32)	[35 (= 3 + 32)]
Family (\$30)	16 (= 0 + 16)	7 (= 0 + 7)
Student (\$15)	0 (= 0 + 0)	[0 (= 0 + 0)]
Associate (\$10)	0 (= 0 + 0)	0 (= 0 + 0)
Grand Total*	76 (= 5 + 71)	67 (= 5 + 62)

ARRL members:* 66
(Including ARRL Life members: 11)

Starred lines changed since 6-Mar'18. -----

No new PART members this month.

PART members in good standing for 2018

AA1HO	AA1O	AA1VS	AB1HD	AB1OC	AB1QB	AC1DJ
AG1A	K1ALL	K1ARG	K1CL	K1EJ	K1IG	K1NS
K1OPE	K1OTA	K1SRW	K1VNV	K3XL	KA1IKK	KA1ULN
KA1VF	KA8SCP	KB1EDE	KB1GMX	KB1ILO	KB1LSH	KB1NIQ
KB1OIQ	KB1QAT	KB1ZKD	KC1ACV	KC1AJJ	KC1ELF	KC1FAC
KC1FGH	KC1FGI	KC1GAT	KC1GJJ	KC1HSC	KC9BLP	KE8UW
N1AEW	N1BE	N1BKR	N1CEO	N1DAM	N1ECC	N1HY
N1IEC	N1NCO	N1QGE	N1RXV	N1XOI	NE1RD	W1AHM
W1BP	W1CCE	W1FDR	W1FRR	W1GXH	W1IS	W1KAZ
W1KBE	W1LKS	W1LTN	W1MGA	W1QW	W1RAG	W1RS
WA1EJW	WA1QYM	WB1HBE	WB2OSZ	WI1R	WN1FVQ	

Total: 76 individuals

PART's official mailing address is:

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

PART Officers:

President: Andy (KB1OIQ) Stewart
Vice President: Rich (AB1HD) Crisafulli
Secretary: Rick (W1RAG) Green
Treasurer: Alan (W1AHM) Martin
Director-At-Large: Steve (W1KBE) Rimsa

Ham Fleas/Events

Links to Massachusetts hamfest websites (partial)

Cambridge MA Flea at MIT <http://www.swapfest.us>
 Boxborough MA NE ARRL Conv <http://www.boxboro.org>
 Adams MA N BerkshireARC <http://www.nobarc.org/hamfest.htm>
 Dartmouth MA SEMARA <http://www.semara.org/flea.htm>
 Falmouth MA FARA <http://www.falara.org>
 Feeding Hills MA MTARA <http://www.mtara.org>
 Framingham MA FARA <http://www.fara.org> & <http://www.n1em.org>
 Marlboro MA AARC <http://www.gsl.net/n1em>
 Newton MA Waltham ARA Auction <http://www.wara64.org/auction>
 Rockport MA CAARA <http://www.caara.net>
 S Dartmouth MA SEMARA <http://www.semara.org>
 Wakefield MA Photographica <http://www.phsne.org>
 Westford MA NEAntiqueRC <http://www.nearc.net>
 Whately MA FranklinCARC <http://www.fcarc.org/news.htm>
 Worcester MA WPI ACM <http://acm.wpi.edu/swapmeet/>



New England Area Ham/Electronic Fleas:

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

2018

21 Apr Gales Ferry CT RASON @FireCo auction Tom WA2RYV 860 464 6555 A+
 22 April Manchester CT NEWS EVHF/UHF @Baymont 8AM Mark K1MAP 413 777 9828 +
 29 April Thompson CT ECARA @ Raceway \$3 \$10/sp Jon KA1MPG 508 943 4467 F+
 29 April Middletown NY OCARC @ CommCtr Bruce K2ULZ 845 391 3620 A+
 4-5 May Deerfield NH NEARfest XXIII @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235
 12 May E Greenbush NY EGARA FireCo Tom KC2FCP 518 272 1494 A+
 19 May Goshen CT SBARC @FG \$5@8 \$10/T Stan W2VID 518 369 2863 F+
 20 May Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
 2 June Brookline NH NEARC antique 603 772 7516 F+
 3 June Fishkill MtBARC @DwnStCorr Adam KC2DAA 845 849 3666 A+
 17 June Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
 15 July Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
 11 Aug St Albans VT STARC @VFW Arn N1ARN 802 309 0666
 19 August Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
 19 Aug Adams MA NoBARC @FG B\$5@7 S\$10@6:30 Eric KA1SUN 413 743 9975 F+
 26 Aug Newtown CT CARA @TownHall \$7@8 \$20/T John W1JGM 203 417 0160 F+
 8,10 Sept Boxboro MA FEMARA NE Conv Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 A+
 9 Sept Ballston Spa NY SCRACES @FG \$6@7 Jim KG2H 518 703-9558 +
 12-13 Oct Deerfield NH NEARfest XXIV @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 +
 16 September Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
 6 October Brookline NH NEARC antique 603 772 7516 +
 21 October Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
 27 Oct Gales Ferry CT TCARC @FireCo auction Tom WA2RYV 860 464 6555 +
 3 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/S@7 Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422 +

2019

9 Mar Chicopee MA MtTomARA @Castle \$5@8:30 S@6:30 Brian N1FI 860 478 6790 +
 3-4 May Deerfield NH NEARfest XXV @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 +



Near-term local fleas

NEAR-Fest XXIII

Friday, 4-May'18 and Saturday, 5-May'18

Buyers \$10 for Fri+Sat

[<http://www.near-fest.com/>](http://www.near-fest.com/)

Deerfield Fairgrounds, 43 Stage Rd. (Rt. 43), Deerfield, NH

[<http://goo.gl/maps/gdFDT>](http://goo.gl/maps/gdFDT)



The Billerica BARS VE team conducts VE Sessions on 2nd Thursday of every month. They are held in the church hall of The Chelmsford Bible Church, 128 Gorham St, East Chelmsford at 7pm. New license and upgrade tests. Walk-Ins, not a problem. No Reservations needed. For more information, contact: Gary W1GFF at 978-453-1100 [Email Gary W1GFF](mailto:Gary.W1GFF@gmail.com)

The PART monthly meetings are held at the Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant Street in Westford. **NOW STARTING AT 7:30 PM**

Click [here](#) for the address and information.



This is your pre-meeting reminder to add something to your weekly shopping to bring to the next meeting. Watch your e-mail for specific needs this month.

PART member donations have been greatly appreciated in the past and we hope to continue this great community service at every meeting.

Upcoming PART Club Meetings

April 17, 2018:

The Show & Tell meeting is going to be one for the ages! We've got several high quality projects that PART members have been working on that you should find very enlightening.

Our agenda so far is:

- Bob, W1IS, will start off with a presentation on "Using Two Wire Dipoles as a Virtual Beam."
- George, K1IG, will follow with a recap of the recent ARRL Frequency Measuring Test that he and Andy, KB1OIQ, participated in. Did PART have a winner (or two)? Come and find out!
- Andy, KB1OIQ, will be showing a µBitX transceiver that he's been breadboarding for use by blind hams, and may bring his recently constructed 80 meter fox.
- Frank, KC1HSC, has two Arduino projects to show: a 100 Hz to 55 MHz signal generator and a 433 MHz 100 nW CW beacon.
- Finally, Steve, W1KBE, will attempt to rip the fabric of time and space with his home-brew transistorized Tesla coil! Bring your tinfoil hat!

We have room on the agenda for a few more small items. If you have anything you want to show the club: perhaps a rare new QSL card, a work in progress, or even the old boat anchor in your attic, bring it to the meeting and let everyone have a look.

May 15, 2018

- There will be a presentation on "ARES and Emergency Communication" by Steve Schwarm, W3EVE. We expect to be visited by several members of Eastern Massachusetts ARES organizations.

June 19, 2018

- The topic is Field Day!

Public Service



Apple Blossom Parade – Saturday May 12th, 2018

Hello PARTers new and old... for many years PART has been asked to provide communications support for the Westford Kiwanis Apple Blossom Parade. This year is no different; the parade is on Saturday, May 12th, 2018.

The Westford Kiwanis Apple Blossom Festival is a town tradition dating back to 1968. This year's event is the 50th year that the Westford Kiwanis have hosted the festival as a fundraiser to support local youth through scholarships, grants and financial support. The festival, which runs from Wednesday, May 9th through Sunday, May 13th, features the very popular Apple Blossom parade, a carnival, the Apple Blossom Queen contest, talent show, fireworks and more.

For our “part”, the parade starts around 10 AM near the junction of Graniteville Rd and Main St. and ending at Abbot School. For those that are assisting you will need to be available from 8:30/9:00AM until 11:00AM/noon at the latest. All you need to bring is a 2 meter walkie and some good walking shoes. We need about a dozen operators for this event.

Most volunteers will be assigned to "shadow" various members of the AB Parade committee. Our actual duty will not start till about 9:00AM but we need to get into the center of town before the roads are closed and we need to establish our assignments by 8:30 AM or so.

Please contact [Terry-KA8SCP](#) if you are interested and can assist or need more information.

Field Day

Field Day 2018

George, K1IG - Field Day Chairman

Field Day 2018 is just three months away and the preparations have begun. The things to know now are:

- Dates: June 23 -24. Antenna setup will be Friday, June 22
- Location: Concord Rod & Gun Club, 74 Strawberry Hill Road, Concord, MA
- Stations will be the same as last year: CW, Phone, Digital, VHF, Satellite, and Get On The Air (GOTA)
- We'll have a fox hunt on 2 meters, and maybe one on 80 meters
- As usual, there will be award-winning food!



We are looking for volunteers to fill these Field Day jobs:

- Station leads: CW, Phone, Digital, VHF, Satellite. Andy, KB1OIQ, has volunteered to be GOTA station lead. Station leads provide all equipment for their station (except antennas).
- Antenna lead
- Safety officer
- Food service crew
- Public relations lead
- Messaging lead (transmits messages to National Traffic System)

If you can volunteer for one of these jobs, just reply to this email and tell me what you want to do.

Last year's Field Day was a great success, and we are sure we can have just as much fun this year. Mark your calendars now to make sure you don't miss it!

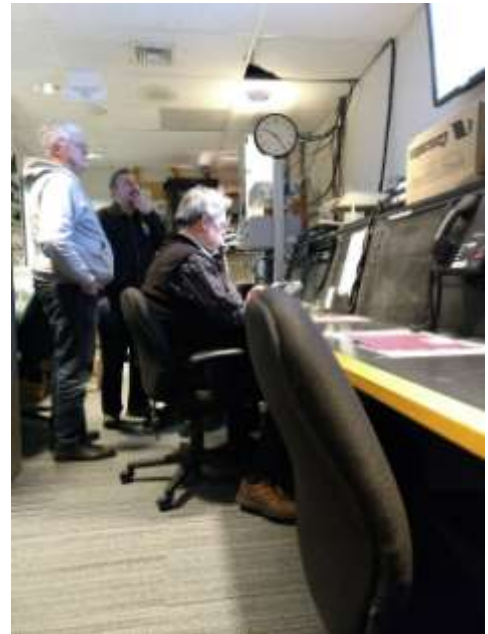
Current and past PART Field Day information can be found at <http://fd.ema.arrl.org/ClubDetail.php?club=PART>

Seabrook Station – Graded Exercise April 4 2018

Seabrook Station - Graded Exercise April 4, 2018
Terry, KA8SCP – Exercise Communications Coordinator

Since 1991, when the Seabrook nuclear power plant first came online, local hams have provided communications resources to the various local and state emergency management agencies. This is a different role than some of the public service events many hams participate in. Our role as communicators is varied from the typical using two way radios to fax, TTY and telephone switchboard operations. Our regular single-shift operations require 5 communicators... all operators get cross-trained in all comm center operations. Amateur Radio was NOT used for this particular exercise but we were required to review how ham radio could be used. We have the capabilities to operate from 75m through 440MHz.

This year's graded exercise was held on Wednesday, April 4, 2018. I'd like the thanks Dave-WI1R, Charles-AA1VS, Rich-N1HY and Bob-W1RS who assisted with this year's exercise at MEMA Region 1 HQ in Tewksbury. Photos were taken at the Region 1 EOC in the Comm Center.



In Massachusetts, there are 6 EPZ communities in Essex County and in New Hampshire, 17 communities in Rockingham County who participate in these exercises.

The exercise lasted about 6 hours from the initial callout to exercise termination. Participants cannot stage onsite, so many of us rendezvous at the nearby Deli King restaurant where we wait for notification before proceeding to the regional EOC. There are about 40 people who provide coordination from state agencies like MSP, MassDOT, MDPH, Red Cross as well as volunteers who act as community liaisons, transportation, EMS, radiological monitoring, technical resources and many other roles in support of the exercise.

Multiple FEMA representatives were present to evaluate/grade us on our ability to respond to the changing scenario at the plant and elsewhere. A very interesting day!

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New England QSO Party – May 5-6 2018



New England QSO Party

The NEQP is a great time to check out antenna systems and offers a moderately paced opportunity to work new states and countries. You'll find a wide variety of participants, from newcomers to experienced contesters, all interested in making contacts with New England stations.

We're working to make sure that all of the New England counties are active again this year and would appreciate your help. Get on for at least an hour or two and join in on the fun. Please let me know if you can put in any time at all so we can work on activity from the rarest counties. **Will you be QRV? Let us know which county you'll be on from with a message to info@neqp.org**

Oh yes, the NEQP is also **lots** of fun when mobile. Every time you cross a county line the action starts over again. It's amazing what a 100w radio and mobile whip can do.

The QSO Party is 20 hours long overall, in two sections with a civilized break for sleep Saturday night. It goes from 4pm Saturday until 1am Sunday, then 9am Sunday until 8pm Sunday. Operate on CW, SSB and digital modes on 80-40-20-15-10 meters. For each QSO you'll give your callsign, a signal report and your county/state.

The full rules are here -> <http://www.neqp.org/rules.html>

The list of 2017 results are on-line and the results since 2002 are also available -> <http://www.neqp.org/results.html>

Thanks!

73 Tom/K1KI

Amateur Radio News



From eHam.net News:

[Nevada Sheriff: Radio Show Host Art Bell, W6OBB, Dead at 72:](#)

by stgeorgeutah.com on April 15, 2018

PAHRUMP, Nev. (AP) -- Art Bell, a radio host best known for a paranormal-themed nightly show syndicated on hundreds of stations in the 1990s, has died at his home in southern Nevada. Nye County Sheriff Sharon Wehrly said Bell died Friday. He was 72. An autopsy will be conducted to determine cause of death. Bell hosted the popular radio talk show "Coast to Coast AM" before he left the airwaves in 2002. He broadcast the show from his home in Pahrump. Bell was also an amateur radio operator, who spoke with ham operators all over the world from his home studio. Bell, whose amateur radio callsign was W6OBB, could frequently be heard on 3.840 Mhz after his nightly show, discussing the night's broadcast with his fans.

[Scientist Says Sun has Opened Three Coronal Holes:](#)

by weekfacts.com on April 15, 2018

Experts believe that attention can only be paid if the hole starts to grow. Astronomers shared their observation of the sun: it has opened three wormholes. For the Earth, the increase may be a sign that geomagnetic Storms are approaching, as reported by Grifonsoft.ru. Chronicle.info Astronomers share

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their observation of the sun: it forms three holes. Experts believe that the Coronal Hole in the sun may Cause the Earth to be stationary, but given the size of the new three holes, the probability of a Storm is very low. In this case, if these holes begin to increase to cover the growing area of the sun, the Earth may not be able to avoid geomagnetic storms.

Collecting Transistors is this Hyderabad Techie-Turned-Ham's Hobby:

by telanganatoday.com on April 14, 2018

Hyderabad: From wooden-framed valve broadcasting receivers of the 1950s to transistors of the 90s, this 43-year-old software engineer-turned-radio ham has more than 90 different radios in his possession. In the dining room converted into a ham operator's room of Sridhar Reddy Bheemreddy at Pragathinagar, stacked in order are reel tape recorders to radios and transistors with different bandwidths from various companies such as Murphy, BPL Sanio, Bush, GE, JVC, Kaide, Kreff+, National Panasonic, NELCO, Philips and so on. "I am looking for transistors that were used during World War-I and II," says Sridhar, who is employed with Oracle, as he unwraps the safely-packed filament in the valve of a radio set manufactured by Howard company in the 1940s. These valve radios which are things of past and now pride possessions, he says, used to receive static-free voice -- whether it was news or music. These days, a very few were taking to Ham and youngsters who were keen about them, find the costs of radio systems and equipment prohibitive, he points out. Sridhar, a techie by profession, intends to collect more such vintage radios to preserve it for the coming generations. "The fast-paced world of the present generation does not know its importance. I will keep the radios for display," he says. Sridhar was one among 50 ham radio operators who worked with the police, revenue and electricity departments during the Krishna Pushkaralu in 2016 in Vijayawada. One of our ham operators tipped the police about heavy crowd alighting at the Vijayawada railway station to take part in Pushkaralu, he recalls. The information was passed on to cops and the government roped in additional buses to clear the rush. Another incident of a man, who had suffered a heart stroke amid the chaos, was saved after he was shifted to hospital on time. "The life could not have been saved without ham radio operators at the massive confluence of people who came to take the holy dip," he says. During the Chennai floods of 2015, Sridhar was busy helping people to locate the whereabouts of their kin.

Another Reason to Learn Morse Code: Kidnapping:

by hackaday.com on April 14, 2018

Morse code -- that series of dots and dashes -- can be useful in the strangest situations. As a kid I remember an original Star Trek episode where an injured (Christopher Pike) could only blink a light once for yes and twice for no. Even as a kid, I remember thinking, "Too bad they didn't think to teach him Morse code." Of course odd uses of Morse aren't just for TV and Movies. Perhaps the strangest real-life use was the case of the Colombian government hiding code in pop music to send messages to hostages. In 2010, (Jose Espejo) was close to retirement from the Colombian army. But he was bothered by the fact that some of his comrades were hostages of FARC (the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia; the anti-government guerrillas), some for as many as ten years. There was a massive effort to free hostages underway, and they wanted them to know both to boost morale and so they'd be ready to escape. But how do you send a message to people in captivity without alerting their captors? (Espejo) enlisted an expatriate advertising executive, (Juan Carlos Ortiz), to devise a way to deliver the message. (Ortiz) had left Colombia because his anti-drug advertising led to death threats from FARC. Living in the United States, he was no fan of FARC and was happy to lend a hand to his native country.

Is Greg Walden, W7EQI a Possible Successor as House Speaker?

by rbr.com on April 14, 2018

LAS VEGAS -- Major rumblings in Washington, D.C., quickly rippled through the crowd at the early-morning crowd of media executives, top D.C. attorneys and industry luminaries attending the Broadcasters Foundation of America 2018 Ward L. Quall Leadership Awards. Speaker of the U.S. House

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of Representatives Paul Ryan will retire at the end of his term and not seek reelection. Among the first to offer a reaction was House E and C Chairman Greg Walden (R-Ore.). Could this former radio broadcaster be primed to fill Ryan's shoes? Walden and his wife spent more than two decades as radio station owners in the Gorge. He's also a licensed amateur radio operator (W7EQI). He put that small business and technology experience to work as chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications and Technology. In this role, he worked to pass legislation to grow American jobs by expanding access to wireless broadband, spur new U.S. technology and innovation, and protect the Internet from government control.

VK6WIA NewsWest for Sunday 15 April 2018:

by WA Amateur Radio News on April 13, 2018

In this New Amateur edition of the news we look at getting on air, antennas, power connectors and learning the ropes. There's an update on HARGfest, some contest updates and more.

Propagation Forecast Bulletin #15 de K7RA:

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on April 13, 2018

No sunspots were seen over the past reporting week, April 5-11, so average daily sunspot number declined from 3.3 to 0. Average daily solar flux declined from 68.6 to 67.7. Average daily planetary A index increased from 5 to 9.4, and average daily mid-latitude A index went from 4 to 8.1. But on Thursday, April 12, a new sunspot appeared, AR2704, and it is a small one. However this one is three times the size of new sunspot groups appearing on March 30, March 17, March 15, and March 2.

RSGB at Maker Faire UK:

by RSGB on April 13, 2018

Maker Faire UK is one of the largest hands-on exhibitions for those who enjoy experimenting with all forms of technology, making and crafting. Members of the RSGB's Training and Education Committee, supported by the Youth Committee, will be attending Maker Faire UK on the 28th and 29th of April at the Life Science Centre in Newcastle.

Holes Have Burst Open On the Sun Hurling Geomagnetic Storms Towards Earth:

by alphr.com on April 13, 2018

The sun just developed three new holes -- with a spectrum of effects expected: The sun is up to old tricks again, having recently developed three new coronal holes. And it's us Earthlings that are bearing the brunt, occupying a planet hit by geomagnetic storms. While this might sound like I'm hailing the next rapture, I'm not. Solar holes aren't uncommon, particularly given that we're in the solar minimum -- a stage in the sun's 11-year activity cycle in which coronal holes are pretty regular. But what are coronal holes? No, they're not the place you retreat to after doing the Corona deal at Wetherspoons. Cosmically speaking, they're open structures which allow solar winds to escape more readily. This, in turn, means that electromagnetic radiation can be blown towards Earth -- if the hole is in the optimum position.

April is Volunteers in Preparedness and Response Month:

by mendotareporter.com on April 13, 2018

OTTAWA -- The LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency will host a Volunteer Open House as part of Volunteers in Preparedness and Response Month. The open house will take place on Sunday, April 22 from 9 a.m.-noon in Ottawa at the Emergency Management building, 711 E. Etna Road. The public is invited. The LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency (LCEMA) has utilized volunteers for years and they currently work with several groups of volunteers who have specific skill sets to aid them in their response efforts. "It is because of our volunteers that we're able to do everything we do during exercises, disaster response and long-term recovery. They're a valuable asset not only to our agency but to the citizens of LaSalle County," emphasized Connie Brooks, LaSalle County EMA Director. The Radio

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Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) team is a group of amateur radio operators that can provide emergency communications in the event all other communications are down. They also participate in nuclear exercises to test communications among municipal and county emergency operation centers. Skywarn volunteers are individuals who have completed the severe weather spotter class at least every other year. These volunteers spot from the safety of their own home and report what they see as weather systems move through LaSalle County -- Skywarn volunteers are NOT storm chasers.

DX News -- ARRL DX Bulletin #16:

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on April 12, 2018

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by UR5BCP, The Daily DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

Just Ahead In Radiosport:

by The ARRL Letter on April 12, 2018

Just Ahead In Radiosport:

New ARRL CEO Comes Aboard Facing Challenges and Change:

by The ARRL Letter on April 12, 2018

ARRL's new Chief Executive Officer, Barry Shelley, N1VXY, moved one floor down at ARRL Headquarters earlier this year to assume leadership of the organization with an overarching goal of promoting the League's mission: "To advance the art, science, and enjoyment of Amateur Radio." Shelley has spent much of his tenure at ARRL Headquarters toiling out of the limelight, so he's a bit of an unknown quantity within the greater Amateur Radio community. But he brings to his new position nearly 3 decades of experience as ARRL's Chief Financial Officer. Shelley intends to leverage that background in his role as CEO, enabling him to hit the ground running.

Amateur Radio's Service and Support Commended on National Volunteer Week:

by The ARRL Letter on April 12, 2018

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, used the occasion of National Volunteer Week, April 15 - 21, to express gratitude to "the thousands of Amateur Radio operators who have given, and who continue to give, of their time and expertise" to serve as vital communication links during emergencies, disasters, and community events. Throughout the past year, President Roderick recounted, ham radio operators have volunteered during hurricanes, wildfires, and severe weather to support communication for emergency evacuation shelters, pass health-and-welfare traffic to anxious families, and partner with the National Weather Service as SKYWARN volunteers to report local weather conditions. Hams also volunteered during the solar eclipse last August, working with scientists to record its impact on radio propagation, he pointed out.

IARU President Extends Greetings for World Amateur Radio Day 2018:

by The ARRL Letter on April 12, 2018

Wednesday, April 18, is World Amateur Radio Day (WARD), this year marking the 93rd anniversary of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), founded in Paris in 1925. Each year, WARD celebrates Amateur Radio's contribution to society.



ARRL News



04/14/2018 | [Former “Coast to Coast AM” Radio Show Host Art Bell, W6OBB, SK](#)

Former “Coast to Coast AM” and “Dreamland” radio host Art Bell, W6OBB, of Pahrump, Nevada, died on Friday, April 13.

[Learn More](#)



04/13/2018 | [School’s Ham Contact with Space Station Raises Amateur Radio’s Visibility in Alabama](#)

An Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school contact with crew member Ricky Arnold, KE5DAU, was a huge success on more than one level.

[Learn More](#)



04/13/2018 | [DX Operators Establishing New Logbook of The World Accounts May E-Mail Documentation](#)

Amateur Radio operators from outside the US who are requesting an initial call sign certificate to establish a new Logbook of The World (LoTW) user account now may submit the required documentation via e-mail.

[Learn More](#)



04/13/2018 | [Amateur Radio’s Service and Support Commended on National Volunteer Week](#)

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, used the occasion of National Volunteer Week, April 15 – 21, to express gratitude to "thousands of Amateur Radio operators" for their public service contributions.

[Learn More](#)



04/13/2018 | [Many Post ARISS-Russia Interkosmos Slow-Scan Television \(SSTV\) Images](#)

The ARISS-Russia Cosmonautics Day (International Day of Human Space Flight) SSTV transmissions from the International Space Station have proven popular.

April 2018

[Learn More](#)



04/13/2018 | [Aruba QSL Bureau Manager, WRTC 2006 Competitor Emily Thiel, P43E, SK](#)

Emily Thiel, P43E, of Oranjestad, Aruba, died on April 12.

[Learn More](#)



04/13/2018 | [The K7RA Solar Update](#)

A tiny sunspot finally appears

[Learn More](#)



04/12/2018 | [Results of the 2017 ARRL November Sweepstakes Phone Now Available](#)

The results of the 2017 ARRL November Sweepstakes Phone are now posted on the ARRL website.

[Learn More](#)

ARRL Bulletins

- 2018-03-15 [ARLX005](#) Past Louisiana Section Manager Jim Molan, KD5IGG, SK
- 2018-03-12 [ARLB008](#) W1AW 2018 Spring/Summer Operating Schedule
- 2018-03-12 [ARLB009](#) South Texas SM Stepping Aside; New South Texas SM Appointed
- 2018-03-01 [ARLB007](#) ARRL Requests Expanded HF Privileges for Technician Licensees
- 2018-02-23 [ARLX004](#) IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee Chair Jim Linton, VK3PC (SK)
- 2018-02-21 [ARLB006](#) Louisiana Elects New Section Manager
- 2018-01-26 [ARLB005](#) Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, Appointed ARRL Pacific Division Vice Director
- 2018-01-23 [ARLX003](#) New IARU Region 2 HF Beacon Coordinator Named
- 2018-01-16 [ARLB004](#) NCVEC Question Pool Committee Releases Errata to New Technician Question Pool
- 2018-01-16 [ARLX002](#) Past ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE (SK)
- 2018-01-09 [ARLB003](#) NCVEC Releases New Technician License Question Pool into the Public Domain
- 2018-01-09 [ARLX001](#) FEMA Region 10 Communication Exercises Will Make Use of 60 Meters
- 2018-01-02 [ARLB001](#) W1AW 2018 Winter Operating Schedule
- 2018-01-02 [ARLB002](#) W1AW active on 6 meters for all its scheduled transmissions; signal reports welcome

April 2018



[2018 State of Ham Radio Survey](#)

The results of the State of Amateur Radio survey conducted by **Dustin Thomas N8RMA** have been published



[Renown Pahrump radio host Art Bell W6OBB \(4F1AB\) is silent key](#)

A Nevada ham radio operator, who was as famous locally for his five acre loop antenna as he was for being the host of the most listened-to night time radio program in the country, has died



[Canada - new 100w ham radio 5 MHz allocation](#)

Canada has updated its National Frequency Allocation Table to show a new 100 watt ERP 5351.5-5366.5 kHz allocation (WRC-15) but amateurs are not yet authorized to use it



[Essex Skills Night Monday](#)

Skills Night takes place at 7pm on Monday, April 16 in Danbury Village Hall, Essex, this free event is open to all



[VK6WIA NewsWest](#)

In this New Amateur edition of the news we look at getting on air, antennas, power connectors and learning the ropes. There's an update on HARGfest, some contest updates and more



[HamRadioNow: Field Radio Podcast](#)

John Jacobs W7DBO from the Field Radio Podcast joins me to talk about his podcast, Comms to Go, and his other video offerings... The **Field Radio Podcast** comes out about every two weeks and is dedicated to amateur radio in the outdoors



[HARS achievements](#)

During a Club meeting back in May 2017, several members of the **Huntingdonshire Amateur Radio Society (HARS)** got together as a small group and agreed to take part in the On-Line Bath Distance Learning Course to see if they could gain the next level of radio operator licence and be the holder of the elusive Mike Zero callsign



[QSO Today - Vjollca Belegu, Z61VB](#)

Out of the ashes of ten years of ethnic repression and the Kosovo War in 1998, the amateur radio service in Kosovo was reborn in 2012



[Two local SARL contests next weekend](#)

The **Autumn QRP Contest** runs from 12:00 to 15:00 UTC on Saturday 21 April 2018 with SSB and CW activity and power of 5 watts (PEP) output or less



[World Amateur Radio Day](#)

Every April 18th, radio amateurs worldwide take to the airwaves in celebration of **World Amateur Radio Day**



[YOTA Subregional Camp Italy 2018](#)

YOTA Italia as part of ARI, and local clubs based in Rome Region, is organising a YOTA Subregional Camp for up to 40 young people



[Foundations of Amateur Radio #149](#)

Shakespeare and Coax Stub Filters

If you read it on the Internet, it must be true. but what happens if you read it and there are 700 different answers?



[Ofcom publishes final results of spectrum auction](#)

Ofcom has published the final outcome of its auction to release more airwaves for 4G mobile and future 5G services

Special Event Stations in New England

- **04/21/2018 | International Marconi Day**
Apr 21, 0000Z-2359Z, KM1CC, Wellfleet, MA. Marconi Cape Cod Radio Club. 14.260 14.035 7.260 3.535 . QSL. KM1CC Marconi Cape Cod Radio Club, Cape Cod National Seashore, 99 Marconi Site Rd, Wellfleet, MA 02667. International Marconi Day is sponsored by the Cornish Radio Club, UK. KM1CC is one of many stations participating. KM1CC represents Marconi's 1901 South Wellfleet Station <https://www.nps.gov/caco/learn/historyculture/marconi.htm>
- **04/28/2018 | Honoring the Birthday of the Boy Scouts of America**
Apr 28, 1000Z-1500Z, W1BSA, Fall River, MA. USNR NE1PL. 7,259. QSL. USNR c/o Rick Emord, 135 Wareham St, Middleboro, MA 02346. This will be our fourth year transmitting in honor of the birthday of the Boy Scouts Of America from the ward room of the USS Massachusetts. Scouts camp over night on the ship and we try to involve as many as we can.
- **04/28/2018 | W1BSA Scouts on the Air from Battleship Cove**
Apr 28, 1500Z-2000Z, W1BSA, Fall River, MA. USNR. 7.245. Certificate & QSL. Rick Emord, KB1TEE, 135 Wareham St, Middleboro, MA 02346. We'll be on clear frequencies on 20m 40m, possibly 10m and wherever conditions lead us. Feel free to make contact or if you're in the area stop on down and say hi, we love to have more operators or to meet new people, or catch up with old friends. usnrnelpl@gmail.com
- **06/02/2018 | First Nuclear Submarine USS NAUTILUS**
Jun 2-Jun 3, 1300Z-2100Z, N1S, Groton, CT. Generations Amateur Radio Club. 21.324 14.264 7.264 3.924. QSL. via bureau or direct to: GARC, Harrison Solt, N1FAM, 110 Vinegar Hill Road, Gales Ferry, CT 06335. Museum Ships Weekend participant. Nautilus info: ussnautilus.org. <https://www.qrz.com/db/n1s>
- **06/08/2018 | American Cancer Society's Relay For Life**
Jun 8-Jun 9, 2000Z-1959Z, N1C, Gardner, MA. Area Amateurs. All FT8 frequencys 20, 40, 80 meters SSB. QSL. Bill Leger, N1UZ, 38 Chapel Street, Gardner, MA 01440. Great cause, third year doing this event. All QSL cards will be answered. Any and all donations will be appreciated. Last year we raised over \$1,000 and had a blast doing it. Start a event near you.
- **07/21/2018 | Flat Hammock Island, NY - On the Air**
Jul 21, 1500Z-2100Z, W1QV/2, Groton, CT. Tri-City ARC of Connecticut. 21.295 14.295 7.195 3.895. QSL. Tri-City ARC, PO Box 552, Groton, CT 06340. Limited operation is also planned on 28.395, 50.135, and 144.205 MHZ. Rain date is Sunday, July 22nd; same times and frequencies QSL information is shown on the W1QV QRZ page.
- **08/17/2018 | 151st Annual Marshfield Fair**
Aug 17-Aug 26, 1600Z-0059Z, NN1MF, Marshfield, MA. Whitman Amateur Radio Club. 18.160 14.260 7.260 3.860; EchoLink: WA1NPO-R, IRLP: 8691. Certificate & QSL. Whitman ARC, PO Box 48, Whitman, MA 02382. Times are daily. www.wa1npo.org

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> (TEMPORARILY DOWN!)

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 069C
- Tuesday 9:00 PM North Carolina Net – Reflector 54C
- Friday 8:00 PM CanNet D-Star Net – XRF021B

NOTE: The status of the WB1GOF D-Star repeaters can be seen at <https://wb1gof.dstargateway.org> and at http://www.wb1gof.org/F_repeater/dstar-status/dstar-status.html

Monthly PART Breakfast

NEW Venue - Paul's Diner

From this month's President's Column: "The event will be moved to Paul's Diner in Westford starting on Saturday, March 3rd, 2018. The event will still begin at 8 AM, and we'll meet in the back room of the restaurant. Each person will order from the [menu](#), as there is no buffet at this restaurant."

Paul's Diner is located at 6 Carlisle Rd in Westford, MA 01886. Directions to Paul's Diner can be found at this link: <http://www.paulsdiner.com/Directions>



Repeater Information

Repeater Interference

The 146.955 repeater periodically has had interference to in-progress 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.

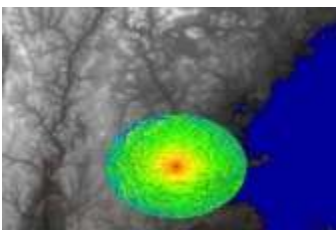
EmComm events and repeater use

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 Terry-KA8SCP. All requests for repeater use can be initiated by email to info@wb1gof.org.



Repeater propagation info is 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 (the first one is FREE to new members). We use The Sign Man of Baton Rouge as our official supplier, and you can browse the club's design at:

<<http://thesignman.com/clubs/part.html>>. However, please place your order via the PART Membership Chairman, Hugh Maguire-N1QGE, hulin127@verizon.net so that we may benefit from bulk pricing.



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 & Town of Westford

Bill Ohm – W1OHM, for the Town of Chelmsford

Darrel Mallory – K1EJ, North Middlesex ARES

- 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. 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 lose power in the region, an HT with a supply of batteries will reconnect you to other local hams.



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This month's editor: Terry Stader – KA8SCP

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

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