



PARTICLES Vol:13 No: 1

January 2009

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Happy New Year

Wow....it's a New Year and we have lots of activities planned for all you PART members. The past year was an excellent one for PART. We had a long list of successful activities including Field Day and our first ever Special Events Station on Patriots Day. We were able to significantly reduce our monthly phone bill while not losing any features. This has saved us over \$250 a year. Our membership continues to increase (we have a new member initiative in progress) as does our monthly meeting attendance. The year 2009 should bring even more activities that we can all be proud of. Check out this list!

January PART Monthly Meeting

The next monthly meeting of PART will be held at the Westford Police Station on Tuesday January 20th at 7:30 PM. We will be featuring a talk by PART Member Charles Learoyd (K1PUB) about Digital Signal Processing, We will also initiate a new raffle. We have a brand new Dual Band Yaesu FT7800E to raffle. You can check this rig out at : <http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/4779>

February PART Monthly Meeting

The February monthly meeting of PART will be held at the Westford Police Station on Tuesday February 17th at 7:30 PM. This meeting will feature a panel discussion on Emergency Power. This meeting is a result of the numerous questions and comments that resulted from the bad ice storm we had in December and the extensive power outage that resulted. The panelists will include: Allison (KB1GMX), John (G3BVU), Ernie (N1AEW) and Hugh (N1QGE). Our VP Andy (KB1OIQ) will moderate this panel. The panelist will focus on both generator power for the home and emergency battery backup power for rigs. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers!

Special Events Station K1P for Patriots Day

This year we will have another special events station on Patriots Day in April. We will keep the same call sign we had last year (K1P). Andy (KB1OIQ) will be in charge and Alan (K1ALL) has volunteered his barn again for the QTH. Let Andy know if you are interested in participating in this event.

13 Colonies Special Events Station

This year there will be an on the air, 4th of July, original 13 colonies special event.. PART has volunteered to be the Massachusetts component for this activity. We will be issued the call sign K2H and will be one of the 13 special events stations (one in each of the original 13 colonies) that will be on the air during the weekend of July 4th. This will be a different type of on the air special event, as it will be done from our individual

shacks. The object will be for hams to contact all of the 13 special events stations during the allotted time period. A handsome certificate will be issued to all hams that can verify contact to all 13 stations. Charlie (K1PUB) has volunteered to coordinate this activity and we already have three stations that have volunteered to be on the air, at different times, for this event. Stay tuned for more information.

HF Beginner Series

I have been working with Ed (K2TE) the president of the Nashua Area Radio Club and Mike Bernock (N1IW) president of the Billerica Amateur Radio Society on an "HF Beginner" series of presentations. Mike suggested that the three clubs get together and form an initiate to address some of the difficulties that new hams have in getting on the air in HF. We all recognized the fact that its relatively easy to get a license and to get on the air say on 2 meters with a walkie. The real difficulty we see is making that jump on to the HF bands. The traditional "Elmering" for this transition is not always present. It appears that each club will have the responsibility for a presentation on one aspect of beginning HF. NARA is working on a talk focused on "How to make an SSB contact". The plan is to have each club give their talk three times.....ie once at each of the three clubs. Let me know if you have any thoughts on this subject and if you would be willing to help out in this effort.

2008 Activities

PART Raffles

We have been extremely fortunate to have Rich (AB1HD) running our equipment raffles. They have all been successful and all have shown a profit. The Buddystick Raffle we just completed in December produced a profit of \$325 for our treasury. This alone represents close to 1/3 of our yearly expenses. Rich has two more raffles already lined up for us. Thanks again Rich !

Repeater Contribution

Some of our newer members may not realize how our 2 meter and 440 repeaters are financed and maintained. Ernie (N1AEW) and Terry (KA8SCP) own these two repeaters. They are not owned by PART. Ernie and Terry do all the maintenance and upkeep on these two repeaters. They also do all the upgrading and modifications and pay the bills for all expenses. PART had volunteered, years ago, to pay for the repeater telephone bill as this is the major recurring expense. Ernie and Terry have no problems with these repeaters being referred to as the PART Repeaters. PART, in turn, has set up a "Repeater Fund" and acts as a collecting agency for those who care to donate to this fund and help defray expenses. We have recently transferred \$1000 to the repeater owners to help with some of their recent costs. Unfortunately our "Repeater Fund" is just about empty. I urge you all to think about contributing to this fund. Over the last several years many of you have contributed \$10, \$20 or even \$50 to this fund and we need to build up our balance. If you so choose.....give your donation to our treasurer and let him know that its for the "Repeater Fund". Thanks!

PART Christmas Party- December 2008

PART's December Christmas Party at the Yangzee River in Littleton was just great. A good time was had by all. Terry (KA8SCP) was our "Master of Ceremonies" for the occasion. Terry had us all laughing with his Christmas Tale. The food was great and the fellowship was great. It sure is good to get the YL's and XYL's involved in PART activities. We should do more of this!