



PARTICLES Vol:13 No:2

February 2009

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Upcoming PART Monthly Meetings

March: The March monthly meeting of PART will be held at the Westford Police Station on Tuesday March 17th at 7:30 PM. This meeting will focus on ECOM activities. Terry Stader (KA8SCP) our Senior Club Advisor and Communications Officer for MEMA Region 1 will present an overview of ARES, RACES, MARS and Skywarn and how they are implemented here in our area. In addition, Terry will have other ECOM related personnel who will give short descriptions of their activities and responsibilities.

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.

Monthly Meeting 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. Currently we are raffling a Yaesu FT 7800 2 meter and 440 transceiver. A short description of this rig can be found at: http://www.universal-radio.com/CATALOG/fm_txvrs/3780.html This raffle will take place at the March Meeting so if you don't have a ticket see Rich at this meeting. Tickets are: \$5 each, 4 for \$10 and 10 for \$20. We will continue with another PART raffle in April. We will be raffling off a Sound Sweet Speaker. See: <http://www.soundssweet.com/> Ticket sales will start with our April Meeting and this item will be raffled off at Field Day!

Announcements

Field Day Chairman and Assistant Chairman: I am happy to announce that Steve Telsey (N1BDA) has volunteered to be PART's Field Day Chairman for 2009. Steve was last years Field Day Chairman and did an excellent job. Steve wants to have an even better Field Day this year. Field Day is the biggest event that we put on. It is an event that often covers a three day span. In addition I would like to announce that Steve (WA1KBE) has volunteered to be the Field Day Assistant Chairman. Steve (N1BDA) will have the primary responsibility for everything connected with Field Day but the Field Day Assistant could take over some of these responsibilities as both he and Steve see fit.

Steve (N1BDA) has sent me an excellent critique of last years Field Day. He lists some of the things we did quite well...such as excellent "set up" and "take down" crews along with excellent Tool Box Talks! He also listed some of the things we did not do so well such as....interference, lack of use of headphones and a weak focus on making VHF work.

Membership Chairman: I am pleased to announce that Garry Frascarelli (W1GFF) has accepted the position of "Membership Chairman" of PART. Gary's duties will include: (1) welcoming new PART members (2) keeping track of the membership list (3) contacting members who have not renewed their dues and (4) making new hams in our communities aware of PART. Gary has also volunteered, as part of his new duties, to see that PART membership cards are issued to all paid up members. Please welcome Gary to this new position and give him all the support he needs to make this a successful endeavor.

An Offer from Steve (KA1IKK): Each PART member has a different skill set and traditionally PART members who understand amateur radio and electronics have been able to help and assist those of us with lesser skills. PART has had a long tradition of members helping other members. I have been approached by one of our members, Steve York (KA1IKK) with an offer of assistance to PART members in a totally different realm. Stephen not only is an active ham but the Associate Pastor of the Lowell Assembly of God Church. He offers his background and talent as a Pastor/Minister to us. As Stephen has said to me: "Sometimes we experience things in life that come upon us without warning and we find ourselves coping with issues in life the best we can. I would be willing to visit club members, or their family members in the hospital if need be, or even to visit them at their homes and offer prayer for their healing and recovery, or Spiritual Counseling, as we see life becoming tougher in the day and age in which we live. People are losing their homes and jobs and wonder what the next day will bring." Please take this offer at face value. There are no "strings attached" just an honest offer of help in times of personal difficulty. I have discussed Steve's offer with PART's Board of Directors and have received positive responses from each member. His cell phone number is: 978-758-5599 and he can be contacted at that number 24 hours a day.

Upcoming Events

Field Trip to the Museum of Broadcast Technology: This year PART's Field Trip will be to the Museum of Broadcast Technology in Woonsocket RI on Saturday March 28th. You can find more about this museum at: <http://www.wmbt.org/> Hugh (N1QGE) will be in charge of this expedition. He envisions us all meeting for breakfast and then traveling to the museum afterwards. Please let Hugh know if you are interested in going and if you are willing to drive. There will be more information at our March monthly meeting.

Special Events Station K1P for Patriots Day: This year we will have another special events station on Patriots Day weekend, Saturday and Sunday April 18th and 19th. 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 need help with assembling antennas and taking them down. In addition we will need operators and loggers. All the key ingredients are in place although we really do need additional volunteers. Let Andy know if you are interested in participating in this event. Get more information at: <http://www.wb1gof.org/K1P/K1P.html>

Field Day 2009: Field Day is PART's biggest event. It will take place this year on the weekend of June 27th and 28th. 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, 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. If you are interested please contact Charlie. For more information on this event see: <http://home.comcast.net/~dzabawa/ThirteenColonies.htm>

Miscellaneous

Comments on the February PART Monthly Meeting: The February monthly meeting featured a panel discussion on Emergency Power. This meeting was 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 included: Allison (KB1GMX), John (G3BVU), Ernie (N1AEW) and Hugh (N1QGE). Our VP Andy (KB1OIQ) moderated this panel. This was the first time we have ever had a panel discussion. The talks were all right on the subject. They were well focused and to the point. Many questions were asked by the audience and answered by the panelists. Evidently the topic was quite timely. My compliments to all the speakers and to Andy who did an excellent job of moderating this discussion. Hugh's detailed presentation can be found at: <http://www.wb1gof.org/files/power/CriticalHomePower.pdf>