



***PARTICLES Vol:13 No:3***  
**April 2009**

**By: Bo Budinger (WA1QYM)**

## **Upcoming PART Monthly Meetings**

**April:** The April monthly meeting of PART will be held at the Westford Police Station on Tuesday April 21 at 7:30 PM. This meeting will feature a presentation by Cal Herbert (WA1WOK) on D Star. D Star is a digital voice and data protocol that provides specifications for network connectivity, enabling D-Star radios to be connected to the Internet or other networks and provisions for routing data streams of voice or packet data via amateur radio call signs. We will also be raffling off a Sound Sweet Speaker. See: <http://www.soundssweet.com/> Ticket sales will start with our April Meeting. This item will be raffled off at Field Day! The profits from this raffle will go to support PART's Repeater Fund.

**May:** The May monthly meeting of PART will be held in the Westford Police Station on Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. This meeting will be one of PART's "Show and Tell" meetings. This is always an interesting meeting as members and guests present their latest projects whether they are kit building, software design, antennas or just ham radio related collections. So start planning what project you would like to "show and Tell" for this meeting.

## **Upcoming PART Events**

**Special Events Station K1P for Patriots Day:** This year we will have another special events station on Patriots Day weekend, Saturday and Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. 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. We have already put up the antennas we will use. We do need operators and loggers. All the key ingredients are in place. Let Andy know if you are interested in participating in this event. Get more information at: <http://www.wb1gof.org/K1P/K1P.html>

**Apple Blossom Parade:** Again this year PART will provide communications for Westford's Apple Blossom Parade. This parade will be on Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>. Communication operations will be from 8:00AM to 12:00 noon. The Apple Blossom Parade is one of the Westford Kiwanis fundraiser events for Scholarships that are presented to graduating seniors. Please feel free to volunteer, as it only requires a few hours of time on a Saturday morning. All that is needed is a 2 meter walkie. Duties include "shadowing" Kiwanis members before and during the parade to help them coordinate the more than 50 individual components of this parade. Terry (KA8SCP) will be in charge of this communications event so please contact him if you would like to participate.

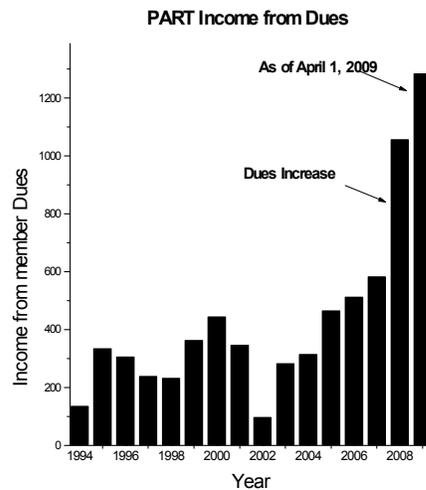
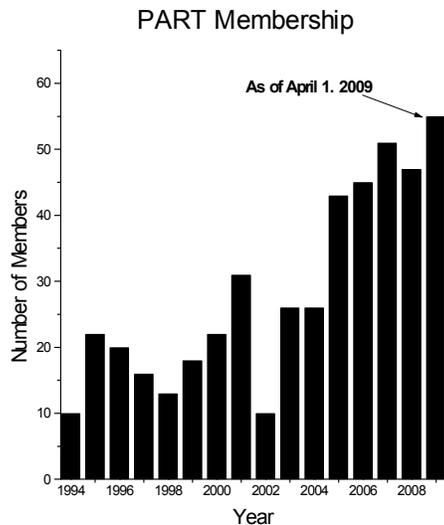
**Field Day 2009:** Field Day is PART's biggest event. It will take place this year on the weekend of June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. We often spend a day or so before this event erecting antennas. This event requires a lot of participation and organization by all members involved. Much preparation and planning is required to have a successful Field Day. We have started early. We have a Field Day Chairman (Steve N1BDA) and an assistant chairman (Steve WA1KBE). We will use the same QTH as last year.....Alan's (K1ALL) barn in Carlisle. PART has recently moved to having Field Day in a shelter as it makes it much more enjoyable when bad weather comes. If you have ideas and suggestion or if you want to volunteer please see N1BDA or WA1KBE.

**13 Colonies Special Events Station:** This year there will be an on the air, 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>. 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. If you are interested please contact Charlie. For more information on this event see: <http://home.comcast.net/~dzabawa/ThirteenColonies.htm>

## Comments

**PART Growth:** As all of you long time PART members can see, PART is expanding quite rapidly. In the last few years PART has grown significantly in number of members and member of activities. This is quite the opposite from most ham radio clubs here in Eastern Massachusetts. Other clubs are either stagnant or declining in membership. It is difficult to try to explain just why this is. Most ham radio clubs suffer from the "graying of their membership". PART does have its share of us "old guys" but there is a vibrant group of younger members who are keeping the club going. PART also maintains a good set of yearly activities and gets participation by a larger percentage of members than most other clubs.

The two graphs below show the magnitude of PART's expanded membership. Since 2005, membership in PART has increased significantly. We can also see that PART's income from dues has also improved since we increased dues in 2008. If you recall, one of the main goals of our Board of Directors back in 2007 was to increase the balance in our treasury so that we could have more flexibility in covering the costs of the events we put on. Thanks to the increase in dues income and the results of the profits from raffles that Rich (AB1HD) has been conducting we are better able to reach these goals. (Thanks to our Treasurer Alan (W1AHM) for this information.)



**Field Trip to the Museum of Broadcast Technology:** This year PART’s Field Trip was to the Museum of Broadcast Technology in Woonsocket RI on Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>. Hugh (N1QGE) was in charge of this expedition and did an excellent job of organization and planning this trip. You can see a report of this expedition on <http://www.wb1gof.org/files/MBTtripReport.pdf> Thanks Hugh for managing this very fine activity.

**Repeater Fund:** As you all should know by now the PART repeaters on 2 meters and 440 are not really owned by PART. They are owned and maintained by Ernie (N1AEW) and Terry (KA8SCP) with help and assistance from the Repeater Trustee Dave (WI1R). PART does provide a method by which we can all contribute funds to maintain and update these two repeaters. Over the years PART has had a “Repeater Fund” for just this purpose. As you know, this fund was depleted with the purchase of the new gear for the 2 meter repeater. It is the intention of the owners to spend what they need to keep the repeaters up and running (within reason). It is also their intention of adding items that are on their "wish list" for future enhancements or possible corrective actions. Please seriously consider contributing to this fund. Those of us who use these repeaters own a great amount to the owners. A few dollars from each one of us can go a long way.

**New Members:** I am happy to welcome the following new members into PART. This is a list of all the new members since January 1, 2009.

1. Jim Hanson (W1TRC) Manyard, MA
2. John M. Ahle, (W1JMA), Lexington MA,
3. Kim van der Riet, (K1ZA), Littleton MA,
4. Bill Principe, (AJ6J) Ayer, MA
5. Scotti Goldberg (N1PUI) Chelmsford, MA
6. Mike Goldberg (K1LGN) Chelmsford, MA
7. Dan Perez (AD1P) Bedford, MA
8. Lamine Zeroual, (KB1RPZ) Boxborough, MA
9. Pete Dolloff ( KB1OCF), Hudson, NH
10. Sean Payne, (KB1QHM) Nashua, NH
11. Richard Lafferty (KB1RQP), Methuen, MA
12. John Sorvari, (AB1KF) Boxborough, MA