



PARTicles

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

January 2015

President's Column

- *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*

Happy New Year everybody! I hope you all enjoyed the holidays. At the upcoming PART meeting on January 20th, we will actually have 3 short talks given by 3 different speakers. Justin (KJ1H) will talk about amateur radio and performance rally (auto racing), Mark (K1MGH) will give an introduction to BAA Boston Marathon Amateur Radio Communications for 2015, and our new EMA section manager, Tom Walsh (K1TW), will talk about his new responsibilities as he gets settled in to the new job. This is a very full agenda and should be a great meeting. I look forward to seeing you there!



For you CW enthusiasts, this month is very busy with the K3Y special event, sponsored by the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC). If you can do CW at any speed, this event is for you. Make contact with one SKCC station in each of the 10 US geographies and earn yourself a certificate. You get brownie points for using low power, and for adding the KH6, KL7, and the KP4 stations. There are also additional stations around the world for "extra credit". For this event, I've been occasionally operating as

K3Y/1 and it is a lot of fun. Goto <http://www.skccgroup.com> for more information.

It isn't too early to start thinking about Field Day. I am looking for a volunteer who wants to be the Field Day chairman for 2015. If you are interested, or even considering it, please contact me. If one of your friends is interested, let me know and I'll talk them into it. If a volunteer doesn't come forward, I'll have to resort to arm twisting. :-)

If you earn an operating award, such as "Worked All States", DX Century Club, or similar, please let me know and we can be sure to announce your accomplishment at the club meeting.

I am currently planning the agendas for the February and March PART meetings. If you have a topic of interest and you'd like to be a speaker at one of these meetings, please send me email.

The foxes have not gone into hibernation for the winter! They're still out there, so don't be afraid to put on some warm clothes and hunt for them.

Have a lot of fun!
73 de Andy KB1OIQ

Next PART meeting: Tuesday January 20th

@1930 – Westford Police station

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

PART Treasury between 18-November '14 & 15-December '14

(As of 16-December '14)

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	\$ 2,884.64	\$ 2,762.06	\$ 5,646.70
Income	\$ 85.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 150.00
Expenses	\$ (97.06)	\$ 0.00	\$ (97.06)
Net	\$ (12.06)	\$ 65.00	\$ 52.94
New Balance	\$ 2,872.58	\$ 2,827.06	\$ 5,699.64

PART 2014 Membership as of 7-January '15

	Individuals (= New for 2014 + Renew for 2014)		Households (= New for 2014 + Renew for 2014)	
Full (\$25)*	41	(= 10 + 31)	41	(= 10 + 31)
Senior (\$15)*	40	(= 2 + 38)	40	(= 2 + 33)
Family (\$30)	31	(= 7 + 24)	14	(= 3 + 11)
Student (\$15)	1	(= 1 + 0)	1	(= 1 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(= 0 + 0)
Grand Total*	113	(= 20 + 93)	96	(= 16 + 80)
ARRL members:*	99			
(Including ARRL Life members: 9)				

NOTE: * Starred lines changed since 3-December '14

Latest new PART members:

John/W1TJJ (ex-KC1CRH)

PART 2015 Membership as of 7-January '15

	Individuals (= New for 2015 + Renew for 2015)		Households (= New for 2015 + Renew for 2015)	
Full (\$25)*	4	(= 0 + 4)	4	(= 0 + 4)
Senior (\$15)*	8	(= 1 + 7)	8	(= 1 + 7)
Family (\$30)	4	(= 2 + 2)	2	(= 1 + 1)
Student (\$15)	0	(= 0 + 0)	1	(= 0 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(= 0 + 0)
Grand Total*	16	(= 3 + 13)	14	(= 2 + 12)
ARRL members:*	12			
(Including ARRL Life members: 2)				

NOTE: * Starred lines changed since 3-December '14

##To pay dues##

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

-or-

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

Your Call EXPIRED?

How to avoid losing your license...

The USA Callsign database contains about 750,000 listings and at any given moment, approximately 30,000 of these callsigns are expired! Over 1,000 old callsigns are returned to the unused pool each month! <http://www.qrz.com/expired/>

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

January 20th, 2015

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

February 7th, 2015

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$15/\$9; kids: \$8 – see note below)

February 17th, 2015

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

March 7th, 2015

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$15/\$9; kids: \$8 – see note below)

March 17th, 2015

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

April 4th, 2015

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$15/\$9; kids: \$8 – see note below)

April 14th, 2015

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

Monthly PART Meetings and Social 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

Ham Fleas/Events

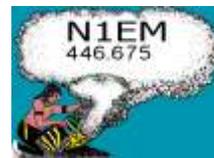
Algonquin ARC Flea Market

Saturday, 14-Feb'15 <http://goo.gl/maps/kfLdQ>

Buyers \$5.00, 9:00AM-1:00PM

(<<http://www.qsl.net/n1em/2015FleaFlier.pdf>>)

Marlboro 1st Lt. Charles W. Whitcomb (ex-Middle) School
25 Union St. (Thresher Dr.)



NEARC Greater Boston Antique Radio Show XLVI

Sunday, 15-Feb'15 <http://goo.gl/maps/4tyCX>

Buyers \$10.00/family, 8:00AM-12:00 noon

(<<http://www.nearc.net/swapmeetinfo.htm>>)

Westford Regency Inn
219 Littleton Rd. (Rt. 110)



Flea at MIT

Sunday, 19-Apr'15

Buyers \$6.00, 9:00AM-2:00PM (\$1.00 discount with flyer:

<<http://web.mit.edu/wimx/www/swapfest/swapfest-2014.04.pdf>>)

Parking Lot&Garage on Albany St. Cambridge, at Portland St.

<<http://goo.gl/maps/KpTQO>>

<<http://web.mit.edu/wimx/www/swapfest/buyers-parking.pdf>>



NEAR-Fest XVI

Late April/early May 2015 - Buyers \$10 for

Fri+Sat <<http://www.near-fest.com:8084/nearfest/>>

Deerfield Fairgrounds, 43 Stage Rd. (Rt. 43),
Deerfield, NH <<http://goo.gl/maps/gdFDT>>



New England Area Ham/Electronic Fleas:

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

2015

31 Jan Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518 +
7 Feb Springfield VT CVFMA.org @VFW @8-12 Steve N1QDT 802 885 8110 A+
7 Feb Augusta ME AARA @ClbCalumet Bill K1NIT 207 512 0312 A+
14 Feb Marlborough MA AARC @MS \$5@9 \$20/T@6:30 Bef 9 Tim KA1OS 508 919 6136 W+
15 Feb Westford MA NEARC RadioXLVI 8AM@Regency antique Bruce 603 772 7516 F
28 Feb S Burlington VT RAoNvt @ HI I89 x14 Mitch W1SJ 802 879 6589 W+
7 Mar Chicopee MA MtTomARA @MooseLodge @8:30 S@6:30 Mary KB1ME 413 222 1990
8 Mar Hicksville NY LIMARC @LevitHall \$6@9 \$20/T Richie K2KNB 516 694 4937 W+
14 Mar Dayville CT ECARA @StJosephCh \$3@8A \$10/T Peter K1LNx 401 603 1485
15 Mar Southington CT SARA \$5@8A @HS \$20/T@6:15 John WA1JKR 860 621 8791 A+
22 Mar Henniker NH CVRC @CommSch Don N1ZIH 603 707 7696 W+
27,28 Mar Lewiston ME AARC ME Conv @Ramada @8 Ivan N1OXA 207 784 0350
11,12 Apr Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericlCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553
11 Apr Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM John 860 673 0518 +
19 April Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
25 Apr Brookline,NH NEARC Antique \$5@8:30 \$10@7:30 Bruce 603 772 7516 W+
1,2 May Deerfield NH NEARfest XVII @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 R
9 May E Greenbush NY EGARA @FireCo \$6@8 \$6/T@6 Tom KC2FCP 518 272 1494 W+
17 May Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F
6 June Hermon ME PSARA @8 @HS TG@6:30 Jerry K1GUP 207 848 3400
6 June Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518 +
21 June Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F
19 July Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F
16 Aug Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F
21,23 Aug Boxboro MA FEMARA NE Conv Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 A
30 Aug Adams MA NoBARC @BoweFld 6:30sell 7:30buy Eric KA1SUN 413 743 9975
5 Sept Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518 +
13 Sept Ballston Spa NY SCRACES @FG \$10@7 Darlene N2XQG 518 587 2385
13 Sept Newtown CT CARA @TownHall\$5@8:30 Ron AB1RJ 203 938 7007
19 Sept Forestdale RI RIAFMRS @VFW \$5/Sp@8 Pete AA1PL 401 639 4484
20 Sept Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F
26 Sep Brookline,NH NEARC Antique \$5@8:30 \$10@7:30 Bruce 603 772 7516 W+
17,18 Oct Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericlCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553
16,17 Oct Deerfield NH NEARfest XVIII @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 +
18 Oct Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F
25 Oct Hicksville NY LIMARC @LevitHall \$6@9 \$20/T Richie K2KNB 516 694 4937 W+
5 Dec Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518 +

D-Star

D-STAR Update



- Terry Stader KA8SCP

Every once in awhile I get someone that asks me how are the WB1GOF D-Star repeaters doing in terms of activity/usage. I am happy to say that both the UHF and VHF D-Star machines have a lot of activity. There is so much more usage of the UHF frequency than we ever had when it was just plain old FM! D-Star in general continues to grow. The WB1GOF D-Star registration system has 197 unique call signs that have affiliated with it! Our first user (it was NOT me!)

registered with us on 4/18/2010 and the most current new user registered on 1/10/2015. Lately we average about 5 new users each month.

As far as activity goes... anyone can see a snapshot of activity by going to the PART website and clicking on the D-Star Status under the WB1GOF repeaters tab. Or click here http://wb1gof.org/F_repeater/dstar-status/dstar-status.html.

The GOF system is usually connected to a reflector (think conference-node) of other northeast systems on the UHF side and to a wide area reflector on the VHF side. This means that a new user to either repeater able to talk to anyone else within range of a half-dozen or more other repeaters. You will able to see these calls on the link above.



It was a very busy Christmas season with many hams getting new Icom D-Star radios from Santa or E-Bay! The options for RF devices for getting on D-Star are about to get better when Connect Systems Inc. (www.connectsystems.com) releases their new CS7000 software defined, multi-protocol radio. A portable/handheld version will be coming next year as well.

Many, first time D-Star users are getting on the air with a handheld/portable radio. New radio prices are just under \$300, used are as low as \$150.

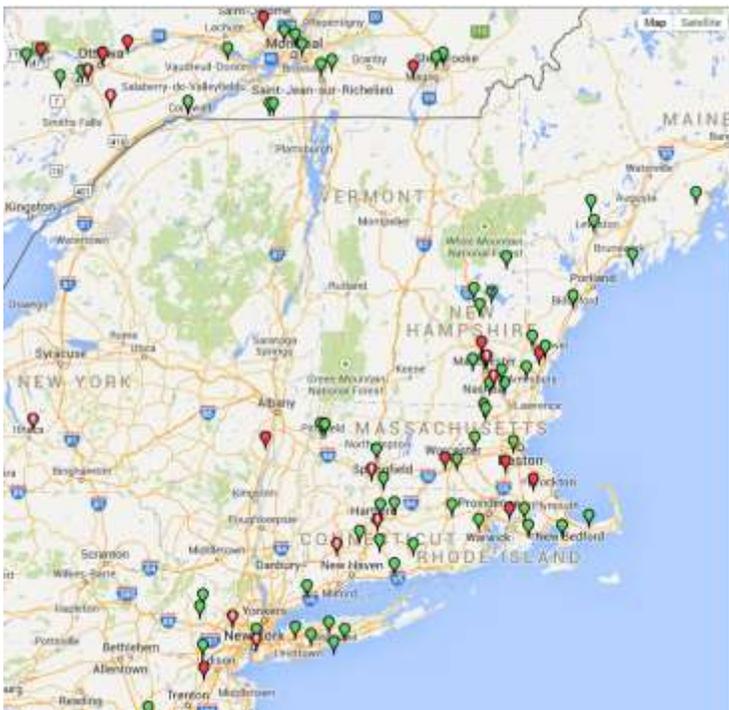
The latest generation of Icom portables have built-in GPS and a pre-loaded database of D-Star AND analog/FM repeaters with their lat/lon tagged, so you can ask the radio to find the nearest repeater. SLICK!

Even if there is not a D-Star repeater within handheld coverage, there are options to build your own "hotspot". This will enable you to use your radio and connect wirelessly to your own home internet based connection to D-Star. Have a Raspberry Pi, you're almost there! Most of

these hotspot owners are reporting good coverage from their home-based systems and they are usually open for any user within range!

There are lots of full D-Star repeaters and hotspot systems to connect to for RF coverage here in the northeast. The map to the left can be found at <http://status.ircddb.net/qam.php>.

Many of these homebrew are open-system developments adopted after the open source JARL standard. There was a lot of pushback from hams because of the propriety of the codec used in D-Star, but the SDR development efforts will give hams an alternative. Not going to go any further on this topic other than we live our lives every day with proprietary based tools in our hands.



A question that also comes up, what about the “other” digital systems like DMR (Digital Mobile Radio and Yeasu’s System Fusion. Most of these systems use a newer codec, AMBE+2, like NXDN and IDAS. There are a number of these systems in New England, with the fastest growing segment at the moment in DMR. The DMR radios are all commercial radio like Motorola, Vertex, Tait, Hytera, Kenwood, etc. These radios require unique software to program a “code plug” for the geographical area it is to be used in. They are not “front-programmable” radios that most hams are used to. While capable of having a thousand talkgroups, they have to be pre-defined by the user. You cannot just tune in.

Personally, I have D-Star and DMR radios now... and truly enjoy the flexibility of D-Star.

Amateur Radio News



From eHam.net News:

[Radio Club Members Tune Into Community Needs:](#)

by roanoke.com on January 11, 2015

Members of the Franklin County Amateur (Ham) Radio Club recently made a donation to the Stepping Stone Mission in Rocky Mount. Every year, the club accepts contributions from members at the annual Christmas party, and then adds an additional amount from its treasury. This year, the donation of \$511 was presented to Joanne Patterson, founder and president of the Stepping Stone Mission

[Cinematic Experience Brings Back Memories for World War 2 Code Breaker:](#)

by chad.co.uk on January 10, 2015

Watching Benedict Cumberbatch’s powerful performance In the Imitation Game has brought back memories of his own wartime code cracking exploits for a Mansfield Woodhouse pensioner. Wilfred Bingley, 92 was part of the team of elite Morse Code breakers who worked for the genius Alan Turing in an operation to crack Nazi codes at Bletchley Park. Wilfred and his daughter Elaine were given free tickets to watch the film when the manager of Mansfield’s Odeon Cinema heard he had actually taken part in the operation said to have saved Britain from a Nazi invasion. The film begins in 1939, when the newly created British intelligence agency MI6 recruited Cambridge mathematician Alan Turing played by Benedict Cumberbatch, to crack Nazi codes, including Enigma -- which cryptanalysts had thought unbreakable. Back then Wilfred had just married his sweetheart Barbara when he was called up at the age of 19 for service with the Royal Navy. After showing promise during his training the seaman became a specialist Morse Code reader at a facility in Scarborough.

[Storm Spotting Volunteers Serve Important Role In Dangerous Weather:](#)

by roanoke.com on January 10, 2015

BLACKSBURG -- When most people tune to the television to learn about severe weather, Carter and Kay Craigie are turning to the skies and their ham radio. And when the weather gets bad, it’s information from people like the Craigies that helps put warnings, red bars and loud beeps onto everyone else’s TV screens. The Craigies are two of about 2,000 SKYWARN weather spotter volunteers who work with the National Weather Service in Blacksburg. The purpose of their work is to verify and give information to issue warnings and also to stress the danger of weather events to the 40 counties covered by the Blacksburg office of the National Weather Service. “They [spotters] can provide observations about what’s happening at ground level, below the radar beam and areas where other tools cannot see,” said Phil Hysell, warning coordination meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Blacksburg. “The other role they play is they provide on the ground information that helps notify people that they need to take shelter.”

[CQ Combining Jan/Feb 2015 Issues, Closing CQ Plus Digital Supplement:](#)

by CQ Communications on January 9, 2015

(Hicksville, NY, January 9, 2015) -- CQ magazine today announced that it will be publishing a combined January/February 2015 issue and will be ceasing publication of its "CQ Plus" digital edition supplement as of the March 2015 issue. Both moves are intended to help restore the magazine's normal schedule for its print edition and to strengthen its foundations moving forward as it enters its eighth decade of publication, said Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA. "These decisions were not made lightly," he added, "but in recognition of the realities of the publishing

industry. It's a tough time to be in the magazine business, and we appreciate the patience and loyalty of both our readers and our advertisers."

Legion Radio Operators Now Exceed 2,000:

by Joe March (KJ9M) on January 9, 2015

INDIANAPOLIS (Jan. 9, 2015) – With the new year, The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) has become one of the nation's largest active groups of federally licensed radio operators, officially surpassing the 2,000 member mark this week.

CQ DX Hall of Famer Bob Schenck, N2OO, Named CQ DX Editor:

by CQ Communications on January 9, 2015

(Hicksville, NY January 9, 2015) - Veteran DXer, DXpeditioner and QSL manager Bob Schenck, N2OO, of Tuckerton, New Jersey, has been named CQ magazine's DX Editor, magazine Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, announced today. A 2008 inductee into the CQ DX Hall of Fame, Bob succeeds Wayne Mills, N7NG, who has stepped down to pursue other ham-related interests.

Unselfishly Coming to the Service of the Community:

by mountain-news.com on January 9, 2015

When the Lake Arrowhead Communities Chamber of Commerce holds its annual awards gala on Feb. 28, there will be four honorees: the Outstanding Citizen of the Year, the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year, the Outstanding Business of the Year and a Lifetime Achievement Award. Those honorees have been chosen and notified; over the next several weeks, we will honor them in this space. The Outstanding Citizen of the Year for 2014 is a humble man, one who is a driving force behind the Central Mountain Section of the San Bernardino County Emergency Communications Service but who also prefers to stay in the background. Tracy Lenocker, the Mountain Division chief, has had his amateur radio license since he was 14 years old. When he joined the Forest Service's off-highway vehicle (OHV) program, he became active in amateur radio because communication out on the dirt trails was difficult, even with Forest Service radios.

Reminisce About Amateur Radio With Bell:

by radioworld.com on January 9, 2015

Producer and amateur radio operator Dave Bell (W6AQ) has written a memoir with a twist that hams will enjoy. In its 302 pages, "World's Best Hobby" chronicles Bell's personal and professional history, with a special focus on his amateur radio history and his interactions with Hollywood (and Washington) celebrities as a documentary and reality show producer. "World's Best Hobby" is available via ARRL, DxEngineering.com, DxStore.com and Amazon.com.

DX News -- ARRL DX Bulletin #1:

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on January 8, 2015

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by PA0RRS, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

ARRL Lab Receives a Major Upgrade, Thanks to Tektronix:

by The ARRL Letter on January 8, 2015

The ARRL Laboratory now has significantly superior measurement capabilities, thanks to Tektronix Corporation's generous donation of a mixed-domain bench oscilloscope (model MDO4104B-3). Alan Wolke, W2AEW, Senior Applications Engineer for Tektronix, visited ARRL Headquarters on January 6 to introduce the Lab staff to the sophisticated 'scope. An ARRL Life Member, Wolke arranged for the donation.

ARRL Solicits Nominations for Six Awards:

by The ARRL Letter on January 8, 2015

The ARRL is inviting nominations for the Hiram Percy Maxim Award -- the League's premier award honoring a young Amateur Radio licensee -- and for awards that recognize educational and technological achievement in Amateur Radio.

League's Centennial 'The Most Extraordinary Event' for ARRL President:

by The ARRL Letter on January 8, 2015

As the ARRL's Centennial drew to a close, ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, reflected that the year-long

celebration helped to rejuvenate Amateur Radio by including as many people as possible, providing lots of on-the-air fun, and promoting learning and doing. She also believes that the spirit of the Centennial will live on going forward, as Amateur Radio enters its second century.

[Hamvention Chair: 'The Show Will Go On' At Aging Hara Arena:](#)

by The ARRL Letter on January 8, 2015

Despite financial struggles dogging the owners of Hara Arena, site of the Dayton Hamvention since the 1960s, the 2015 Hamvention General Chairman Jim Tideman, N8IDS, has told ARRL that he expects the world's largest Amateur Radio show to continue there -- this May and in the years ahead.

ARRL News



01/09/2015 | [New World Record Claimed on 10 GHz](#)



01/09/2015 | [CQ Magazine Combining January, February 2015 Issues, Closing CQ Plus Digital Supplement](#)

CQ Magazine Combining January, February 2015 Issues, Closing CQ Plus Digital Supplement



01/09/2015 | [The K7RA Solar Update](#)

Quiet but unsettled conditions in the forecast

[Learn More](#)



01/09/2015 | [The February Issue of Digital QST is Now Available](#)

Get the issue and start reading now!

[Learn More](#)



01/09/2015 | [ARRL's "First Couple" Spotlited in Article Highlighting SKYWARN's Role](#)

ARRL's First Couple Spotlited in Article Highlighting SKYWARN's Role.

[Learn More](#)



01/09/2015 | [SouthWest Ohio DX Association to Sponsor Dayton DX Dinner - SouthWest Ohio DX Association to Sponsor Dayton DX Dinner.](#)

[Learn More](#)



01/09/2015 | [UK Telecoms Regulator Ofcom Concedes Call Sign Error](#) - UK Telecommunications Regulator Ofcom Concedes Call Sign Error.

[Learn More](#)



01/08/2015 | [Processing of New WAS Award Applications on Hold](#) - Processing of New WAS Award Applications on Hold.



Latest Amateur Radio News from around the world
URL: <http://www.southgatearc.org>

[Ofcom Callsign RSL update](#)

Ofcom have announced on their website that there is no policy change on Regional Secondary Locators

[Australian out-back DXpedition invitation](#)

The Sherbrooke Community Radio Club Inc 'VK3KID' are planing a DX trip to the most remote part of Australia and are looking for Hams that would like to be part of the DX Expedition to the most remote part of Australia along the most remote 4x4 track in the world

[New world record claimed on 10 GHz](#)

The ARRL report on a 10 GHz contact by Rex Moncur VK7MO and Derek Zeck VK6DZ over an astounding distance of 2,732 km

[CQ DX Hall of Famer Bob Schenck, N2OO, named CQ DX Editor](#)

Veteran DXer, DXpeditioner and QSL manager Bob Schenck, N2OO, of Tuckerton, New Jersey, has been named CQ magazine's DX Editor, magazine Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, has announced. A 2008 inductee into the CQ DX Hall of Fame, Bob succeeds Wayne Mills, N7NG, who has stepped down to pursue other ham-related interests

[Special Event Station 8T5MQT](#)

Members of West Bengal Radio Club (VU2MQT) are operating from Ganga Sagar Mela in Sagar Island (IOTA AS-153) until January 16, 2015 with the special callsign 8T5MQT

[PEARS VHF/UHF Contest](#)

The first session of the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society (PEARS) VHF/UHF Contest will start at 18:00 on Friday 16 January and ends at 16:00 on Saturday afternoon

[The Australia earthquake anniversary](#)

The Newcastle Earthquake Disaster happened at 10:27 hours on December 28, 1989, that is 25 years ago and a week or so ago - with those involved and officials holding a memorial ceremony

[UTV Media may sell some or all of its UK radio stations](#)

Northern Irish radio and TV broadcaster UTV Media said this evening it may sell some or all of its UK independent local radio stations, RTE News reports

[Canvey Radio and Electronics Rally](#)

The 30th annual Canvey Radio and Electronics Rally takes place on Sunday, 1st February 2015. Once again, the venue for this popular rally will be the Paddocks Community Centre, Long Road, Canvey Island, Essex

Chuckles

DXorcism Rids Station Of Spooks

By K5KVN, on the scene

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. — Traffic along Hillshire Avenue came to a halt yesterday as curious drivers stopped to see Father Henry McGuire suspended high above the Cuesta Verde neighborhood in a scissor

lift. Local ham radio operator Malcolm O'Hara arranged the spectacle, after experiencing a phenomenon that led him to determine his equipment was possessed.

O'Hara asked Father McGuire to "drive the demons" that have prevented him from talking to distant amateur radio stations. The pair dubbed the activity a "DXorcism," which involved throwing holy water on a Rohn tower and a Cushcraft beam antenna.

"Trust me, this was a last resort," said O'Hara. "Finding pea soup in my cantenna was the last straw."

He says strange occurrences have been happening in his shack for more than a year. "My beam turns all by itself! My buddies say it's an electrical wiring problem, but I know it's paranormal."

"And, last week I was trying to work some RTTY, expecting a 599 signal report, but the screen printed 666. My wife says I need glasses, but it really freaked me out," said O'Hara.

He says he's not ready yet to call the procedure a success. His first contact following the DXorcism was a special event station in Death Valley



as
lift.
to
out

HamHijinks.com

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
- 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>

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 \$15 (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 $\$11.95 + 18\% + 6.25\% = \15.00 (rounded up slightly). This price has recently changed. Here is the math for completeness and full disclosure.

Continental breakfast: \$9.00 (same price)

Full breakfast: \$15.00 (new price)

Kid's breakfast: \$8.00



Copyright WB1GOF,
Robert Schmeichel
2011



Copyright WB1GOF,
Robert Schmeichel
2013

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.

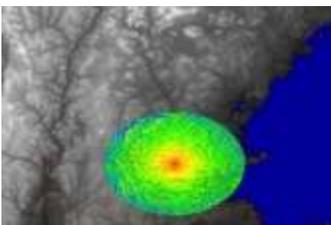
EmComm events and repeater use

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: Please check with Hugh Maguire-N1QGE, hulin127@verizon.net, if you need a badge.



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. 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.



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