



PARTicles

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

March 2015

President's Column

- *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*

As you have probably heard by now, George (K1IG) has accepted the position of Field Day chairman for 2015. He is already off to an excellent start, with a lot of help from those of you who have already volunteered to help, and this is great - thank you! Once again, the event will be held at the Concord Rod & Gun Club, and we are very thankful to our hosts for extending an invitation to us again this year. George will be talking more about Field Day at every club meeting from now until the event.

You might remember that I brought a technology demonstration of Broadband-Hamnet(TM) to the February PART meeting. There were a couple of technical issues that surfaced, and those issues have been addressed. I will bring the demo to the March meeting to see if any new issues arise. I would like to deploy this setup at Field Day. However, several challenges remain, including obtaining enough 7Ahr batteries (or slightly larger), charging those batteries overnight, building power cables, and packaging the units (4 or 5 of them) to protect them from the weather. Thanks for your help and feedback!

We had a pretty good turnout at the March monthly breakfast, with 17 adults and 2 kids in attendance! It was great to see everybody and I hope all of you had a good time. The price of the kids meal has increased to \$9.00, which is equal to the continental breakfast price for adults. The full breakfast is \$15.00.

The March PART Meeting is still being planned, but it looks like we'll be having 2 or 3 short talks from different people, in addition to the usual activities. Bill (K1NS) asked to have a few minutes to give a short talk. As to the rest, I'll update all of you via the PART mailing list and the Sunday Night Net as these plans become solidified.

The PART Board of Directors doesn't meet too often, but recently held a meeting on Monday, March 9th to discuss a variety of items. I'll bring you up to date at the monthly club meeting (since I'm actually writing this *before* the Board meeting).

Have a lot of fun!
73 de Andy KB1OIQ

Next PART meeting: Tuesday March 17th

@1930 – Westford Police station

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

PART Treasury between 20-January '15 & 17-February '15 (As of 17-February '15)

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	\$ 3,026.05	\$ 2,851.32	\$ 5,877.37
Income	\$ 720.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 740.00
Expenses	\$ (53.74)	\$ 0.00	\$ (53.74)
Net	\$ 666.26	\$ 20.00	\$ 686.26
New Balance	\$ 3,692.31	\$ 2,871.32	\$ 6,563.63

PART 2014 Membership as of 9-March '15

	Individuals (= New for 2015 + Renew for 2015)	Households (= New for 2015 + Renew for 2015)
Full (\$25)*	24 (= 1 + 23)	24 (= 1 + 23)
Senior (\$15)*	28 (= 1 + 27)	28 (= 1 + 27)
Family (\$30)*	19 (= 2 + 17)	9 (= 1 + 8)
Student (\$15)	0 (= 0 + 0)	0 (= 0 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	0 (= 0 + 0)	0 (= 0 + 0)
Grand Total*	71 (= 4 + 67)	61 (= 3 + 58)
ARRL members:*	63	
(Including ARRL Life members:*	7)	

NOTE: * Starred lines changed since 14-February '15

Latest new PART members:

Peter/KC1BGT Tyngsborough

##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

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: \$9 – see note below)

April 14th 2015

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

May 2nd 2015

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

May 19th 2015

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

June 6th 2015

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

June 16th 2015

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

June 27th *28th 2015

- PART Field Day - Concord Rod and Gun Club, 74 Strawberry Hill Rd, Concord MA

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

Contoocook Valley Radio Club Flea Market

Sunday, 22-Mar'15

Buyers \$3.00, 8:00AM-2:00PM

(<<http://k1bke.org/2015flea.pdf>>)

Henniker Community School

15 Western Av., Henniker, NH

<<http://goo.gl/maps/8Ge1m>>

Framingham ARA Flea

Sunday, 12-Apr'15

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

<http://www.w1fy.org/Flea_Flyer.pdf>

Keefe Vo-Tech

750 Winter St., Framingham, MA

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

Flea at MIT

Sunday, 19-Apr'15

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

<<http://web.mit.edu/w1mx/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/w1mx/www/swapfest/buyers-parking.pdf>>

NEAR-Fest XV

Friday, 1-May'15 and Saturday, 2-May'15

Walk-in buyers *FREE* Fri/Sat!

<http://near-fest.com/>

Deerfield Fairgrounds

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

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

New England Area Ham/Electronic Fleas:

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

2015

14 Mar Dayville CT ECARA @StJosephCh \$3@8A \$10/T Peter K1LNK 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 @AmericalCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553
11 Apr Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM John 860 673 0518 +
12 Apr Framingham MA FARA @KeefeTech \$5@9 \$25/T Steve KB1NIV 508 872 9336 +
18 Ap S Portland ME PAWA @Am Legion Bryce K1GAX 207 415 0498 A+
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+
25 Apr Gales Ferry CT RASON Auction @FireHs \$2@10 Gary WT1SND 860 884 4218 +
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
30 May Goshen CT SoBARC @FG \$5@8 Stan W2VID 518 398 7003 W+
31 May Fishkill NY MtBARC \$5@8 S\$5@7 @QWL DnSTCorr Adam KC2DAA 845 849 3666 W+
31 May Sorel-Tracy PQ STARC \$8@7 \$15/T@6 Luc VE2DEW 450 743 8676 R+
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 +
7 June Bethpage NY LIMARC @Briarcliffe Richie K2KNB 516 694 4937 A+
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+
16,17 Oct Deerfield NH NEARfest XVIII @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 +
17,18 Oct Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553
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+
14 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/S@7 Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422 +
5 Dec Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518 +

2016

6 Feb Springfield VT CVFMA.org @VFW @8-12 Steve N1QDT 802 885 8110 +
29,30 Apr Deerfield NH NEARfest XIX @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235
14,15 Oct Deerfield NH NEARfest XX @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1st 2015.

Dear Friends of NEAR-Fest:

It is with great regret and sadness that I must inform the radio amateurs and electronic hobbyists of New England that the NEAR-Fest Board of Directors finds it necessary to POSTPONE the FreeFest aspect of NEAR-FEST XVII that was scheduled for May 2015. It will be held at a later date. However, first and foremost, I want to assure everyone that NEAR-Fest XVII WILL TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED on May 1st and 2nd, 2015, at the Deerfield NH Fairgrounds. NEAR-Fest XVIII will also be held as scheduled on October 16th and 17th, 2015.

The Directors made the difficult decision to POSTPONE the FreeFest due to a legal issue that has arisen since the FreeFest was announced last October. The matter is being addressed professionally; however the funds that would have financed the FreeFester may now be needed to resolve this issue at hand. There was no other option open to us. It is important for everyone to understand that there are no issues or problems with the Deerfield Fair Association; in fact our relationship with them is better than ever.

I want to personally assure you all that the FreeFest will be rescheduled as soon as possible once this issue has been resolved. The entire NEAR-Fest management team is committed to, and is looking forward to, hosting the FreeFest, in it's original spirit, to thank all our loyal attendees and the amateur radio community for the support since 2007. We appreciate your understanding and continued support. We hope to be able to post an update about FreeFest on our website before the end of the year. Advance tickets and inside parking passes will be on sale in the usual places starting in April. Check our Web site (www.near-fest.com) for more details.

To summarize: NEAR-Fest XVII WILL TAKE PLACE on May 1st and 2nd, 2015, exactly as scheduled, Admission will be the same as always, \$10 per person and \$10 for an inside parking pass. NEAR-Fest XVIII will also take place as scheduled on October 16th and 17th, 2015. The FreeFest that was planned to take place as a part of NEAR-Fest XVII is POSTPONED until a later date.

The NEAR-Fest staff and management as well as I thank you for your total support and understanding.

73,

MisterMike, W1RC



It's surely the highlight of every ham's social calendar – Field Day! This year's Field Day will again be held at the Concord Rod and Gun Club facility in Concord (74 Strawberry Hill Rd) during the last weekend in June (June 27th & 28th), and we're working to make it an event that **every** PART member can participate in and enjoy.

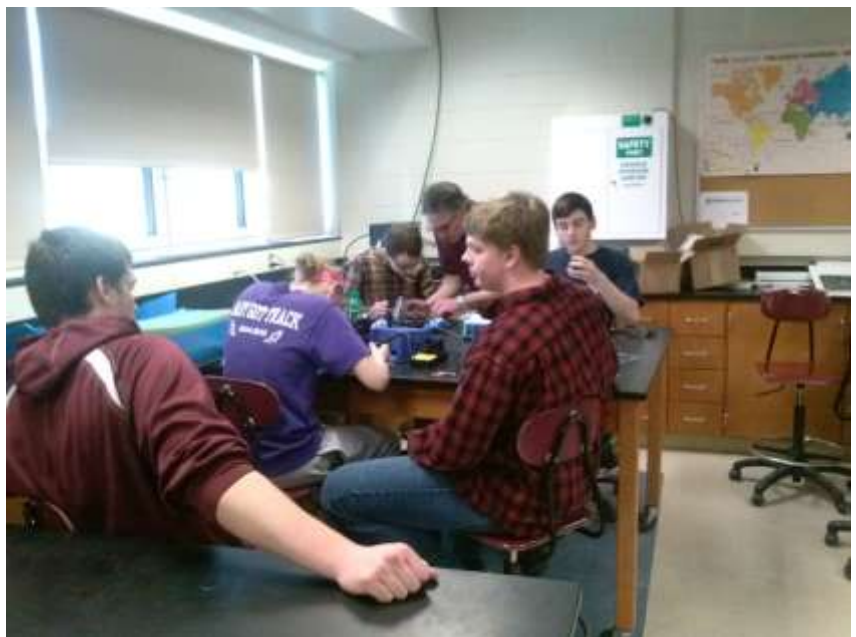
George, K1IG, has volunteered to lead this year's Field Day planning and he'll give a presentation at the club meeting on March 17. Be at the meeting and see the plan!

Member Contributions

Chelmsford High School Amateur Radio Club N1CHS activities

- *John Salmi – KB1MGI*

The Chelmsford High School Amateur Radio Club N1CHS run by Dave KB1MKW and Craig KC1CGS has taken on a different approach to draw students into Amateur Radio and Electronics. In the years past, the club focused on Amateur Radio with the students. Over the years, at a typical meeting, we would just set up the Yaesu FT 897D with the club computer. Then a few students would try SSB phone and make a few contacts. We tried PSK31 and that seemed to have a little more interest with a few students because they were basically texting. During a



typical school year some students have other activities like Track, Football, etc. These students would stop by for a while and then have to leave to attend their sport activities.

The one thing the Club has never tried was to introduce Kit building. We did not build kit radios, but the group chose simple Ramsey kits of flashing lights and sound maker kits etc. Very simple to teach the students how to solder and how it works. A few small kits were ordered and we also had a kit donated by Steve WA1KBE and a Soldering Station loaned by Dale KB1ZKD thanks.

So as they started to solder their first parts in, it kept their interest the whole time. It became a social event with the students talking to each other and asking questions and seeking help as needed. As the snow storms kept the club from meeting for a while one of the students told Dave KB1MKW that she was looking forward to doing some soldering again. It is great to watch the students suddenly start focusing on soldering that the whole room goes quiet for long periods of time. Some students lost track of time and did not want to stop even when it was time to clean up.

After not meeting for most of February due to the storms and having a school vacation the club has been getting back to its regular meetings. This month has been very great for club. We have had a few more new students show up to see what the club is like. The original members have welcomed them with a great atmosphere that has had them wanting to come back for more solder sessions and just to hang-out with the rest of the students.

This club is growing, and the future looks bright. As we have more students showing up, we are raising the bar for the members to do more and more. Soon the members hope to build some bigger and better kits that will incorporate multiple students to complete. We as a club, are all proud of what we have accomplished so far but that drive from the students to keep getting better and better is what inspires them to keep coming back.

Craig Salmi	KB1CGS Club President
Dave Steeves	KB1MKW M.Ed Physics Educator, Club Advisor.
John Salmi	KB1MGI Volunteer

More Member Contributions

Florida QRP Condo Hamming 2015

- *Bob Glorioso, W1IS*

In an earlier note in PARTicles I talked about getting on the air again from our FL condo with my KX3. This expands on that and describes coupling two Ham Radio on-the-air events into one – The Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club’s Lantern Battery Challenge, LBC, and the ARRL CW DX Contest.

The LBC has been run every year for the past 5 years and is a great way to test your skills at running in a minimal power environment. This year they used Lantern Battery Cells (Sometimes they use AA cells.) that you get pre-packaged from them for your entry fee. The pack had 9, 1.5 volt cells and delivered 13.5 volts when new. The goal is to have as many QSOs as you can before the battery goes dead. A few years ago I built a 4 transistor 80m CW transceiver that drew 30 mA in both receive and transmit. It put out a mighty 100 milliwatts, that’s 0.1 watts, and I did quite well. This time I used my KX3 in reduced power mode, about 175 mA, in receive and ran between 3 and 5 watts output. The KX3 limits output power for you automatically as the battery runs down to keep the output stage in a linear mode. After I got the battery rigged up and connected I worked a few stations to check it out. The battery registered

exactly 13.5 volts for the first few minutes when receiving and dropped to 11.1 volts when transmitting

Then came the contest along with good propagation and the bands, 40-10m, came alive. The exchange was signal report, always 599 of course, and State/Province for U.S./Canadian stations and signal report and power level for non-North American stations. A contest like this is a good one for a QRP station. You can always hear the big stations, mostly running a Kilowatt, and most have respectable, even amazing, antenna systems that help them hear you.

In between guests and family, I managed to squeeze in a few hours Saturday night and several more hours on Sunday for a total of 5.4 hours on the air and 203 QSOs, 37.6 QSOs per hour.

As for DX, I worked 72 DXCC Countries 40-10m and all Continents except Antarctica. DXCC entities per band: 10 on 40m, 18 on 20m, 46 on 15m, and 41 on 10m. Since this event was limited to DXCC entities, it included only two states, Alaska and Hawaii.

At the end of the contest the Battery was down to 11.7 volts on receive dropping to 9.8 volts when transmitting. As it was dropping I dropped the power out to between 3.8 and 4.4 watts. Also, taking operating breaks giving the battery a chance to recover some helped prolong its life. This left me enough energy to keep the rig going at 4 watts or less so after the contest I continued with the LBC. Over the next few days I had 31 more QSOs, added 1 more country and 7 more states. Many of these QSOs turned into interesting rag-chews that lasted up to an hour and took a toll on the battery. At the end of the last QSO the battery was 10.7 volts on receive and barely 9 volts on transmit with power out at 3.5 watts.

What's the point of all this? There are several:

1. QRP is fun.
2. CW gets through.
3. You don't need a massive tower and a 1.5KW amplifier to work DX.
4. Stuck in a condo? Then stick a whip antenna out the window, especially at night when the condo police can't see it. Having a black or green whip makes it even more difficult to see at night.
5. The LBC is a great event, a technical and operating challenge, and many PART members participate. Are you ready for the next one?

Space Weather



UNUSUAL HAM RADIO PROPAGATION: It may seem strange, but solar flares can be both good and bad for radio communications. It all depends on the frequency. Below 10 MHz, signals were strongly attenuated. At higher frequencies, however, the reflectivity of the ionosphere was increased, allowing improved over-the-horizon communications. Ham radio operator Bob MacKenzie of Ottawa, Canada, shares this anecdote: "Only minutes after the M9 flare on March 7th, I was able to work three amateur stations in Japan using just 5 watts of single-sideband power and a single-element vertical antenna in my backyard. It's a rare event to work Japan so easily with such little power on phone and

not Morse code. The annual ARRL International DX Phone contest was on at the time so there were plenty of DX stations on the air, making this observation of unusual propagation possible." **Solar flare alerts:** [text](#), [voice](#)



The National Weather Service in Taunton MA gives SKYWARN spotter training at several locations in Southern New England. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. The training session is free of charge, and there is no need to register. However, participants will be asked to fill out a short form during the class.

Official Spotter numbers will be given to anyone who attends a training and is at least 16 years of age or older. People younger than 16 who desire a spotter number, and who can present special circumstances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Relationship to COMET training: We understand that some Skywarn training courses are available through COMET (the Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education, and Training)...entitled "Role of the Skywarn Spotter" and "Skywarn Convective Basics." While these are instructive, they do not meet the requirements to become a NWS-Taunton Skywarn Spotter. In order to attain a Taunton Skywarn ID #, it is necessary to attend one of the in-person training classes offered, usually in the spring and early summer. Once you are a trained spotter, then additional recertification training can be done online.

More information and training dates at

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/box/officePrograms/skywarn/skywarnTraining.shtml#>

PART/WB1GOF on the Net

On the digital front, we have a number of resources available. The website <http://wb1gof.org> is generally the go-to spot for anyone who is looking for information about the club. Eventually we hope to have some local TV spots to advertise the club.

Our FB page: <http://www.facebook.com/WB1GOF>

WB1GOF on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WB1GOF>

PART/WB1GOF Forum: <http://wb1gof.net/forum>

Our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/PARTofWestford>

QRZ page: <http://qrz.com/db/WB1GOF>

LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/PART-Westford-WB1GOF-1860069/about>

WB1GOF 146.995 repeater audio at: <http://www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/10933>

We have two domains... wb1gof.org (email, email lists and main website here via Dave-WI1R) and wb1gof.net (member web pages, emails lists and some member email, via Terry-KA8SCP).



Boston Marathon

Preparations for the 2015 Boston Marathon continue with the BAA's Communications Committee just now completing work on the selection of some 282 Amateur Radio volunteers. On Wednesday, March 10th, the BAA will send emails to this



**Minuteman
Repeater
Association**

group informing them as to the general area of service they will work (Start, Course, Finish, and other areas). Immediately following comes one of the largest document dumps in Ham history. "The 2015 BAA Boston Marathon is one of the most documented in our history," said PART member Mark Richards, K1MGY, a member of the



BAA's Communications Committee this year. "Every volunteer will receive an introductory document, our Communications Standards, another publication called Decisions and Directions Policy, Medical Issues and Environments, and a popular re-write of the Boston Marathon Survival Guide, written by Tim Carter, W3ATB."

According to Richards several PART members serve on a multi-disciplinary "documentation task group", charged with reviewing, editing, and "cleaning up" the full documentation set. Led by Richards and fellow Committee member Matt Forman, K6MCF, PART members Tim Pandiscio, W0TJP, Tim Miranda, KC1AJJ, Christopher Handwerker, KB1WKI, and Dale Chayes, KB1ZKD, is joined by Jeff Pinterparsons, W5UVO in the effort.

Currently on tap are the communications plans for START, COURSE, FINISH, NET CONTROL, TRANSPORT, MEDICAL RESUPPLY, and BACKUP EMS DISPATCH. According to Richards, "There's even a 24 page Down Course Safety Team Procedures Manual that covers the release of Marathon runners in waves of some 7,000 from the starting line in Hopkinton".

"Acting on the BAA's mandate for a complete review of the communications programme, the Committee has re-built the foundation, reconditioned a few rooms, and build out a new structure. Our emphasis is to bring BAA Amateur Radio volunteers back to their roots – communications," said Richards. "We'll be used this year in vital communications roles which expand in both width and depth. Hams will be quite busy this year, and with the communications standards, Communications Team Leadership program, and a renewed and reinvigorated relationship with the BAA, this year promises to be a great one for Amateur Radio at the Marathon".

Two training opportunities for BAA Boston Marathon Amateur Radio volunteers are scheduled for this month: Sunday March 15th from 0730-1300 at Keefe Tech School in Framingham, and on Sunday March 22 from 0730-13—at Babson College, Wellesley. "Attending one of these sessions is mandatory for Communications Team Leaders", said Richards.

Amateur Radio News



From eHam.net News:

[Why I Am Stopping Adding New Articles and News:](#)

by Clinton Herbert (AB7RG) on March 7, 2015

Well sadly, I fear this is the end of an era. It certainly isn't ending the way that I wanted, as I enjoyed working here since June of 2000, when I first started as the manager of Speak Out. In August of 2001 I became the assistant

editor, helping out with the News section of the site. And in October of 2002 I became the editor of eHam.net. It was a privilege, something to be proud of, and again, something that I truly enjoyed over the past 12-plus years.

SOARES and SS Members Obtain Ham Radio Certification:

by ardmoreite.com on March 7, 2015

For more than three decades they have been voices floating over the airwaves in times of emergencies and disasters. Sometimes those hard times have devastated entire communities. Other times those voices have offered courage and hope and help to just a few facing difficulties. At times those voices have inspired and encouraged just a single individual. Those voices are the members of the Southern Oklahoma Amateur Radio Emergency Services and SS. They are the voices of area men and women known to go the extra mile. They also go the extra mile when it comes to expanding their knowledge and skills as evidenced recently when 12 members of the group tested and obtained advanced certifications. Jason Girard was one of the 12. A member of the local organization for the past three years. Girard has been an amateur ham operator since 1996 and represents the third generation of his family to be a ham operator.

Amateur Radio: Hobby and Emergency Resource:

by highlandnews.net on March 7, 2015

The Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club (CBARC) has been serving as a hobbyist resource and emergency communications to local agencies for about 50 years and has been operating out of the Patton State Hospital in Highland since 1991. Made up of over 75 members, the club meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 and offers several opportunities for ham radio operators and those interested in entering the hobby. Club Vice President Jeff Richardson said he first became interested in amateur radio as a kid thanks to a neighbor who used CB radio. "I like radio because it's so diverse using different modes of radio to communicate to people all over the world," Richardson said. One of the highlights of his radio experience was communicating with astronauts on a NASA satellite. In its support of new members to the hobby, the club offers classes for the three levels of Ham radio licensing -- technician, general and extra -- as well as conducts the licensing tests. Other classes such as Morse Code, no longer used by the government agencies but still popular among hobbyists, are also taught.

Out Of This World: Council Rock South Students Connect with ISS:

by buckslocalnews.com on March 6, 2015

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP: Radio noise filled the auditorium at Council Rock South High School on Feb. 19 as everyone sat on the edge of their seats. In front of them, on a large screen, they watched as a blip from the International Space Station appeared somewhere over the state of Georgia. Nearly two minutes ticked by as operators from the Warminster Amateur Radio Club attempted to make contact as the blip moved toward the Northeast. Then, suddenly, a voice broke through the noise sending a collective gasp through the room filled with more than 300 students, teachers and administrators gathered there to experience the once-in-a-lifetime moment.

Frontline Weather Spotters Wanted:

by dailyregister.com on March 6, 2015

Generals can never have too much information and neither can emergency planning departments. During an emergency the situation can change greatly in a few seconds, not minutes. Nearly instant communication is required. But what if the cell phone towers and phone lines are down? Ham radio is the solution that mankind has been going to for generations. It is still viable. Using ham operators to save lives and property is old hat to the pros and experts. But people with little knowledge of radios might not know that. They might not know what is significant about the weather. So Saline County Emergency Management is holding a class for all people wishing to volunteer to be storm spotters and for any citizen wanting to learn about severe weather just for their own reasons.

Ham Radio Course Offered Through Office of Disaster Preparedness:

by westsenecabee.com on March 6, 2015

West Seneca Office of Disaster Preparedness Southtowns Amateur Radio Society and EMPact America will host a ham radio class at the West Seneca Emergency Operations Center, 900 Mill Road, starting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 3. Classes will run for seven to eight consecutive weeks. The final class will be the test for technician, general or extra licenses.

ARNewsline Report 1955 Mar 6 2015:

by Bill Pasternak (WA6ITF) on March 6, 2015

The following is a QST. Ham radio comes to the aid of a crash victim of an Arkansas auto accident; the IARU Region 1 VHF newsletter charts the future of those very high bands; the ARRL asks its members to comment on

High Frequency it's band planning proposal; planning continues for the VK0EK Heard Island DXpedition and get ready for next summers International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend. All this and more on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1955 coming your way right now.

Propagation Forecast Bulletin #10 de K7RA:

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on March 6, 2015

Weakening sunspot activity continues. Average daily sunspot numbers dropped from 59 in the previous seven days to 54.1 during the week of February 26 through March 4. Average daily solar flux actually rose a little, with values increasing from 116.3 to 122.9 over the same two weeks. In addition, on March 5 the noon reading for solar flux in Penticton was 140.2, but this was an outlier, reduced by NOAA to an official value of 130 for the day.

Why You Should Learn to Love Ham Radio:

by popularmechanics.com on March 6, 2015

For emergencies or just idle chatter: "This is KD4DYV," I said, announcing my ham-radio call sign for the first time in twenty years. "Can anyone hear me?" Static. I fiddled with my handheld radio, an old Icom IC-W2A, and tried again. Nothing. The radio was all that remained of a childhood hobby, back when I also had a big, boxy rig hooked up to a thirty-two-foot antenna in my parents' backyard, and a Morse-code key for tapping out messages. The technical name for all this is amateur radio, an old-timey pursuit in which operators pass a test, acquire a license and call sign from the Federal Communications Commission, and then spend their days chitchatting across the globe. The term ham was once an insult, a name professionals gave to amateurs with clumsy Morse skills and mediocre equipment. When I joined as a squeaky-voiced 12-year-old in the 1990s, it was like discovering the Internet before the Internet. Ham is built upon the thrill of the contact: Operators routinely hold contests to reach, say, someone in every state, or they clamor to talk with a fuzzy voice floating in from some far-off island. To confirm conversations, they send each other a personalized postcard. I had hundreds on my wall. But then I grew up. Now I'm 34, married, and with a kid on the way, and last fall my dad found my expired ham license. At first I filed it away as a memento. But then I remembered: When a disaster strikes, ham radios are pivotal to survival. Operators become community lifelines, with hams talking to each other and working with first responders to relay local conditions. There's even the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, a volunteer-based group. I still owned my old handheld, and it seemed foolish not to have it at the ready. So I renewed my license for free and set about seeing how ham has fared in the digital age. The answer: quite well. There are now almost 725,000 licensed hams in the U.S., an increase of almost 200,000 since I bailed two decades ago. In part this is because of new technology that enables talk on previously inaccessible frequencies. And to encourage newcomers, the FCC no longer requires that hams know Morse code. There's also a new smartphone app called EchoLink that patches hams into transmission repeaters, devices that receive weak signals and retransmit them with more juice.

Design and Build Part 2: Multi-Band, Phasing SSB, and SDR:

by hackaday.com on March 6, 2015

Amateur radio is the ultimate hacker's hobby. You can design, build, and put on the air your own high power transceivers. And with this homemade gear you are able to reach out directly, not relying on any infrastructure whatsoever, to connect with people all over the world. It is a thrilling experience to communicate with that long distance station using equipment you created, where you know at that instant what every single transistor is doing as you key down the mic. In a previous post I described how SSB radio equipment worked and provided an example of a single-band 20m SSB transceiver. In this post I will discuss a multi-band SSB transceiver, an entire homemade amateur station including amplifiers, and conclude with software defined radio (SDR) that you can make in one weekend. My second SSB transceiver was dual-band spanning both 6m and 10m wavelengths. I built this radio as part of the ARRL's home brew challenge 3QØE. This followed the same block diagrams as those shown in the previous post except that the two frequency bands of interest spanned one whole octave at 28 MHz and 54 MHz, resulting in additional switching and a wider bandwidth VFO. Similar fabrication techniques were used, resulting in an old-school appearance.

DX News -- ARRL DX Bulletin #9:

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on March 5, 2015

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by 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.

Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 Introduced In Congress:

by The ARRL Letter on March 5, 2015

"The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015" -- H.R.1301 -- has been introduced in the US House of Representatives. The measure would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service

communications to private land use restrictions. US Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) introduced the bill on March 4 with 12 original co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle -- seven Republicans and five Democrats. Kinzinger also sponsored "The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014, which died at the end of the 113th Congress. H.R. 1301 is an essentially identical piece of legislation.

[Number of US Amateur Radio Licensees at All-Time High:](#)

by The ARRL Letter on March 5, 2015

The US Amateur Radio population continues to soar. At the end of 2014, the total number of US Amateurs in the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS) database reached an all-time high of 726,275 -- and the trend has continued in the first 2 months of 2015, which saw the total rise to slightly more than 727,000. The figures exclude expired licenses that are within the 2-year grace period, and club station licenses.

[Southeast US ARES Teams Rally as Severe Winter Weather Strikes:](#)

by The ARRL Letter on March 5, 2015

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers in the US Southeast went on alert in late February, as the region was faced with an unaccustomed ration of severe winter weather. Tennessee, which saw at least 30 winter storm-related fatalities, was placed on a Level II state emergency operations center activation level, indicating a major disaster.

ARRL News



03/06/2015 | [Comments Due by April 6 on 76-81 GHz Radar Sharing Proposals](#)

Comments are due by April 6 on an FCC proceeding that could lead to expanded spectrum for various radar applications in the 76-81 GHz band, which Amateur Radio shares with other services. [Read More](#)



03/06/2015 | [The K7RA Solar Update](#)

The trend of weakening sunspot activity continues [Read More](#)



03/05/2015 | [League Counters Another Mimosa Move for 10 GHz Wireless Broadband Sharing](#)

The ARRL has told several US House and Senate members that the 10 GHz band, where the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite services have allocations, is not a suitable choice to expand wireless broadband. [Read More](#)



03/05/2015 | [Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 Introduced in Congress](#)

"The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015" — H.R.1301 — has been introduced in the US House of Representatives. [Read More](#)



03/04/2015 | [North Dakota Radio Amateur Marks 80th Anniversary as ARRL Member](#)

A North Dakota radio amateur — Alex Muggli, W0ZTL — was recently honored on the 80th anniversary of his ARRL membership, a very rare milestone. [Read More](#)



03/04/2015 | [US Amateur Radio Numbers Reach an All-Time High](#)

Amateur Radio growth in the US continues to soar. [Read More](#)



03/04/2015 | [ITU Smart Sustainable Development Model Report Touts Amateur Radio's Advantages](#)

The use of Amateur Radio in disaster preparedness and response was among “best practices” cited in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Smart Sustainable Development Model Report for 2015. [Read More](#)



03/03/2015 | [New Deadline is April 15 to Apply for Foundation for Amateur Radio \(FAR\) Scholarships](#)

The non-profit Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) has shifted to April 15 the deadline to apply for the 2015-2016 academic year scholarships it administers. [Read More](#)



03/03/2015 | [ARRL Offering Online Information Sessions for Prospective Contact Hosts](#)

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARRL) will offer three online information sessions during March for schools and organizations that are interested in hosting an ARRL Amateur Radio contact with an ISS crew member. [Read More](#)



03/03/2015 | [ARRL 2015 Field Day Gear, Supplies Now Available!](#)

ARRL Field Day — the most popular operating event on the calendar — is June 27-28, and official gear and supplies now are available from ARRL. [Read More](#)



03/02/2015 | [New QST QuickStats Poll Posted](#)

This poll concerns the QST "Product Review" column. [Read More](#)

[DVD](#)



03/02/2015 | [ARRL Centennial Convention Guest Speaker Presentations Now Available](#)

The ARRL is making available a DVD of ARRL Centennial Convention Guest Speaker Presentations. [Read More](#)



03/02/2015 | [Past IARU Region 1 Chairman Louis van de Nadort, PA0LOU, SK](#)

Past International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 (IARU-R1) Chairman Louis van de Nadort, PA0LOU, of Zundert, Netherlands, died February 28 after a brief illness. [Read More](#)



02/27/2015 | [There's a Place for You in the ARRL International DX Phone Contest, March 7-8](#)

The SSB weekend of the ARRL International DX Contest is Saturday and Sunday, March 7-8 (UTC). [Read More](#)

[TX Factor TV show in Essex](#)

TX Factor, the UK's only amateur radio TV show, was in Essex on Saturday the 7th of March, reporting on the county's busy amateur radio scene. Two of the show's presenters, Bob McCreadie G0FGX and Nick Bennett 2E0FGQ, visited Chelmsford, the Birthplace of Radio

[QSO Today - EP 32 - Dr. Ron Milliman - K8HSY](#)

Beginning as a shortwave listener on his family's Zenith console radio and later with a Knight Kit Ocean Spanner, Ron Milliman, K8HSY was hooked on radio

[New DX contest attracting attention](#)

The Africa All Mode International DX Contest is new on the contesting calendar and is attracting the attention of the DX community

[Do I need to buy a new internet radio to listen to BBC Radio?](#)

Several readers found their internet radios stopped playing BBC stations last month. Jack Schofield explains the problem

[New M2 LEO pack antenna system is now available in AMSAT store](#)

M2 Antenna Systems, Inc. of Fresno, CA introduced the new satellite antenna LEO-Pack using their 436CP16 and 2MCP8A yagis during the 2015 HamCation in Orlando

[Essex Hams in Galleywood](#)

On a bright but slightly breezy Saturday, a group Essex radio amateurs gathered near Chelmsford at the popular Galleywood Common operating spot for an afternoon's radio outing

[Propagation de K7RA](#)

Weakening sunspot activity continues. Average daily sunspot numbers dropped from 59 in the previous seven days to 54.1 during the week of February 26 through March 4

[Propagation Report from Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP](#)

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the expected solar activity will be at low levels

[Solar flare and radio blackout](#)

A sunspot has emerged near the sun's southeastern limb, and it is crackling with strong flares

[SARL@home to address DXing and contesting](#)

6 hours 41 min ago

The next SARL@Home will feature a presentation about DXing and contesting and will be held at 10:00 Central African Time on Saturday 28 March at the National Amateur Radio Centre

[SolderSmoke Podcast 173](#)

Episode 173 of the amateur radio podcast SolderSmoke is now available

[Eclipse QSO Party](#)

The RSGB Propagation Studies Committee is doing some research during the solar eclipse taking place on the 20th March and the Contest Committee is organising an Eclipse QSO Party from 0800-11:30 UTC

[Want to operate a camera aboard an interplanetary spacecraft?](#)

In May, the 'webcam' on board Mars Express will be available for public imaging requests

[Essex radio hams active this weekend](#)

If you fancy getting out to play radio in the fresh air this weekend, there are two informal meetings taking place - one near Chelmsford and one near Southend

[REVIEW: Alpha Delta Antenna Switch](#)

If you are running multiple antennas, then this review of a 4-position coax antenna switch from Alpha Delta Communications, Inc. may be of interest

[The CW Geek on HamRadioNow](#)

Dan Romanchik KB6NU is The CW Geek. OK, he's one of many, but he's assumed the title as author of the 'CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code.'

[\\$50SAT update](#)

The amateur radio PocketQube \$50SAT/MO-76 - in orbit for 15 months, 15 orbits per day, and some unexpected behavior

[RSGB respond to Ofcom 5G consultation](#)

The RSGB have responded to the Ofcom Call for Input on Spectrum above 6 GHz for future mobile communications (5G) consultation

[ANZAC Centenary callsigns deadline](#)

All applications for the commemorative ANZAC suffixed callsigns issued by the WIA must be made fairly soon and certainly finalised before the end of March

[Solar Eclipse - Friday 20 March](#)

On Friday 20 March 2015, a total solar eclipse will occur across the far Northern regions of Europe and the Arctic

Chuckles

HamHijinks.com

Overly Ambitious Ham Kicked From Club

By K5KAC, on the scene

PATASKALA, OHIO — Lukas Guzman, a 27 year-old newly licensed ham radio operator, was booted from the Flicking County Amateur Club last night during their annual meeting at Crusty's Wharf. When pressed for a reason, the other members simply stated that "he is too involved."

Overly ambitious ham radio operator Lukas Guzman, seen here checking his email while enjoying a cup of coffee while attending an art lecture.



"He wanted us to get VE credentials and actually test new hams," exclaimed Mort Brenley. "He was always excitedly talking about working DX."

Guzman noted that he really felt the blowback when he brought up how much fun a DXpedition would be. "They looked at me like I had been inhaling contact cleaner," he said.

Tensions came to a head after everyone had their second helping of clam chowder. "I whipped out my typed to-do list, and everyone's face went green," said Guzman.

Brenley concurred. "He got to 'school outreach' and I saw Vernon fumbling for his nitro pills. I knew he had to be stopped."

There was an unanimous vote, 4-0, and Guzman was removed from the club.

"He is damn lucky we didn't toss him from the Highway 16 overpass into the South Fork of Flicking River."

As of press time, Guzman was updating his QRZ page, updating ACLog, memorizing his LOTW certificate code, replacing the electrolytic caps on an old Hallicrafters, applying for grants to buy a transceiver for his local elementary school, framing his license, and checking to see if a frequency was in use.

Board of Directors

The Police Amateur Radio Team of Westford operates under a set of bylaws that dictate our charter and our organizational structure. To administratively maintain the organization, a board of directors is elected by the general membership. PART current board consists of the following:

Voting members



From left to right:

President - Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ), Vice President - Richard Crisafulli (AB1HD), Secretary - Steve Rimsa (WA1KBE), Treasurer - Alan Martin (W1AHM) & Director at Large - Rick Green (W1RAG)

Non-voting, appointed and/or volunteer members



Club Trustee - Dave Welsh - WI1R



Repeater/Technical Lead - Ernie Bauer - N1AEW



Senior Club Advisor - Bo Budinger - WA1QYM



Senior Club Advisor & PARTicles Editor - Terry Stader - KA8SCP



"Unofficial" Club Photographer - Bob Schmeichel - N1RXV



Membership Chairman - Hugh Maguire - N1QGE



Special Event Station K2H Chairman - Charles Learoyd - K1PUB



Public Information Officer - Lela Smith - KC1ACV

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 adult 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: \$9.00 (new price effective March 2015)



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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.

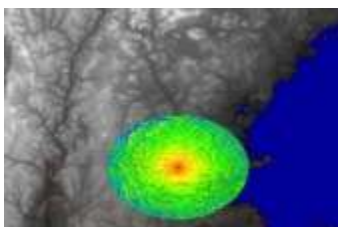
EmComm events and repeater use

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



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. 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 © 2015, 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

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