



PARTicles

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

April 2010

President's Note

It is with great pleasure that I announce our Field Day committee for 2010:

Chairman: Charles (AA1VS) Suprin

Assistant: John (W1JMA) Ahle

Assistant: Steve (N1BDA) Telsey



Please offer your congratulations to these guys! They have willingly taken on a lot of responsibility and I hope you will all support them in this endeavor.

Field Day will be held during the last weekend of June, specifically June 26th and June 27th, 2010. Save the date!

Stay tuned for more Field Day news as it develops.

73 de Andy KB1OIQ

Special Note

Radio repair note - Beltronics (<http://www.beltronics.net>) is no longer repairing or servicing Amateur Radio equipment. Possible alternatives:

Quimby Mountain Radio; Bow, NH

Jim Fowler-KA1SU 603-715-1458

N1EQ Amateur (Ham) Radio Repair; Fairfield, ME

Mike Nadeau-N1EQ <http://www.n1eq.com>

We all would like to thank the owners of Beltronics for their many years of great repair service of ham gear! Please do not hesitate to contact them for your other communications services.

Upcoming PART Meetings

April 20, 2010

- Phil Temples – K9HI will be presenting his platform as a candidate for the upcoming ARRL EMA Section Manager election.
- The repeater owners will be presenting information on current repeater projects and their status.

June 15, 2010

- Field Day preparation

July - November 2010

- Speakers have not yet been scheduled for these dates

We have a large membership, and I'm sure each of you knows somebody who would be an excellent speaker at a future PART meeting. Perhaps YOU would like the chance to address the club. All of you can help! Please send me email with contact information for prospective speakers, including your self. I'll work out the logistics with the prospective speaker. All of you collectively know a LOT more people than I do. With your help, I'm sure that we'll continue the PART tradition of having fine speakers at our monthly meetings. Thanks, and 73 de Andy KB1OIQ.

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 16-Feb-10 and 16-Mar-10

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	\$3184.79	\$268.00	\$3452.79
Income	\$240.00	\$50.00	\$290.00
Expenses	\$348.04	\$0.00	\$384.04
New Balance	\$3076.75	\$318.00	\$3394.75

PART 2010 Membership Demographics as of 14-Apr-10

	Households (New + Renew)	Individuals (New + Renew)
Full	26 (2 + 24)	26 (2 + 24)
Senior	20 (2 + 18)	20 (2 + 18)
Family	7 (0 + 7)	14 (0 + 14)
Student	0 (0 + 0)	0 (0 + 0)
Associate	1 (0 + 1)	1 (0 + 1)
Grand Total	54 (4 + 50)	61 (4 + 57)

Upcoming Events

- **Apple Blossom Parade May 15, Westford, MA – need hams for parade coordination. Contact Terry-KA8SCP**
- Spring NEAR-Fest Apr. 30th & May 1st Deerfield Fairgrounds, NH (<http://www.near-fest.com>)
- Flea@MIT, 3rd Sun Apr thru Oct, Cambridge (<http://w1mx.mit.edu/flea-at-mit>)
- Dayton Hamvention May 14-16, Dayton, OH (<http://www.hamvention.org>)
- Field Day June 26-27
- NE Division Convention Aug. 27-29, Boxboro, MA (<http://www.boxboro.org>)
- Fall NEAR-Fest Oct. 15th & 16th Deerfield Fairgrounds, NH (<http://www.near-fest.com>)

Member Contributions

Heard On The Air!

We are going to try something new... below are some of the contacts are members have made each month. Send your info to Terry (KA8SCP@WB1GOF.org)

From Scott-NE1RD:

I was KP2/NE1RD for the CQ WW WPX SSB contest on St. Thomas, USVI. I worked the following club members while on that DXpedition:

WQ1Z Ron Quattrochi, Lowell
W1RAG Rick Green, Boxboro
AB1HD Rich Crisafulli, Chelmsford
W1OG Gus Fallgren, Chelmsford
WA1KBE Steve Rimsa, Westford

Massachusetts stations worked

AA1O, AB1HD, AB1JAD1DX, K1LZ, K1QK, K1SLB, KA1IOR, KO1G, KO1U, KT1B, KV1J, KX1G, N1WRK, NE1C, W1BYH, W1CCE, W1FJ, W1OG, W1RAG, W1RKT, W1UJ, WA1KBE, WB1FVY, WO1N, WQ1Z

New Hampshire stations worked

AE1T, K1DG, K1FWE, K1HI, K2TE, KR5X, N1KWF, N9NC, NE1F, NY1H, W1XV, WA1YZN, WB1EDI

My First Year As a Ham

By Jim - K1VNV

As I write this article it is almost my first full year as a licensed Amateur Radio Operator. I never had an Elmer as such, or so I thought. My God father was a radio engineer for a local AM station and got his start as a radioman under General Patton in WWII. Hi name was also Jim and as a youngster in the early to late 50's, he would take me into his shack to listen very quietly as he talked or Morse coded to others around the world. Thus, my fascination with radios of any type.

I loved to listen to the old shortwave radio that was almost always present in my family's living room as I got older. When I arrived overseas with Uncle Sam's travel agency, the first thing I bought was an AM / FM and shortwave radio. That radio lasted almost a full year in a tropical and very harsh climate until it was destroyed by a well placed mortar shell of some sort. As soon as I was discharged and got my own apartment I went out and found an old cabinet style shortwave for my living room. I had flat TV antenna wire strung up for an antenna and it worked very well. I have no idea what ever happened to that radio and wish I still had it today.

I dabbled in CB in the mid to late 70's but that was nothing I came to enjoyed with all the fighting and Childs play going on all the time. In the Early 80's I wanted to get my Ham license and tried to learn the code, but discovered that I was tone deaf from my experiences with Uncle Sam. I could not hear the tones depending on volume and pitch. In the early 80's I bought myself a Kenwood R-2000 Communications receiver and an IC-R7000 receiver. I had copper braided wire strung between every tree in my yard for all the various bands along with my scanner antennas. I became a professional SWL'er and it kept me happy for years.

A year ago April I found out you did not need Morse code any more for Amateur radio and went right out and got a Tech manual. I got my Tech license on June 1, 2009 as KB1SNF, my vanity call K1VNV on July 7th and my General on July 28, 2009. I am studying for my extra as I write this short article. Sometime in June of 2009 I became active with Part Amateur Radio Group of Westford, Ma.

In this short time I have talked around the world at least a few times and I still don't have an Elmer! I don't have AN Elmer but I have somewhere close to 60 of them! Every time I have a problem or just a simple question all I have to do is ask and I either get a direct answer or I am referred to someone who has the answer. I have not, nor could I have accomplished all that I have in the last year without all of you. I try to help when and where I can but it will never be enough to repay what I have learned from you.

I was trying to hook up a new piece of equipment last night and I emailed one of our members for some advice. He not only emailed me back but called (toll call) and spent at least 45 minutes on the phone to make sure I had things hooked up in the right order and that it was operating properly when we finished. I have been offered the use of others rigs, antennas and test equipment and these people don't know me other than being a fellow Ham and club member.

I would love to mention names but I don't want to offend anyone whom I may forgotten to mention who has helped along the way. This is just a small way of saying thanks to ALL my Elmers of Part!

NVARC Slow Speed CW Net

Pete-KB1LZH reports that there is a Slow Speed CW Net being conducted by our neighbors in Pepperell. If you have some interest in learning CW and or learning how to interact in a NET, you might want to join the net on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, at 7:30 PM. The net is run by the NVARC in Pepperell. It is a good chance to develop skills in NET procedures and in developing CW capability. This net meets on 10 meters; 28.123 MHZ. The (usual) Net Control Operator is Bruce, K1BG.

Repeater News

442.450 WB1GOF UHF Repeater converted to D-Star

As recently announced via email to the PART-I listserv, the WB1GOF UHF repeater was converted to a D-Star only repeater on Saturday, April 3rd.



We've had some excellent field reports so far: Fremont, NH - 2w handheld using an external antenna; Salem, NH - 2w handheld from the HRO parking lot (they can hear the repeater in the store on a walkie); Acton, MA - 2w handheld; Marlboro, MA - 5w mobile at Simarano Drive off ramp; 2w handheld from Leominster; 2w handheld coverage from Boston/Fenway Park area. And one of the most surprising was mobile coverage from Allentown, NH!

The D-Star settings for WB1GOF Port B D-Star:

RX Freq: 442.450
TX Freq: 447.450
(standard +5MHz offset)

MYCALL: <your callsign>
URCALL: CQCQCQ
RPT1: WB1GOF B
RPT2: WB1GOF G

The “gateway” server has been constructed and is in the test mode with the world-wide network and will be connected from the water tower repeater site very soon. Once that has been connected and tested, we will have the ability to connect to stations around the world, very similar to what EchoLink provided.

More information will be forthcoming at the PART club meeting on April 20th.

Repeater Nets

146.955 Nets – There are a number of nets that are regularly scheduled on the 955 repeater.

Sunday Night PART Net – every Sunday night at 2000/8:00 PM

Sector 1C RACES Net – this net occurs the 1st Monday of every month (except when it is a holiday).

Skywarn and ARES Nets – these nets are spontaneous when local conditions warrant

**Next PART meeting is April 20th. Phil
Temples – K9HI is running for EMA
Section Manager and will be speaking to us**



You might be a digital ham radio operator...

- ...If you introduce your wife as -mywife@home.xyl-.
- ...If you have used coat hangers and duct tape for something other than hanging coats and taping ducts.
- ...If you window shop at Ham Radio Outlet.
- ...If your ideal evening consists of flipping through the latest QST mag looking for technical inaccuracies.
- ...if you spend more time on the internet ICQ (Twitter or Facebook) than you do on the ham bands.
- ...If you like to run new software programs before reading the manual.
- ...If you thought the concoction ET used to phone home with was stupid.
- ...If your HT has more computing power than your PC.
- ...If you have ever saved the power cord from a broken appliance.
- ...if you are old enough to know what an 807 is.
- ...If the salespeople at Radio Shack or Best Buy can't answer any of your questions.
- ...If you have a habit of destroying things in order to see how they work.
- ...If the microphone or visual aids at a meeting don't work and you rush up to the front to fix it.
- ...If you have more friends on the 20 meter band than in real life.
- ...If you've ever tried to repair a \$5.00 radio.
- ...If your favorite part of the 6 o'clock news is comparing their latest satellite weather picture with yours.

Griff

From the EMA Affiliated Club Coordinator

Attention: ARRL Affiliated and Special Service Clubs

Affiliated Clubs:

Even though your club has submitted an application as an ARRL Affiliated club and this application has been approved...you still are required to submit an annual report each year to ARRL headquarters. The date of your last club update is included in your club's detailed page.

Any official of the club can submit this annual report although I would recommend that this be the job of the club secretary. It is easy to submit this report, simply locate your club in the ARRL database at: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/clubsearch.phtml>. Once you've located your club, click on the club name to get to the detail page for your club. At the bottom of that page is a link you can click to update the detailed data. Submitting that update constitutes your annual report. Note, though, that you can submit an update whenever you need to. Information about your club is given to prospective radio amateurs who want to learn more about our hobby. The Annual Report is our way of keeping your club records at HQ up-to-date.

Should two years go by without ARRL Headquarters receiving an annual report, your club status will be changed to inactive. As the 2-year grace period has been exceeded, ARRL will

require a new club roster be submitted. After they have checked ARRL membership, to confirm that your club meets the 51% ARRL membership requirement among your voting members, they will provide instructions for you to follow to reactivate your club. So, be sure to check your club's last update to make sure you are not running the risk of having your club's status become inactive.

Special Service Clubs

ARRL Special Service Clubs should first check and make sure their ARRL affiliated status is active. Special Service Clubs are required to submit a yearly application for renewal. See: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/forms/fsd7/app.html>. This is a more elaborate form to fill out but it is also necessary to be submitted each year for clubs to maintain their Special Service status with the ARRL.

If you have questions on this or need help in filling out these applications please contact me.

73

Bo Budinger

WA1QYM

ARRL EMA Affiliated Club Coordinator

WA1QYM@arrl.net

Please help us keep PARTicles exciting and fresh. Send any photos or stories of your projects or activities to Terry –KA8SCP (KA8SCP at WB1GOF.org)

A Special Report – Mass. QRP Convention

The Massachusetts QRP Convention

B. Scott Andersen, NE1RD

The Police Amateur Radio Team (PART) of Westford was host for the first *Massachusetts QRP Convention* (Masscon) on March 12-13, 2010. Nearly 100 attendees, speakers, and staff gathered at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center to enjoy presentations on constructing and operating low power radios.

PART is a general interest club and many of its members have shown a keen interest in QRP. In February of 2008 the club purchased and resold to members ten Small Wonder Labs RockMite 40m CW QRP kits, club-produced custom enclosures for the radios, a dummy load kit, and several other goodies. During the Saturday build session seven of the ten radios were completed and tested. (The remaining units just took a little longer.) The results of that event were

chronicled in the QRP Amateur Radio Club International (ARCI) publication *QRP Quarterly* in the article *Ten Little RockMites*. That was probably PART's first time making headlines in the QRP community, and it set the stage for *Masscon* two years later.

The idea of *Masscon* began in February of 2009 during a luncheon with Greg O'Brien, NE1OB. We were lamenting the loss of *Atlanticon*, the biggest east coast QRP gathering that had been run by the New Jersey QRP club until a few years ago. Just as we were shaking hands to go our separate ways, I had this crazy idea. *We could run a convention!* Greg looked at me askance but recovered quickly, smiled, and indicated he thought it was an interesting idea. So it began.

Others were not so quickly convinced. Luckily, the leadership of the PART club, Bo Budinger, WA1QYM, the club president at the time, Rich Crisafulli, AB1HD, Alan Martin, W1AHM, and Steve Rimsa, WA1KBE, were very supportive of the idea when it was presented to the club's Board of Directors in the Spring of 2009. PART quickly became the first Premier Sponsor for *Masscon* taking the mantle of host to the event. This was very much a PART event!

PART members were also out in force during the event. Andy Stewart, KB1OIQ, the new club president, and his daughter Kimberly, KB1PZG, were on hand for the event. Kimberly was hard at work at 7 AM Saturday morning handing out badges, agendas, CDs, and other materials to attendees. She also helped at every prize drawing Saturday. Her hard work was rewarded with more than applause (of which she received many). Steve Galchutt, WGOAT, who had flown all the way from Colorado to attend the event and speak at the Saturday evening banquet, stood in the front of the room after the last door prize drawing and told everyone he had just received a long distance all from *Rooster* and *Peanut*, the two pack goats Steve hikes with in Colorado. They goats, Steve insisted, wanted Kimberly to have one of Steve's famous *Old Goats Rule* T-shirts! Kimberly was a good sport and donned the shirt. They went well with the new phono plug earrings designed by Kayti Harper (daughter of Rex Harper, W1REX).



Kimberly Stewart, KB1PZG, and Scott, NE1RD, during one of the many door prize drawings

The nearly year long planning process was done by me, Greg O'Brien, and Alan Lewis, K1ALL. It was very much a team effort with Greg lining up speakers, Alan helping to organize the facilities and AV requirements for the meeting, and me selling tickets and maintaining the website. While I gave them accolades on the day of the event—just one more round of a deeply felt *thank you* from me is appropriate. Thank you!

The event began on Friday evening with a *Meet-and-Greet*. You can get a very good idea of the energy and the fun at this first event and the subsequent activities Saturday from Bob Schmeichel's many excellent photographs. (See additional information about the events, including links to online



Bob Schmeichel, N1RXV, (center) in one of those rare moments when he is in front of the camera

resources, at the end of this article). Bob has been tireless taking pictures at club meetings and other events, but he has outdone himself with this set. Nicely done, Bob. Thanks!

The Saturday event was huge. We had a lineup of speakers that was amazing. Included in the bunch were three QRP ARCI Hall of Fame members and a Nobel Prize winner. But, in all that, we never lost track of the fact that it was a PART event! The very first speaker was Allison Parent, KB1GMX, who is well-known in the QRP community through her articles in QRP Quarterly. Allison was the very first person I thought of when this event was planned, the very first speaker I enlisted, and the very first to present on Saturday morning. Thank you, Allison!

Other speakers included Michael J. Rainey, AA1TJ, Dave Siegrist, NT1U, Bruce Beford, N1RX, George Heron, N2APB, Joe Everhart, N2CX, Chuck Kitchin, N1TEV, Dave Benson, K1SWL, and Nobel Prize winner Joseph H. Taylor, Jr., K1JT. Finally, Steve Galchutt, WGoAT, gave a presentation with slides and videos of his adventures on the Colorado trails with *Rooster* and *Peanut*.

It wasn't all paper-and-pencil at the Saturday event. Vendors were on-hand to spice things up. Ham Radio Outlet sent Cal, WA1WOK, and he brought a big bunch of great stuff. His table was busy all night Friday at the meet-and-greet, and again on Saturday. The QRP ARCI *Toy Store* was manned by Ray Richard, W4RPR/1, and he seemed very busy as well. Finally, Buddipole, Inc. president Chris Drummond, W6HFP, had his table in the vendor area. The three organizers of the Massachusetts QRP Convention would like to thank Chris Drummond for his very strong support of this event. Thank you, Chris!



Buddipole, Inc. president Chris Drummond, W6HFP, was a Premier Sponsor to the event.

PART of Westford has been growing by leaps-and-bounds, not only in its membership, but also in its ambitions. In just the last few years there has been a marked increase in club member participation in group activities like Field Day, community events like the Fall Freeze soccer tourney, and the Apple Blossom parade. The club has also begun new traditions like the K1P special event station celebrating Patriots Day and the club kit building event. The Massachusetts QRP Convention was just another indication that PART is a growing, thriving club, full of fun, and hungry for a little adventure and a challenge or two.

On behalf of the three organizers of the Massachusetts QRP Convention, Greg O'Brien, Alan Lewis, and myself, I would like to thank the leadership and club members of PART for their enthusiasm and commitment to supporting new ideas, even when they sound just a little crazy! Thanks a million!

For a link to pictures and materials from the convention, visit the convention web site:

<http://www.masscon.org>

EmComm

RACES – The WB1GOF 146.955 repeater is used on the first Monday of every month (except federal/state holidays) for RACES starting at 1930 local time. If you are interested in being part of the local emergency communications team in your community, feel free to contact any of the following folks:
Terry Stader – KA8SCP, MEMA Region 1 RACES Officer
Hugh Maguire – N1QGE, RACES Officer, Town of Westford
Bill Ohm – W1OHM, RACES Officer, Town of Chelmsford

- We need radio operators that can pass messages on to the local emergency management directors in several towns in northern Middlesex County.
- There is a Region 1 RACES meeting to be held on Saturday, March 20th at the MEMA Region 1 HQ in Tewksbury from 10:00 am to noon. Contact Hugh-N1QGE or Terry-KA8SCP for more information.

Skywarn - The WB1GOF 146.955 repeater is also used for reporting significant weather events to the National Weather Service from our local spotters. We expect to have a local Skywarn training class in 2010, more information as it becomes available. You can provide valuable information even if you have not attended one of the training sessions. Listen to the Skywarn Net Control Station for reporting criteria, when you have information that qualifies, please advise him with your report.

Situational Awareness – Recently, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency has asked the Amateur Radio community to provide situational awareness and disaster intelligence information within your local community via RACES, ARES and/or Skywarn stations. Significant events such as widespread power outages can be reported and by agencies such as MEMA to evaluate the scope of a blackout for example. Initially, you should try and contact RACES or ARES operators on the Westford 146.955 repeater to pass this information. More on this new program will be forthcoming.

PART Sunday Night Net – The PART Net each Sunday night is an IMPORTANT part of our regional EmComm function. With each station that checks in from the surrounding communities, we test our ability to communicate vital information to the ham radio community. Sure we announce club info but we can also communicate regional disaster news and serve as a “hub” for news of situations in our communities. The repeater is on a generator, so even if we loose power in the region, an ht with a supply of batteries will reconnect you to other local hams.



**Field Day
June 26-27 2010**

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