

Celebrating 40 years of public service 1975-2015

President's Column

- Andy Stewart (KB10IQ)

We had our first meeting at the Cameron Senior Center in October 2015, and everything went very well! The room seems bigger to me, so I need to remember to bring the microphone and speaker from KBE Engineering. For the next meeting, please consider bringing a can of Dinty Moore beef stew as a contribution to the food pantry which is located in the Senior Center.

Many thanks to the Pumpkin Patrollers who helped with this year's event.

Thanks also to Steve (N1BDA) and his crew who took down the tower at the home of W1UC. I understand that W1UC donated the tower, but I can't for the life of me find the email indicating who received it, but it was a worthy group, for sure. (I'll ask Steve to tell us about it at the next PART meeting).

I've received more feedback from the elmering program that I'm trying to get started. Several people have sent email indicating the type of help that they'd like to receive, and a few people have expressed an interest in elmering folks in particular areas. I'll pair people with matching interests and hopefully this will work well for everybody. Stay tuned.

I haven't been on HF much, if at all, this past month. I've been consumed with finding new homes for the radio gear from W1OG's estate, and the associated logistics. I'm happy to report that most of the items have indeed found new homes! The detailed inventory sheet that Ernie (N1AEW) and Bill (K1NS) created has been a HUGE help! I'll continue to send out the list of remaining items in the hope that somebody will be interested.

The successful launch of the Fox-1A (AO-85) satellite has rekindled my interest in this area. I have a homebrew az/el rotator with a broomstick antenna that works well, but is not weather proof, so I have to drag it and a laptop outside to use it. I found my

homebrew quadrifilar helix antenna, which I built a few years ago with inspiration from G3BVU (SK). It was designed to receive the NOAA weather satellite transmissions around 137 MHz. I tie-wrapped it to the railing of my deck (funny how "temporary" things become somewhat permanent).

I tested the antenna by attempting to receive images from the NOAA-(15,18,19) weather satellites, and had some success. The antenna is too low, and the trees obscure the signal in the northerly direction, but I have received some decent partial images.

I also tried reception of the Fox-1A satellite in the 2m band. I succeeded in receiving satellite telemetry information. AMSAT has freely available software for multiple operating systems on their website for decoding the telemetry and uploading it to their server.

In both cases, I used the quadrifilar helix antenna, a DVB-T dongle, and a software defined radio program called gqrx. This software records the received transmission into a standard wav audio file, which is then post-processed into telemetry information or a PNG formatted picture of the Earth from about 400 miles altitude. Generally, one sees clouds or a seemingly blank image when the satellite is over the ocean. Sometimes, lakes and other terrestrial features are recognizable.

Stay tuned for details from Hugh (N1QGE) regarding the PART Christmas and Holiday Party, which is held in December on the third Tuesday. This party replaces the usual monthly meeting, so don't go to the Senior Center because none of us will be there! Our usual meeting schedule will resume in January 2016.

Have a lot of fun! 73 de Andy KB1OIQ

Next PART meeting: Tuesday November 17th @1930 – Cameron Senior Center

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 15- September '15 & 19-October '15 (As of 20-October '15)

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	\$ 3,004.95	\$ 3,647.06	\$ 6,652.01
Income	\$ 0.00	\$ 65.23	\$ 65.23
Expenses	\$ (54.73)	\$ 0.00	\$ (54.73)
Net	\$ (54.73)	\$ 65.23	\$ 10.50
New Balance	\$ 2,950.22	\$ 3,712.29	\$ 6,662.51

PART 2015 Membership as of 14-October '15

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Individuals			Households		
(= New for 2015			(= New for 2015		
+ Renew for 2015)			+ Renew for 2015)		
Full (\$25)	42	(= 8 + 34)	42	(= 8 + 34)	
Senior (\$15)*	44	(= 6 + 38)	43	(= 6 + 38)	
Family (\$30)	23	(=4+19)	11	(=2+9)	
Student (\$15)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(= 0 + 0)	
Associate (\$10)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(= 0 + 0)	
Grand Total*	<i>109</i>	(= 18 + 91)	96	(= 16 + 81)	
ARRL members:*		99 / 91%			
(Including ARRL Life members: 9)					

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

Latest new PART members:

Bill/NG1N (Methuen)

##To pay dues## -or-PART, P.O. Box 503, Westford, MA 01886-0015 Club Meeting, Cameron Senior Ctr., 7:30PM, 3rd Tuesday <u>Renew online by PayPal at: http://www.wb1gof.org/F_join/part_dues.html</u>

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

November 17th 2015

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9 p.m. LOCATION: Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant St. December 5th 2015

PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$15/\$9; kids: \$8 – see note below)
December 15th 2015
NO PART Meeting. – Holiday Dinner (more info to follow)
January 2nd 2016
PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$15/\$9; kids: \$8 – see note below)
January 20th 2016
PART Meeting. 7:30 -9 p.m. LOCATION: Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant St.

February 6th 2016

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (15/, kids: 8 -see note below) February 19th 2016

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9 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
- Every 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 PM PART Meetings at Cameron Senior Center
- Every 1st Saturday, 8 AM, Regency Inn Westford PART Monthly Breakfast
- Every Wednesday, 6 AM, Owl Diner Lowell Breakfast

Ham Fleas/Events

Links to hamfest websites (partial)

Boxborough MA Adams MA Dartmouth MA Falmouth MA Feeding Hills MA Framingham MA Marlboro MA Newton MA Rockport MA S Dartmouth MA Wakefield MA Westford MA Whately MA Worcester MA

NE ARRL Conv N BerkshireARC SEMARA FARA MTARA FARA AARC Waltham ARA Auction CAARA SEMARA Photographica NEAntiqueRC FranklinCARC http://www.boxboro.org http://www.nobarc.org/hamfest.htm http://www.semara.org/flea.htm http://www.falara.org http://www.falara.org http://www.fara.org http://www.fara.org http://www.fara.org http://www.gl.net/n1em/2015FleaFlier.pdf http://www.gl.net/n1em/2015FleaFlier.pdf http://www.semara.org http://www.caara.net http://www.semara.org http://www.phsne.org http://www.nearc.net http://www.fcarc.org/news.htm http://acm.wpi.edu/swapmeet

New England Area Ham/Electronic Fleas:

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

WPI ACM

<u>2015</u>

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 + <u>2016</u>

Steve N1QDT 802 885 8110 + 6 Feb Springfield VT CVFMA.org @VFW @8-12 13 Feb Marlboro MA AARC \$5@9A @MS Tim KA1OS 508 916 6136 F+ 27 Feb S Burlington VT RANVT @HI x14 I89 Mitch W1SJ 802 879 6589 W+ 5 Mar Chicopee MA MtTomARA @MooseLodge @8:30 S@6:30 Mary KB1ME 413 222 1990 + 6 Mar Westford MA Radio @Regency Antique Bruce 603 772 7516 + 19 Mar Dayville CT ECARA @StJosephCh \$3@8A \$10/T Peter K1LNX 401 603 1485 + 20 Mar Southington CT @HS \$5@8 \$20/T John WA1JKR 860 621 8791 + 25,26 Mar Lewiston ME AARC ME Conv @Ramada @8 Ivan N1OXA 207 784 0350 10 April Framingham MA FARA @KeefeTech @9 \$25/T Eric KB1PJN 508 310 5913 + 17 Apr Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 T+ Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 29,30 Apr Deerfield NH NEARfest XIX @FG 14 May E Greenbush NY EGARA @FireCo \$6@8 \$6/T@6 Tom KC2FCP 518 272 1494 15 May Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 T+ 4 June Hermon ME PSARA @8 @HS TG@6:30 Jerry K1GUP 207 848 3400 19 June Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 T+ 17 July Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 T+ 13 Aug St Albans VT STARC @VFW \$5@8 Arn N1ARN 802 309 0666 + 21 Aug Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 T+ 26,28 Aug Boxboro MA FEMARA NE Conv Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 + 28 Aug Adams MA NoBARC @BoweFld 6:30sell 7:30buy Eric KA1SUN 413 743 9975 + 17 Sept Forestdale RI RIAFMRS @VFW \$5/Sp@8 Pete AA1PL 401 639 4484 + 18 Sep Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 T+ 14,15 Oct Deerfield NH NEARfest XX @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 16 Oct Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 T+





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PART Special Events – Holiday Dinner

Members and a spouse / guest are invited to:

The PART winter holiday Dinner

December 15, 2015

Yangtze River Restaurant <u>http://www.yangtzeriverlittleton.com/</u> **584 King Street (Route 110) Littleton, MA 01460** Phone: (978) 486-0500 Cocktail Hour Begins at 6:00 pm Buffet Dinner from 7:00 – 8:00 pm Activity from 8:00pm to 9:14pm

- \$20.00 per person Cash only at the door for buffet Cash Bar
- Yankee swap to be hosted by K1NS
- More information at the November meeting
- RSVP High-N1QGE at <u>hulin127@verizon.net</u>



This is the third Tuesday of the month.

This dinner party takes the place of our regular December club meeting.



I am not a turkey, I'm a ham!



Member Contribution

Maintaining a Strict Listening Watch

- Mark Richard – K1MGY

"We have two ears and one mouth and they are to be used in proportion." – anon In the days where every ship of credibility carried a Morse code set, the radio operator was



required to maintain radio silence on the international distress frequency of 500 KHz for a three minute interval, at 15 and 45 minutes of every hour. As radiotelephone came into being a 3 minute watch was maintained at 0 and 30 minutes. If the disaster your vessel encountered fit within the 30 minute schedule, your weak, plaintive CQD (later, SOS) had a good chance of being heard amidst all the commercial traffic and noise.

Today, satellite communications systems have forced these "antiquated" structures into retirement, but not entirely. A few years ago I enjoyed a tour of a huge container ship at Boston Harbour. After pleasantries with the Captain I asked for permission to meet his

Radio Officer. "Our Engineer holds that title," he told me, "but in reality …" (the Captain put his hands on a piece of satellite gear) "this is our Radio Officer". Paying polite deference to all the high tech pooh bah I then headed straight for the radio room – thankfully they still had one - and was warmly greeted by a middle-aged man of professional bearing in full white uniform. There, in a rather large space, were three racks, each a high powered HF transmitter, and a wise fellow who revealed his best-kept secret to safety. "Should we be going down," he said, opening a small desk drawer, "I'm using this." A rather sturdy Morse hand key was revealed, and there began an understanding between us that required no further forensic. "The satellites don't talk back," he told me. "This does".

He knew about the quiet periods and listening watches of old and appeared ripe with stories of lives lost and saved which, if not for lack of time, might add some colour to this brief idea: the necessity of maintaining that strict listening watch has not been lost to time and technology. In fact, it's a greater necessity than we may have considered in our own Amateur Radio service.

The very first Amateur Radio public service event I was responsible to organize included this concept. "Let's keep an ear of the radio, so we might be less tied up with getting your attention and have more time to pass actual traffic". Time and experience reveals that other problems are mitigated by the maintenance of the strict listening watch. One of these problems involves the performance limitations of our communications technology itself.

Digital systems like D-Star and DMR, have their own unique weaknesses, but their advantages repair of damaged data packets and in the case of DMR a more efficient use of bandwidth (plus the still high prevalence of analog repeaters) - demand that these remarks remain focused upon the analog side. In this realm my local club, the Police Amateur Radio Team (PART) of Westford, MA operates a 2-Meter analog repeater that is a fantastic performer. It's reliable. It has a wide reach. It is most certainly well maintained. Still, there are instances where the combination of interference, distance from the repeater site, and operator technique combine adversely. The Boston Athletic Association Boston Marathon offers excellent fodder for study. With almost 300 communications volunteers and a few dozen unique repeaters and other radio communications systems, all pressed to the limit within a very short time span, anything and everything that can go wrong generally does go wrong. I have, as a volunteer (this is my 15th year), listened in pain to dreadfully long attempts at getting a simple message between two units, which generally begin with several unanswered calls, adding to the mess. In 2015, in a leadership capacity, I aimed directly at the only variable within our immediate control: the operator on <u>both ends</u> of the circuit. <u>Maintaining a strict</u> <u>listening watch</u> became a mantra, and it will continue as long as we hold a radio in one hand and a cup of coffee in the other.

At a public service event many of us clip our radio to the belt. Body fading, the same physical phenomena which aids us in Fox Hunting, attenuates what's coming in and of course what goes out. I now encourage my Net Control Operators (NCO) to request that field units "raise the radio over your head and try again" in the first instance where that unit is unreadable. This solves the input problem in almost all cases. With sufficient practice, it's hoped that awareness will spread, and the reminders be made obsolete.

The output problem – the ability to receive the repeater output in the field – is rarely that the

(stronger) repeater transmission cannot be heard. It's simply that the operator is not focused, listening for the call. They are chatting with friends, tired and glazed, or listening to other communications. On the latter subject, one volunteer insisted that he bring along another radio so he might "listen in on public safety". "That's nice," I replied, "but it's not in our job description". I feared that, while lost to more exciting radio banter, my volunteer would lose awareness – that of <u>our</u> situation - so



necessary to maintain. I was right. He was often difficult to reach and generally ineffective. Hopefully it was a lesson learned.

Sure, our work can sometimes involve simply waiting for that one call, and this can be boring. But think of how interesting we can make our listening watch when we form a picture in our mind of what's happening at the event overall. Then consider how this information might be quite useful to our boss at the position – rest stop, intersection, or Red Cross facility – to which we are assigned.

Maintaining that strict listening watch repeatedly overcomes the limitations inherent in our technical communications method, promotes situational awareness, improves our effectiveness to the teams we support, and in the end is a discipline which keeps us focused on the reason we're standing underneath that silly orange hat in the first place: to provide instant, reliable communications.

So maintain that strict listening watch. Your performance and overall satisfaction at the next public service event will be all the better for it.

/Mark Richards

K1MGY

Mark Richards serves as a member of the Boston Athletic Association Communications Committee, and is a frequent public service event volunteer and organizer. He holds an FCC Extra Class Amateur Radio license and is employed in the technical design and product development of hand-held environmental monitoring instrumentation.

Amateur Radio News



From eHam.net News:

VIOANZAC to Try Again:

by WIA on November 15, 2015

VI0ANZAC from Casey Base in the Antarctic will try to hold another activation this month as bad weather caused the event, part of the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) ANZAC 100 program to be postponed in August. Despite the adverse Antarctic weather the station made it to air on the weekend of August 29-30. However, blizzard conditions and poor propagation resulted in only 56 contacts logged. The WIA is delighted that VI0ANZAC will try to reactivate the station and expressed sincere thanks to Doug VK0DMV and the Australian Antarctic Division. The WIA repeats that this is not a DXpedition, and only possible during available spare time. There can be no pre-arranged skeds and please no direct or indirect contact with the operator of this WIA commemorative event station.

WIA Has VI90IARU On Air:

by WIA on November 14, 2015

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) is celebrating its 90th year of being the global voice of Amateur Radio. The latest advocacy work by the IARU is at the World Radiocommunications Conference 2015 in Geneva. Through the United Nations body, the International Telecommunications Union, it continues to look after the interests of the amateur service and amateur satellite service. To celebrate its 90th year, all IARU member societies are encouraged to promote the occasion by a special callsign suffix '90IARU'. About 50 stations are already activated by IARU member societies. The WIA is now active with its VI90IARU callsign rostered to 12 members. Both clubs and individual Advanced licence holders are encouraged to apply.

Propagation Forecast Bulletin #46 de K7RA:

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on November 13, 2015

At 2240 UTC on November 11, the Australian Space Forecast Center issued a geomagnetic disturbance warning: "Combined CME and coronal hole effects are expected to become geo-effective on 12-Nov, resulting in active to minor storm conditions." They predicted quiet to minor storm conditions on November 12, and unsettled to active conditions on November 13.

Ham Radio Course Offered at Lafayette Science Museum:

by katc.com on November 13, 2015

Lafayette Science Museum (LSM) with the support of Acadiana Amateur Radio Club will be offering an 8-week ham radio course every Tuesday starting December 1. After the successful completion of the test, students will be awarded an FCC technical class license for ham radio operation. This course is free to join and lasts up to 8 weeks depending on the progress of each student. Students confident enough can test at any time during the coursework.

Catholic School Students Jump at Chance to Talk to Astronaut in Space:

by stlouisreview.com on November 13, 2015

Sophie Gloriod, a seventh-grader at Little Flower School in Richmond Heights, certainly could be called a space cadet. Listening to every word that was spoken via ham radio from some 240 miles above the earth, Sophie was no daydreamer but instead fit the other definition of the phrase -- an enthusiast for space travel, typically a young person. Sophie was among eight students from four Catholic schools who asked questions of astronaut Kjell Lindgren at Ste. Genevieve du Bois School in Warson Woods Nov. 12 as part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Program. A medical doctor, Lindgren is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. As a flight surgeon, he supported space station training and operations and was selected in 2009 as one of 14 members of the 20th NASA astronaut class. He is assigned to Expedition 44/55 as a flight engineer and has been on the space station since June. Sophie was excited following the nine-minute conversation with the the astronaut, hooked up with the help of ham radio enthusiasts at Ste. Genevieve Parish and NASA. The questions were intended to help students learn more about life in space, how STEM (Science, Education, Engineering and Math) education has prepared astronauts for their experience and practical tips for students in pursuing a career in space-related fields.

Amateur Radio Newsline Report 1985 November 13 2015:

by James Pastorfield (KB7TBT) on November 13, 2015 The following is a QST. A historic radio frequency gets its own special event. Amateur Radio on the International Space Station marks 15 successful years. The Radio Club of America and Radio Amateurs of Canada celebrate hams' contributions. And a conference in India reaches out to the youngest amateurs. All this and more in Amateur Radio Newsline report 1985 coming your way right now.

DX News -- ARRL DX Bulletin #45:

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on November 12, 2015

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by RW6HS, QRZ DX, 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.

Hams Support Air Force Marathon:

by The ARRL Letter on November 12, 2015

When the 15,000 plus runners sprang from the starting line at the recent 2015 Air Force Marathon and related races, 65 ham radio operators were on duty to make sure their September 19 competition was as safe as possible. Held each year at Wright Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, the Marathon uses base roadways as well as streets in Fairborn and Riverside. Hams are positioned at critical points throughout the courses, not only to provide communication, but to serve as additional eyes and ears, watching for any signs of problems. Hams have been a part of the race since the first official marathon was held in 1997.

ARRL President Urges 'Blast Of Support' for Senate Version of Parity Act:

by The ARRL Letter on November 12, 2015

ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, has issued an urgent call for League Members to contact Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation members representing their states to urge their support of S. 1685, the US Senate version of the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015.

Fragile Agreement for 5 MHz Ham Allocation Clears First Hurdles at WRC-15:

by The ARRL Letter on November 12, 2015

At World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15), in Geneva, consensus continues to shape up around a new 15 kHz-wide global secondary 60 meter Amateur Radio allocation at 5351.5-5366.5 kHz. On November 12, Conference Working Group 4B agreed to the global secondary allocation, with power limits designed to protect primary services from harmful interference.

Manhattan Project Sites Now Eligible for National Parks On the Air Event:

by The ARRL Letter on November 12, 2015

The US departments of Energy (DOE) and the Interior have signed an agreement making the three sites of the Manhattan Project a National Historical Site -- and the 409th official unit of the National Park Service.

ARRL Contest Advisory Committee Representative Jim Cochran, K0RH, (SK):

by The ARRL Letter on November 12, 2015

ARRL Midwest Division Contest Advisory Committee Representative Jim Cochran, K0RH, of Valley Center, Kansas, died on November 1. He was 72 and an ARRL Life Member. Cochran was a well-known and awardwinning contester and DXer, who enjoyed operating from St Maarten and was part of the 2010 PJ7E operation. He also was involved in the annual "Route 66 On the Air" special event. Among his honors, in 2011 Cochran won the plaque as the top-scoring QRP station in the ARRL November Sweepstakes phone event. He also placed fifth in North America.

In Brief...

by The ARRL Letter on November 12, 2015

Pennsylvania National Fire Museum Celebrates 20th Anniversary on the Air: As part of its 20th anniversary celebration, the Pennsylvania National Fire Museum -- in conjunction with the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club (HRAC) -- will sponsor a special event over the November 14-15 weekend, at the museum in Harrisburg.

Amateurlogic 84 is Released:

by peter berrett (VK3PB) on November 12, 2015

George demonstrates Windows 10 on the Raspberry Pi. Tommy talks about DHAP RF Commander. Peter builds the Pixie kit and has a few highlights from the DATV QSO Party. Plus the 'Cheap Old Man' is back! Emile gives us a shack update and shows how to time sync your computer over the air with WWVB.



ARRL News

ARRL Medium-Wave Experimenters Special Event is November 13-14

Fall 2015 Issue of Radio Waves is Now Available

The fall 2015 edition of *Radio Waves* now is available via the ARRL website. This issue includes such articles as "Using Sensors to Explore Terraforming," "STEM School and Academy ARC Builds Repeater," and "Community College's DIY Spirit Shines for ARISS Contact."

Published quarterly by ARRL Education Services, the fall 2015 edition also looks at how ham radio can help Boy Scouts to earn the Rad...

Yasme Foundation Announces Yasme Excellence Award to Logging Software Development Team

The **Yasme Foundation** Board of Directors has named the *N1MM Logger*+ free logging software development team to receive its Yasme Excellence Award. Team members include Tom Wagner, N1MM; Rick Ellison, N2AMG; Steve London, N2IC; John Bednar, K3CT; Nikolay Safronov, NA3M; Pete Smith, N4ZR; Andreas Hofman, KU7T; Larry Gauthier, K8UT, and Richard Ferch, VE3KI.

NIMM+ represents a major revision to the ...

Effort Under Way in Puerto Rico to Reclaim Desecheo Island (KP5)

A legislative effort is under way in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to reclaim **Desecheo Island** (KP5) and to include it within the municipality of Mayagüez. According to a **report** in *El Nuevo Día*, the Puerto Rico House of Representatives of Puerto Rico approved two bills on October 26 that call on the US government to return ownership of Desecheo Island to Puerto Rico.

The island was the site of ...

The K7RA Solar Update

It has been an active period for space weather. At 2240 UTC on November 11, the Australian Space Forecast Center issued a geomagnetic disturbance warning: "Combined CME and coronal hole effects are expected to become geo-effective on 12-Nov, resulting in active to minor storm conditions." They predicted quiet to minor storm conditions on November 12, and unsettled to active conditions on Novemb...

Fragile Agreement for 5 MHz Amateur Allocation Clears First Hurdles at WRC-15

At World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (**WRC-15**), in Geneva, consensus continues to shape up around a new 15 kHz-wide global secondary 60 meter Amateur Radio allocation at 5351.5-5366.5 kHz. On November 12, Conference Working Group 4B agreed to the global secondary allocation, with power limits designed to protect primary services from harmful interference. Sub Working Group (SWG) 4B1, chai...

Potential 15 kHz-Wide 60 Meter Band Advances at WRC-15, but Far From a Done Deal

As World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (**WRC-15**) moves into its second week in Geneva, consensus is shaping up around a new, 15 kHz-wide secondary 60 meter allocation, at 5351.5-5366.5 kHz, with amateur stations limited to an effective isotropic radiated power (**EIRP**) of 15 W.

Consideration of an allocation in the vicinity of 5.3 MHz for Amateur Radio is Agenda Item 1.4 at the International ...

ARRL President Urges "Blast of Support" for Senate Version of Amateur Radio Parity Act

ARRL President Kay Craigie, N₃KN, has issued an urgent call for League Members to contact **Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation** members representing their states to urge their support of S. 1685, the US Senate version of the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015. President Craigie said the bill could be scheduled for mark-up in the committee as early as next week, and that oppone...

Manhattan Project Sites Now Eligible for National Parks On The Air Event

New UK/EI DX Contest to Launch in December

A new contest to promote activity between stations in the UK and in Ireland (UK/EI) and the rest of the world will debut with an SSB event in December and a CW event in January. The SSB weekend will be December 5-6, and the CW weekend will be January 23-24. Both events get under way at 1200 on Saturday and end 24 hours later. The United Kingdom and Ireland Contest Club (**UKEICC**) is sponsoring th...

Digital Editions of December 2015 and December 1915 QST Now Available!

Ham Radio Accessory Dealer, Publisher Idiom Press Changing Hands

Idiom Press of Merlin, Oregon, has announced the sale of its assets to Ham Supply of Elizabeth, Colorado. Owned by Wayne Ordakowski, NoUN, Ham Supply is a new business formed to manufacture and distribute the products previously offered by Idiom Press, as well as other new Amateur Radio products.

Ham Supply will honor warranties for existing Idiom Press products, and once production is resumed, ...

AO-85 Testing November 8 and 9

AMSAT has announced that it will be conducting some tests on the new Fox-1A (AO-85) satellite while it is over North America during orbits 444, 448, and 449, and is requesting that users not uplink to the satellite during these periods:

- Sunday, November 8, 1715 through 1735 UTC
- Monday, November 9, 0005 through 0025 UTC
- Monday, November 9, 0145 through 0210 UTC

"Stations in North, Central, and nor ...

Hams Support Air Force Marathon

When the 15,000 plus runners sprang from the starting line at the recent 2015 Air Force Marathon and related races, 65 ham radio operators were on duty to make sure the September 19 competition was as safe as possible. Held each year at Wright Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, the Marathon uses base roadways as well as streets in Fairborn and Riverside. Hams are positioned at critical...

Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 Picks Up US Senator Al Franken as a Cosponsor

US Sen Al Franken (D-MN) has signed on as a cosponsor of the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015, S. 1685. He is the second US Senate cosponsor since the bill was introduced in the upper chamber by Sen

Roger Wicker (R-MS) on June 25 with the initial cosponsorship of Sen Richard Blumenthal (D-CT). Franken signed on to S. 1685 on November 5.

"The culture of the US Senate is different than that of the ...



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

VIOANZAC to try again

VIOANZAC from Casey Base in the Antarctic will try to hold another activation this month as bad weather caused the event, part of the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) ANZAC 100 program, to be postponed in August

YOTA 2016 Austria - Call for applications

Lisa Leenders PA2LS, Chair of the IARU Region 1 Youth Working Group reports the next YOTA event which will take place in Austria

Upcoming ARISS contact with Kiluutaq School

Signal reports requested from IO-86 FM transponder test

The FM transponder aboard IO-86/LAPAN-ORARI was activated for testing, and was available for amateur radio use on 14 November between 01:35 - 03:40 UTC

The Afrikaans Amateur Radio Dictionary

The South African Radio League (SARL) has received excellent feedback from interested radio amateurs following a call to compile an Afrikaans amateur radio dictionary

ARISS contact Tuesday

Please join us in listening to the ISS contact with participants at the Kiluutaq School, Umiujaq, Nunavik Quebec, Canada on Tuesday November 17th. AOS is anticipated 16:47 UTC

Propagation Report from Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low to moderate levels





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 <u>New England Amateur D-STAR Net</u> 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.

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Continental breakfast: \$9.00 (same price)

Kid's breakfast: \$9.00(new price effective March 2015)

Full breakfast: \$15.00 (new price)

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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 dame 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 <u>info@wb1gof.org</u>.



Repeater propogation info is available on the PART <u>website</u>. 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 <u>URL</u>.

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



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 PARTicles © 2015, a publication of PART of Westford, MA

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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.



This month's editor: Terry Stader - KA8SCF PART official mailing address is: PART, PO Box 503, Westford, MA 01886 Scan this Our website is: <u>http://wb1gof.org</u> QR code 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



