



PARTICLES Vol:12 No: 4
September 2008

By: Bo Budinger (WA1QYM)

October PART Monthly Meeting

The next monthly meeting of PART will be held at the Westford Police Station on Tuesday October 21st at 7:30 PM. We will be featuring a talk by John G3BVU on the subject entitled: "The Ionosphere and Large Antennae." As John says, "The Ionosphere, that 'Murky Mirror in the Sky' is (almost) constantly changing. It tends to be stationary for a few seconds, under 'quiet' conditions. But..."

We will also initiate a new raffle. We have a brand new Buddistick to raffle off. Tickets will be available at this meeting. The winning ticket will be chosen at our Christmas Party in December. See <http://www.buddipole.com/buddistick.html>

PART Elections

PART elections for FY 2009 offices were held at the September PART Meeting. Our new slate of officers for the coming year is as follows:

President: Bo Budinger (WA1QYM)

Vice President: Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)

Secretary: Steve Rimsa (WA1KBE)

Treasurer: Alan Martin (W1AHM)

As per our Articles of Organization, the previous Board of Directors appointed Rick Green (W1RAG) as our new **Director-at-Large**. Please congratulate all these people and give them your support during the coming year.

Speakers and Activities for Upcoming PART Monthly Meetings

The following speakers and activities are planned for upcoming PART Meetings:

October: John G3BVU on the subject entitled: "The Ionosphere and Large Antennae"

November: TBA (there will be a speaker for this meeting ...stay tuned)

December: Our annual Holiday Party

January 2009: Charles Learoyd (K1PUB) will be talking about digital signal processing (DSP) in transceivers

Activities and Goals for FY 2009

I had presented a list of PART activities and Goals for the FY 2009 at the September meeting. I divided these into two categories: **Continuations** and **New Goals**.

Under the category of **Continuations** I listed: (1) have **good speakers** and **good meeting activities** (2) participate in **Field Day** (3) run another **Special Events Station** and (4)

continue our **Social Events**: such as our weekly and monthly breakfasts and our yearly Holiday Party. These are our core set of activities and should be strongly supported and continued. These represent what we do best.

Under the category of **New Goals** I listed: (1) Promote the expansion of our membership and get our budget in better shape (2) do a Field Trip such as: (a) the Woonsocket Museum of Broadcast Technology <http://www.wmbt.org/> , (b) ARRL Headquarters, or (c) the KC1XX Contest Station in NH <http://www.kc1xx.com/> , (3) do a Fox Hunt, and (4) focus more on emergency communications. These are new initiatives and require additional effort and support from the membership to make them succeed. These new initiatives have not been “set in concrete” yet as our new Board of Directors will be reviewing them and making additional suggestions or deletions. If you have any suggestions or opinions on these potential new activities please pass them on to one of the Board Members. In addition, if you would like to volunteer to be point person for a Field Trip or a Fox Hunt by all means convey that information to the President.

New Member Initiative

We have already started a New Member Initiative. Those of you who attended our last meeting saw our PART flyer promoting membership in PART. This was skillfully designed by Scott (NE1RD) and gives information about PART and provides a method of applying for membership. These flyers will be distributed to various VE examination locations as well as to other locations throughout the area. We have also introduced a reduced membership rate to new members that is \$5 off a normal membership. In addition, we offer this same reduction in dues for each current member who brings a new member to PART. New members can join anytime between now and the end of the year and have their dues cover their membership till December of 2009. If you would like several of these flyers for distribution see me at the next meeting.

PART telephone bill

The largest fixed expense that PART has is our repeater telephone bill. Our total income for last year was \$1130 and our repeater telephone bill was \$576, a bit more than half of our income. We are trying to increase our income with the New Member Initiative, selling PARTware, and with raffles but we also have to look at expenses. The phone line to the repeater serves two purposes: (1) to act as a link to shut down the repeater if some malicious activity occurs...this is a requirement of all repeaters, and (2) for emergency phone messages. Possibly there is an alternative way to shut down the repeater other than using a telephone line. Possibly we can find an alternative phone supplier for less than the \$48 a month we now spend. Possibly the emergency phone patch service is no longer necessary.

I am forming a committee to look into this telephone bill expense. The whole purpose of this committee is to explore the alternatives and give the membership the results of this exploration. Two people are already on this committee: Terry (KA8SCP) (one of our repeater owners) and Scott (NE1RD). I would like to have one more member on this committee. If you are interested please contact me.

Emergency Communications

Dave Hobson (KB1OCL) and Alan Lewis (K1ALL) have volunteered to help jump-start a new emergency communications initiative. In addition to being PART members they are both active in Concord's CARET emergency team and have much to draw from on this subject. Dave feels that as a "sub group" within PART, the PART emergency communications support team, will need documented guidelines and procedures. He will work with Alan to create a preliminary draft of a table of contents outlining what they think would be a good start for sections of this manual. They would pass the TOC draft by PART leadership to gather input and acceptance, then form a focus group of interested members who want to help make this emergency communication capability come to life.

Once the operating guidelines become tangible, one of the next steps would be to train members interested in providing this service. They might be able to "spice up" the Sunday night PART nets by adding 15 minutes of emergency communication guideline training after the primary net business is complete. This would create more regular opportunities for PART training. If not every week, perhaps this could be done monthly.

Dave suggests we pull a team together, research/document the mission, guidelines and operating procedures, develop an approach for training interested members - and raise the skills level of the PART organization working together as a Team. In about a years time, we might have enough members trained well enough to take the next step of building a stronger proactive relationship with Westford town agencies - offering our support without fear of letting them down. I fully support this initiative and would be interested in knowing what the rest of you felt and if you would be willing to participate in this initiative.

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