



PARTICLES Vol:12 No:1

February 2008

By: Bo Budinger (WA1QYM)

Well, it has been a while since the last issue of PARTICLES has been published. So, I want to bring you all up to date as to what has been going on and what new and exciting things we have in store for the new year. As you all probably know by now our old meeting place, the Westford Police Station, is no longer available to us due to the shifting of the Town Clerks office from the condemned Town Hall to the meeting room in the Police Station. We hope to get this meeting room back but it will be quite a while till we do. In the mean time we have accepted the gracious offer from the United Methodist Church here in Westford to use their Fellowship Hall.

February PART Monthly Meeting

The February PART Monthly meeting will be held on the third Tuesday of the month. February 19th at 8:00 PM at the United Methodist Church located at 10 Church Street in the Graniteville Section of town. Directions can be found on the WB1GOF web site. Please use the side or back door as an entrance. The Speaker for this meeting will be John Vogel (N1PGA) and he will be speaking on the subject of ham radio contesting.

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

Speakers for upcoming meetings are as follows:

March 2008: Jim Spears (N1NK), on "Sable Island (CY0) and Jersey (MJ) DXpeditions" (Jim is a DXCC/ WAS/VUCC card checker and will be glad to process field checks of the above applications. Members should CAREFULLY READ AND FOLLOW the ARRL paperwork requirements on this or he cannot approve the cards. This is a great "bonus" for the evening!)

April 2008: Ed Parish (K1EP), on "Elecrafft K3"

May 2008 Field Day planning meeting

I do want to thank Scott (NE1RD) for lining up these speakers for our PART meetings. If any of you have ideas and or suggestions for additional speakers please keep me informed. I truly believe that one of the keystones of PART being the active club that it is today is its long history of providing interesting and challenging speakers at each and every meeting.

PART Special Events Station

PART is planning a Special Events Station for Patriots Day Weekend. We will be on the air Sunday April 20th and Monday April 21st. Scott (NE1RD) has secured the call sign

K1P for the event. Scott has also volunteered to be co-chairman for this activity but we need an additional co-chairman. Scott will be in charge of obtaining the rigs and the antennas along with providing all his expertise in regard to special events station operation. The responsibilities of the other co-chairman will be to see that QSL cards get printed beforehand, to line up operators and loggers as well as dealing with QSLing afterwards. At the present time we do not have a location but will shortly. This is going to be a fun event but we need to do a bit more planning and organizing. If you have any interest in this activity we indeed do need a co-chairman. Please let me know if you are interested.

Kit Building Activity

PART is pleased to present a new activity: electronic kit building. The all-day event is aimed at both beginner and seasoned kit builder alike with an emphasis on mentoring, learning, and fun. The club-sponsored kit for this event is the *Rock-mite* by Small Wonder Labs, a 40m QRP transceiver with built-in keyer. At this writing we only have three kits left so if you are interested please contact Rich (AB1HD). A complete set of additional information can be found on the PART web site (www.wb1gof.org) under "PART activities-Kit Building Event. This will take place Saturday February 23rd from 9 AM to 5 PM at the United Methodist Church located at 10 Church Street in Westford.

Algonquin Flea and Greater Boston Antique Radio

Just a quick note on two radio related events that you might be interested in. The first is the **Algonquin Amateur Radio Clubs annual Flea Market** held on Saturday February 16th at the Marlboro Intermediate School from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Admission is \$5.00. More information can be obtained at: <http://www.qsl.net/n1em/FleaMarketFlier2008a.pdf> This is the first major ham radio flea of the season and is generally quite well attended.

On Sunday Feb 18th the **Greater Boston Antique Radio Collectors** will have an Indoor Old Radio Flea Market at the Westford Regency Inn from 8:00 AM till 12:00 noon. Admission is \$11 with spouse and children free. I have attended this event several times and have always come away with the feeling that old time radio (those made before 1940) is alive and well after seeing all the exhibits and equipment/parts for sale.

PART Monthly Breakfast

I want to invite all of you to join us at our monthly PART breakfast. This occurs at 8:00 AM on the first Saturday of each month at the Westford Regency Inn on Rt 110 in Westford. It is buffet style and the cost is \$13.00 each for adults and \$6.00 for children.



Above are two pictures from February's PART breakfast taken by Bob (N1RXV). Both amateur radio operators and their family attend this breakfast. Lately our attendance has

been between 20 and 30 people. The food is great, the discussions are great and often people just don't want to leave. Please come and join us.

Last Months Meeting

The January monthly meeting was the first in our new temporary location at the United Methodist Church in the Graniteville section of Westford. We had a good turn out considering the weather and the new location. Rich (AB1HD) gave an excellent and well-prepared talk on PSK-31. His presentation included a few slides on the basics of PSK-31 and a video on sound card interfacing by K7AGE. Rich can be seen giving his presentation in the picture below.



This fairly new mode of communications was received well by the audience, a portion of which can be seen in the lower picture.

