



PARTICLES Vol:12 No:8
November 2007

Welcome to the PARTICLES Newsletter for November. We are trying to upgrade PARTICLES a bit with a new format.....its now PDF rather than the old e-mail style. In addition we have added more than just the regular club notices. So.....hope you enjoy!

November PART Meeting

The November monthly PART meeting will be held on Tuesday November 21 at 7:30 PM at the Westford Police Station. We will focus on "Show and Tell" at this Meeting. This is always great fun as members and guests bring their latest project along to demonstrate to the rest of us. We always get lots of participation in this meeting. You can demonstrate anything you want relating to ham radio and electronics.....a software project, an antenna project, a "junk box" project.....just about anything. You don't even have to bring it to the meeting, as often a few pictures will do.

December PART Christmas Party

Our annual PART Christmas Party will be held on December 18th (the third Tuesday of the month) at the Yangsee River Restaurant on Rt 110 in Littleton. All PART members and their significant other are invited to attend. Please contact Terry Stader (KA8SCP) at KA8SCP@WB1GOF.org if you plan to attend. This is always a well-attended event and is a great way to get into the Christmas Spirit. This Party replaces our normal meeting for December. It will have an earlier starting time (I don't have this information yet). It will also include a Yankee Swap. This year we have revised the rules for our Yankee Swap and we will fill you all in at a later date on these new rules.

January PART Meeting

The January 2008 monthly PART meeting will be held on Tuesday January 15th at 7:30 PM at the Westford Police Station. Our Speaker will be Charles Suprin (AA1VS) who will be speaking on: "Introduction to Digital Mode Operations".

Charles writes: "Have you ever thought about working PSK 31 and have been afraid to try? This talk reduces some of the anxiety and positions you to try using these modes. This presentation focuses on getting the software installed, trying it out, and getting it to work. If one comes from the Linux world, you might call this an install fest. At the beginning of the talk, media with some of the software is shared through the room for people to copy the software if they don't have already have it. Meanwhile, at the front of the room, two computers will be talking using only the soundcards for all to see and hear. Meanwhile people can be configuring their machine to copy that "QSO". Now, the room is full of experts to help those who are having problems. If time allows we may move over to other modes including SSTV, RTTY, and others. Please bring your

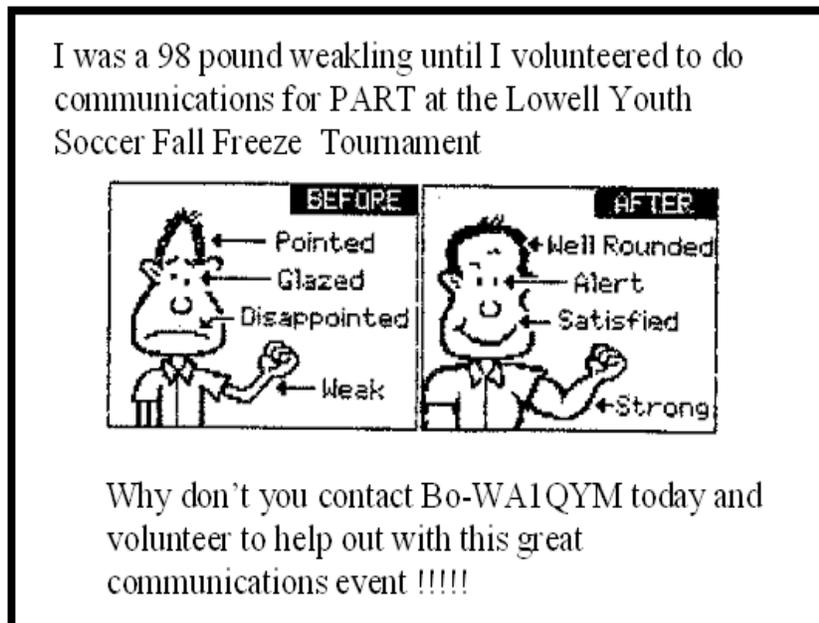
laptops. I will have software for Windows. If you need Linux or MacOS software, please fetch it ahead of time. "

Pumpkin Patrol 2007

Just recently PART Members participated in our yearly Pumpkin Patrol. This is where we assist the Westford Police in keeping an eye on the town during Trick or Treat time and for a while afterwards. This has been a yearly event for PART since the late 1970's, and if my memory is correct, it was PART's first group activity. This year we had Terry (KA8SCP) as our net control operator at the Police Station. Terry always brings to an event like this his years of organizational and operational experience. Terry divided the town up into sectors and assigned a sector to each of us. The following members participated in patrols: Alan (W1AHM), Bo (WA1QYM), Dave (WI1R), Mark, (KB1OPM), Jim (KB1NEW) Hugh (N1QGE) and Dave (KB1OCL). It was a rather quiet night with little to report.

Communications Support for the Lowell Youth Soccer Fall Freeze Tournament

The Lowell Youth Hockey Associations Fall Freeze Tournament will be held this year on November 10th and 11th a Saturday and Sunday. We have helped this organization out twice already with communications support. We need plenty of volunteers for this activity as we do this organization a big favor in keeping them informed as to what is happening on all their 16 playing fields along with all that is going on in the parking areas. It only requires a 2 meter hand held transceiver. Operation is from about 8:00 AM to about 4:00 PM. Ron (WQ1Z) is in charge of this event. If you are willing to volunteer please let either Ron or me know.



(thanks to KA8SCP and a very old copy of PARTICLES for this one !)

Kit Building at a PART Club Meeting

We are considering a kit building activity to take place sometime in early 2008. There is a desire on the part of some members to have this type of activity. At the October meeting I presented three alternative kits that we might consider for this event. One of them is the "Rock Mite" a simple CW transceiver for either 80, 40 or 20 meters. It is a crystal controlled direct conversion transceiver that is billed as a "one evening" project. You can get more information about this at: <http://smallwonderlabs.com/Eockmite.htm> Each kit is a single board and costs \$29 each.

Another is the "Cwtouchkeyer" see <http://www.touchkeyer.com/P3K.htm> This is a much simpler kit and only costs \$20. A third is the Lobstercon Maine Bug kit which is a fun only type of kit that actually includes some BASIC programming. You can find information on this kit at: <http://www.qrpme.com> Its cost is \$12. I do need some feedback as to what your desires are.

W1 Bureau QSL Card Sorting at the Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

Three PART members: Pete (KB1LZH), Alan (W1AHM) and Bo (WA1QYM) attended the Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club's Annual QSL card sort at their October meeting. This event drew about 30 people who worked diligently for several hours to sort over 16,000 QSL cards for the W1 QSL bureau. These are cards that are sent to the ARRL Bureau by a DX station to confirm contacts previously made. NVARC supplied pizza and soda for all who helped out. I think this could be a good activity for one of our PART meetings. Let me know what you think about this !



Last but not least I want to thank Miles (WF1F) (shown here receiving his PART cup) for an excellent presentation on amateur radio space communications at PART's October Meeting.

Bo Budinger
WA1QYM
President
PART of Westford