



PARTicles

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

April 2011

President's Column

The flurry of activity continues! No, I'm not talking about snow...hopefully, that is all behind us. As the weather gets better, we should get outside and check our antennas and feedlines. This was a tough winter, and it may have taken a toll on our equipment. If something does need to be replaced, perhaps the parts you need can be found at a local ham radio flea market.



I recently attended the FARA Flea Market in Framingham. There seemed to be a decent crowd at the opening bell, hoping to be the first to grab the deal of the century. Be sure to watch the prices so you know if you're getting a deal or paying too much. A little prior research goes a long way. If you have the knowledge, equipment, and time, you might find something that can be put to good use after a bit of restoration. NEAR-fest is coming very soon - Friday, April 29th and Saturday, April 30th. The doors open at 0900. If the weather is good, I plan to see you there.

Lately, I have become more interested in "CW input devices", specifically the "mechanical contrivances" (not paddles) that have been used for years to send messages to other hams. I recently purchased a Western Electric mini key that used to be part of some type of test equipment. I mounted it on a nice wooden base and used it to make some outdoor QRP contacts. I plan to bring it to the CW Show and Tell at the April PART meeting. I also started playing with a Vibroplex bug that was loaned to me by Bill (AA1O). I found instructions on the internet, and I think I have it adjusted correctly. I noticed

that it sends code quite fast compared to my ability, and I have it set on the slowest setting(!). I'll need to practice not only my sending skills but more importantly my receiving skills before I can graduate to this level of proficiency. When I recall that I didn't know CW at all as recently as 2 or 3 years ago, I'll take on the challenge...it'll be fun.

Some of you have heard me talk about an idea for a Linux / Ham Radio install fest. An "install fest" is an event where lots of computer people get together in a room and help each other install and configure Linux. My idea is to get the Linux elmers to work with the ham radio elmers so that people can use Linux in their ham shacks if they so desire. This seems like a very natural fit to me, as the ideas of freedom, self sufficiency, tinkering, and elmering seem to resonate in both communities.

Toward that end, I have created a Linux CD containing a lot of ham radio related software and other basic utilities. This CD can be booted and run as a Live CD, meaning that it is fully functional and does not modify any files on your hard drive. One can test drive the software in this way. The CD also contains software which will install the necessary files onto one's hard drive. The CD is based upon Ubuntu 10.10 (Maverick). Several club members have beta tested the CD (thank you!) and have provided valuable feedback. A bootable USB thumb drive has also been tested. If you are interested in trying this CD, please send me email at kb1oiq@arrl.net. This is a major step forward in our efforts to make a Linux / Ham Radio install fest actually happen.

Behind the scenes, I have been trying to secure a FB speaker for our September PART

meeting. The founder of eQSL, Dave Morris (N5UP), will be flying his airplane around the country, visiting ham radio clubs and doing presentations. I have been in contact with Dave and have been working with the PART Board of Directors to see if we can secure Dave as our speaker. Stay tuned....nothing is set in stone yet, but we are excited about the possibility.

Finally, Field Day will be here before we know it. This is the largest club event of the year, and this year, it will be held at the Concord

Rod & Gun club in Concord, MA. Kim (K1ZA) is the field day chairman, and I'm sure we'll be hearing a lot from him in the coming weeks. This is a great opportunity to learn, operate, elmer, and socialize. We are fortunate to have a great breadth and depth of technical expertise in the club, and I look forward to seeing all of that energy come together during the last weekend in June.

Have a lot of fun, and 73 de Andy

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

Apr. 16th & 17th, 2011

- K1P Special Event station @ Concord Rod & Gun Club

Apr. 19, 2011

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9 p.m. CW Show and Tell. Club dues were due in January

May 7, 2011

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$14 & &7)

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury 16-Feb-11 thru 15 Mar-11

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	3212.22	767.71	3979.93
Income	555.00	113.00	668.00
Expenses	(40.55)	(0.00)	(40.55)
New Balance	3726.67	880.71	4607.38

PART Membership Demographics as of 6-Feb-11

	Households (New + Renew)	Individuals (New + Renew)
Full (\$25)	30 (6 + 24)	30 (6 + 24)
Senior (\$15)	21 (1 + 17)	21 (1 + 20)
Family (\$30)	6 (0 + 6)	13 (0 + 13)
Student (\$15)	0 (0 + 0)	0 (0 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	0 (0 + 0)	0 (0 + 0)
Grand Total	57 (7 + 50)	64 (7 + 57)

***** Dues are due *****

PART, P.O. Box 503, Westford, MA 01886-0015

-or-

Meeting, Westford P.D., 7:30PM, Tuesday, 19-Apr. '11

Monthly PART Breakfast

Don't forget the monthly PART breakfast the 1st Saturday of each month at the Westford Regency Inn at 8 AM. The full hot & cold buffet breakfast costs about \$14 (includes tip) per person, a cheaper, lighter fare is available for adults and children. **NOTE: PLEASE let the folks who are settling the bill with the staff know whether you had a full or continental breakfast!**

Upcoming Events

- Apr. 17 – MIT Flea (<http://w1mx.mit.edu/flea-at-mit>)
- Apr. 18th Boston Marathon (<http://marc.mmra.org>)
- Apr. 29 & 30, 2011 NEAR-Fest Deerfield Fairgrounds, NH (<http://www.near-fest.com>)
- May 14th – Apple Blossom Parade Westford. Need radio operators! info@wb1gof.org for more info
- May 20-22 Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH (<http://www.hamvention.org/>)
- Field Day June 25/26 (<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>)
- Every Wednesday, 6 AM, Owl Diner Lowell – Breakfast
- Every 1st Saturday, 8 AM, Regency Inn Westford – PART Monthly Breakfast

Repeater Nets

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

- Sunday night at 2000/8:00 PM Sunday Night PART Net – every
- Sector 1C RACES Net – this net occurs the 1st Monday or every month (except when it is a holiday). Skywarn and ARES Nets – these nets are spontaneous when local conditions warranted.

442.450 D-Star Nets – There are a number of nets that are regularly scheduled.

- Sunday 8:00 PM [Ozark Mtn D-STAR Net](#) – Reflector 001C
- Tuesday 8:00 PM [New England Amateur D-STAR Net](#) – Reflector 010C

Monthly PART Meeting

At the April 19th PART meeting, the theme will be CW Show and Tell. This is similar to other Show and Tell meetings, but the focus will be on CW. If you would like to show off an interesting CW key, bug, rig, practice oscillator, or other CW related item, bring it to the meeting! More than just seeing the item, if it works and you can demonstrate it, even better!

CW = continuous wave, morse code, but you knew that. :-)

I think this will be a lot of fun, and I am looking forward to seeing the things that people bring to the meeting. I expect that there will be a couple of dummy loads and receivers in the room, so if somebody wants to fire up a CW rig, that shouldn't be a problem as long as we have a way to power it.

I hope you can make it to the meeting. See ya there!

Have a lot of fun, and 73-Andy, KB1OIQ

Public Service Events



Apple Blossom Parade – May 14th

The Westford Kiwanis will Sponsor the 43rd annual Apple Blossom Festival the week of May 11-15 2011 with the parade and crowning of this year's Apple Blossom Queen on Saturday May 14th 2011. We cordially invite PART to participate in the parade and festivities. Individuals and Organizations should gather between 8:00 - 8:30 AM Sat. May 14th. The Parade will kick off at 10:00 AM sharp rain or shine.

PART has supported this event for a number of years by assisting with parade route staffing at key locations for safety and operational services to the Kiwanis. Please consider volunteering this year for the event. Contact info@wb1gof.org if you'd like to volunteer or learn more about the parade activities.

PART Events

K1P Special Event Station Patriots' Day Weekend April 16th and 17th



The plans have been finalized for the annual K1P Special Event station, which will operate from the Concord Rod & Gun Club in Concord, MA. The K1P special event commemorates Patriots' Day, and the battles of Lexington and Concord. I think it is great that we have the opportunity to operate this station from Concord, right where it all happened so many years ago. Many thanks to Joe (KB1SSA) and the folks at the Concord Rod & Gun Club for allowing PART to be your guests during this event.

The event typically operates as a single station with an operator and somebody keeping the log. SSB phone is the mode of the day. The station is set up in the members' lounge. This event is an excellent opportunity for less experienced operators to get some air time, and for operators of all skill levels to have a great time. It is also a good chance to look at the available amenities as we approach Field Day, since Field Day will also be held at this location.

K1P will be in operation from 10 AM - 4 PM on both Saturday and Sunday, April 16th and 17th, 2011. I prefer that people sign up for a one hour time slot, to insure that as many people as possible have an opportunity to operate the station. If you are interested, please send me email at kb1oiq@arrl.net.

The Concord Rod & Gun Club is located at 75 Strawberry Hill Road, Concord, MA.

K1P Special Event Station pictures are found at http://www.wb1gof.org/files/k1p1104_w/Page.html

PART Field Day - 2011

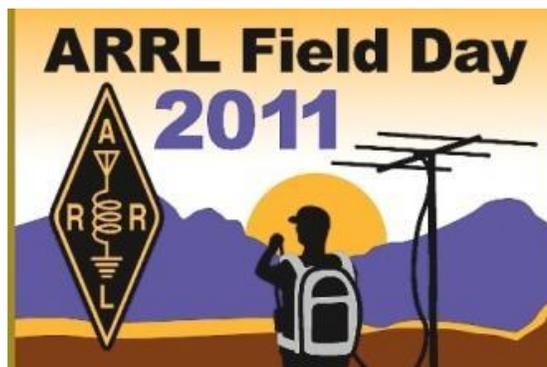
Well, Field Day is only two short months away, but time flies and before we know it, it will be upon us. This year, Field Day will be held at the Concord Rod and Gun Club, who have generously offered us their fantastic facilities free of charge for the entire weekend (thank you, Joe!). Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday (that's 2pm EDT) and running through 2059 UTC Sunday (4:59pm EDT). Field Day 2011 will be held June 25-26, 2011. (In past years, we have not stuck to these times too exactly, though...)

1. PRIMARY GOALS:

- * Have fun
- * Become exposed to new aspects of Amateur Radio
- * Help expose others to new aspects of Amateur Radio
- * Did I mention, have fun?

With this in mind, I would like to challenge every member of PART to either:

- * Spend some time exploring an aspect of Amateur Radio you have not experienced in the past or use seldom on Field Day.
- * Bring some aspect of amateur radio to others who would like to explore new modes/techniques.



If you are primarily an HF phone operator, try digital modes. If you are CW, how about satellite (assuming we can set up such a station - see below)?

2. IDEAS:

This is *your* day as much as it is any one else's - so I invite you to be creative and think of ways to make this year's Field Day new and interesting. Just so long as the ideas are safe, inexpensive and cool - and you can help! Off the top of my head, here are some possibilities (not all equally cool, but designed to get you thinking):

Apart from the standard HF phone, CW and VHF/UHF phone stations:

- * A satellite installation with computer tracking of various 'birds';
- * An emergency station running off nothing but solar/battery/generator;
- * A GOTA station which non-amateurs may use under the supervision of a control operator to try some hands-on communications;
- * A D-STAR setup highlighting some of the unique capabilities of this technology;
- * A miniature fox-hunt, in which a low-power fox is placed somewhere around the property, and some hunting techniques are demonstrated and practiced. We could give prospective participants some ideas on what to bring;
- * Demonstration of competitive DX'ing - how its done, techniques, etc.
- * QRP - lets see how far we can get on 1W!
- * Microwave point-to-point demonstration, anyone?

Other possible activities:

- * Technical talks (of course) - think of topics and of some unique or knowledge you can bring to others.
- * Sunday Breakfast - CRGC have a full kitchen, so for a nominal fee, we could turn this into an event of some sort - perhaps a fund-raiser for the Repeater Fund?
- * Incentives/prizes for participants who achieve certain goals, or win on certain criteria aimed at encouraging participation on Field Day itself.
- * I recall seeing a CW/texting speed competition on TV once... How about a CW/cell phone texting speed challenge?

Ok, so now I have got you thinking/dreaming, what else might we do? Please send your ideas to me and lets see what we can make of it. Remember, it must be safe and reasonably feasible with little cost (unless you are also volunteering to foot the associated bill). Of course, if you can help make any idea happen, then I really do want to hear from you! The club may be able to help with the purchase of some equipment if needed, but that will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

We have plenty of space and a secure location, so lets make good use of it.

3. VOLUNTEER:

Think seriously about becoming involved. Please mark Field Day in your calendar NOW - before you forget and double-book it with a visit to your in-laws! June 25-26, 2011.

Ok, now that you have done that, invite your in-laws to come along.

If you are in a position to demonstrate and/or provide amateurs with a hands-on experience with some unique area of amateur radio, please think of setting something up for Field Day, be it for one afternoon or the entire weekend.

So far (so I am told), we have the following volunteers:

Assistant Field Day Chairman (and site coordinator): Joe KB1SSA

Food chairman: Rick W1RAG

Tool Box Talks chairman: Rich AB1HD

QSL chairman - Andy KB1OIQ

(Would you be so kind as to confirm to me and send me your e-mail address so I can coordinate with you directly, and thanks in advance!)

Other positions which need volunteers:

Publicity

Media (photos, videos)

Safety

Signage

Station Chiefs (for each operational station)

Antenna Coordinator

Equipment volunteers:

Antennas

Radios

Mics, headphones, laptops (for QSL logging)

Power supplies

Coax cables (with connectors, please)

Computer running Windows on which we can run satellite-tracking software, and a large monitor to go with it.

Break down volunteers:

Although most of the equipment and stations will likely be broken down on Sunday, some items (such as the antennas) may need to be taken down the following weekend.

4. PREPARE:

If you are bringing equipment, get it ready in good time, and test it out in the configuration you will use beforehand. This will help you find the bits you will need to set it up in good time (cables, power supplies, keys, antennas, etc.)

5. COME ALONG AND HAVE FUN

This is a two-day event. Bring your friends too! When you give your apologies for not being able to join your friends on other things that weekend, invite them along!

Thanks for your enthusiasm, and lets make this the most participated-in Field Day yet for PART!

73

Kim - K1ZA

k1za@arrl.net

Local News

ARES EmComm Workshop

On Saturday, 5-Mar'11, our Eastern Massachusetts Section of the ARRL presented a free Emergency Communications (EmComm) Workshop. It was generously hosted by the folks of Concord Academy at their Math and Arts Center. The following past and present PART members attended the workshop:

Charles/AA1VS
Johan/K1ARG
Darrel/K1EJ
Andy/KB1OIQ
Peter/KB1PBA
Gary/KB1QAT
Ann/KB1SRW
Ron/KJ4UUG
Richard/N1HY
Ron/N1JKL
Alan/W1AHM
Dave/WI1R



regional EmComm organizational structure (RACES/ARES/Skywarn); procedures for operating in radio nets and passing formal traffic (NTS); and packaging of personal gear for field deployment (Go Kits). These skills are used to support emergency agencies facing degraded communications channels during disasters.

The instructors hold senior appointments as Emergency Coordinators in the League's Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Our own Steve/N1BDA (the Middlesex County District EC), helped teach the lesson on network operations.

They now have a uniform grounding in national standards for incident command (ICS) and the

Member Contribution

An NVIS antenna for Field Day?

Steve Telsey, N1BDA

An NVIS, Near Vertical Incident Skywave, antenna is an antenna erected close to ground that directs most energy almost vertically such that the reflected wave returns within about 300 mile radius (with some claiming 500-1000 miles depending upon band and conditions). The antenna can be a loop, inverted V, dipole, folded dipole, etc. Recommended heights range from 0 (lay the wire on the ground) to .25 wavelengths. Many articles stay with 12-20' for acceptable compromises and ease of installation. It is usually used on 160-80-40, with 80 and 40 being more prevalent.

This cloud-burner provides skywave communications in the area missed by most higher antennas. It minimizes the groundwave so that multipath distortions are reduced. It can get a signal over a nearby obstruction like the Berkshires. For us, it would add stations in New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and close to the Washington, DC area.

There are downsides. It is not a DX antenna and our thinking (close, not distant, a contact is a contact) must change using it. It won't work above the critical frequency which could be a problem if conditions are really poor. For multi-band use, a tuner is required and ladder-line is recommended for the feed. Erected too low, and it is a hazard to body parts.

The military has used NVIS antennas since WWII. The version used in Iraq is the AS-2259/GR. See <http://tinyurl.com/3ouc7mx>, <http://tinyurl.com/3qqn9ml>, and <http://tinyurl.com/4ytdv2z>

Lots of theory and details can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/3jmd8an> and some [practical observations at http://tinyurl.com/3t6xcnp](http://tinyurl.com/3t6xcnp)

Here's a description of an NVIS using a dipole and 3 reflectors as a screen. The author says "The antenna is described as having approximately 9 db forward gain and an average of 15db rejection against low angle QRM. The antenna is useful up to about 200 miles radial distance from the transmitter in the daytime and up to around 1,000 miles at night." See <http://tinyurl.com/3u39obz>.

There's a lot of information and misinformation about NVIS antennas on the web. A Google search for "NVIS antenna" yields 42,600 hits. Add "field day" and you get 8,600. I guess I could read many of the articles and try to distill truth from fiction, but I'm more down-to-earth, experimental rather than theoretical. Field Day seems like an ideal time to erect a basic NVIS for 80/40 and test it for usefulness in grabbing near-by stations. Anyone want to join me? Or convince me it's a total waste of time?

Disclaimer: I have not vetted this with the Field Day chairman and it remains merely an idea I put forward for consideration.

Balloon Payload TEST



Brent caught this nice, though a little blurred, photo of us drop testing our High Altitude Balloon payload from 50 feet into a solid granite floor. Feel free to include it in PARTicles as its been quite the project and is turning out great! We're launching on May, 7th and I'll get you some more information later so you guys can give a listen for it when launched. You may actually hear it at 100,000 feet line of site as it technically has a 400 mile footprint up there.

Bryce Salmi
KB1LQC
Vice President - K2GXT

Shack Shot

Anyone want to guess whose shack this is?



[World Radio Labs Founder Leo Meyerson, W0GFQ \(SK\)](#)

Friday, April 15, 2011, 7:26:00 PM

Leo Meyerson, W0GFQ, of Omaha, Nebraska, passed away on Wednesday, April 13. He was 100. In 1935, Meyerson, an ARRL Life Member, founded Wholesale Radio Laboratories -- the forerunner to World Radio Labs -- in Council Bluffs, Iowa. For his contributions to Amateur Radio, Meyerson was named the 1997 Ham of the Year at the Dayton Hamvention.

In honor of Meyerson's 100th birthday, Chapter 154 of th...

[The K7RA Solar Update](#)

Friday, April 15, 2011, 2:16:00 PM

On Wednesday, April 13, the daily sunspot number reached a new high for Solar Cycle 24 when it hit 153. I looked back over this calendar year and saw that the previous high was 137 on March 8, 2011, 16 points lower than Wednesday. That week's Solar Update said that "the last time the daily sunspot number was higher than this was July 7, 2005, when it was 149."

I knew I would have to inspect suns...

[Surfin': Tell Your Story](#)

Friday, April 15, 2011, 1:59:00 PM

By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU
Contributing Editor

This week, Surfin' relays an invitation to tell how ham radio touched your life and news about some new allies on the GPS QRM front.

Ham Radio Story Project

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU -- of KB6NU.com fame -- has started a new website called the Ham Radio Story Project. The goal of his new site is to capture the human spirit of ham radio by collecting stories f...

[Hams Provide Communications Support During West Texas Wildfires](#)

Thursday, April 14, 2011, 1:06:00 PM

On April 9 at 4:15 PM (CDT), ARRL West Texas District 5 Emergency Coordinator Bob Ward, WA5ROE, received a call from Jeff Davis County (Texas) Fire Marshal Stewart Billingsley, N5HXZ.

Billingsley informed Ward that a fire had begun in the West Texas town of Marfa and was rapidly approaching Fort Davis, 22 miles to the northeast.

“Stewart asked me to call the National Weather Service to get it on...

[Ofcom to Issue Special Temporary Call Signs for Royal Wedding](#)

Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 2:58:00 PM

If you are a prefix hunter -- or you just get caught up in the pageantry that a Royal Wedding can bring -- then take note: Ofcom, at the request of the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), will issue special temporary call signs that British amateurs may use from April 29 through May 9, 2011, commemorating the marriage of HRH Prince William of Wales and Miss Catherine Middleton. Amateurs in t...

[Legendary Recording Engineer Roger Nichols, KE4BDA \(SK\)](#)

Tuesday, April 12, 2011, 4:39:00 PM

Roger Nichols, KE4BDA, of Jupiter, Florida, passed away on April 9 due to complications from pancreatic cancer. He was 66. Nichols was best known for his work with Steely Dan, whose albums were noted for their pristine sonic clarity. He collected three Grammy Awards -- including one for Album of the Year -- for his work on the duo's 2000 album *Two Against Nature*. He also received the Grammy for...

[World Amateur Radio Day Set for Monday, April 18](#)

Tuesday, April 12, 2011, 4:13:00 PM

The International Amateur Radio Union (**IARU**) and its more than 160 Member-Societies that represent countries around the world will celebrate World Amateur Radio Day on April 18. The theme for this year's celebration is *Amateur Radio: The First Technology-Based Social Network*.

Long before the Internet and smart phones, Amateur Radio operators have been talking, texting and sharing for decades. Bu...

[ARRL West Gulf Division to Host Webinar on Antenna Zoning](#)

Monday, April 11, 2011, 8:32:00 PM

Periodically, ARRL Divisions will host a “webinar” -- an interactive Web-based seminar, designed to facilitate communication between a small number of presenters and a large remote audience using the Internet -- for interested amateurs. On Wednesday, April 27 at 9 PM (EDT), ARRL West Gulf Division Director David Woolweaver, K5RAV -- along with ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and noted a...

[From the Hearts: Providing a Way for Others to Communicate with the ISS](#)

Monday, April 11, 2011, 7:44:00 PM

In America and around the world, students use Amateur Radio to talk to astronauts on the International Space Station, orbiting high above the Earth -- and it's the students at an all-girls school in Honolulu, Hawaii who help make the connection.

Sacred Hearts Academy is a telebridge station for the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program (ARISS). ARISS is a NASA-sponsored educat...

[Amateur Radio Quiz: Uda Thunk It?](#)

Monday, April 11, 2011, 6:38:00 PM

By H. Ward Silver, N0AX
n0ax@arrl.net

The Yagi-Uda array, best known as "the Yagi," is in its ninth decade of wireless service. Arguably the most useful antenna design ever devised beyond the dipole, Yagis are found everywhere in Amateur Radio -- from the low HF bands to microwaves. Why not swing your beam in the direction of this quiz and see if it "peaks" your interest?

1) The most common feed p...

[New QuickStats Poll Now Available on ARRL Website](#)

Friday, April 08, 2011, 4:21:00 PM

Four new poll questions have just been published on the QuickStats page on the ARRL website. Let your voice be heard!

Questions in this month's QuickStats poll include:

- Do you operate HF portable while camping or hiking?
- Have you earned an ARRL Worked All States award?
- How old is your oldest transceiver?
- Do you monitor W1AW transmissions?

Visit the QuickStats page and be sure to bookmark it in you...

[The K7RA Solar Update](#)

Friday, April 08, 2011, 4:13:00 PM

Our Sun is still quite active, but sunspot numbers are down this week, when compared with the week before. The average daily sunspot numbers were down nearly 34 points to 68.3, while the average daily

solar flux declined nearly 3 points to 111.8. But geomagnetic activity was quite strong this week, with the planetary A index on April 2 at 20, and 26 on April 6. Sunspot numbers for March 31-April...

[Surfin': Got GPS? Maybe Not For Long!](#)

Friday, April 08, 2011, 3:51:00 PM

By Stan Horzempa, WA1LOU
Contributing Editor

This week, your Surfin' conductor wears a worry-wart about losing a reliable friend.

GPS (Global Positioning System) has become an integral part of ham radio, as well as our culture. In the good old days, GPS was a stand-alone unit that we carried in our backpacks and purses, or mounted on our dashboards. My first GPS was a Garmin portable dash-mountabl...

[ARISSat-1 On the Air for Gagarin Anniversary](#)

Thursday, April 07, 2011, 5:12:00 PM

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first human spaceflight by cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, the ARISSat-1 satellite aboard the International Space Station will be on the air using the station's external antenna. Transmissions will begin on Monday, April 11, at 14:30 UTC and continue until 10:30 UTC on April 13.

To preserve the satellite's battery, transmissions will cycle on and off. ARISSat-1 ...

[Japan Suffers Large Aftershock; Tsunami Warning Issued, Lifted](#)

Thursday, April 07, 2011, 4:54:00 PM

A 7.4 magnitude aftershock hit just off the coast of Japan at 11:30 PM JST (1430 UTC) on Thursday, April 7. The epicenter of this earthquake is just 73 miles from the nuclear plant at Fukushima and 41 miles from the epicenter of last month's 9.0 earthquake. As such, Japan's meteorological agency issued, and then lifted, a tsunami warning for a wave of up to 6 feet for the coastal area that has ...

Repeater Information

Repeater Interference

The 146.955 repeater continues to see interference to existing conversations as well as at random quiet times throughout the day and night. The repeater interference committee needs your help in collecting data. If you hear any type of interference, please report the following info to "**repeater**" at "**wb1gof.org**":

- Time: When did the event happen?
- Observing location: Where were you? Were you mobile?
- Frequency: Input only (146.355 MHz)
- What you heard: Voices, tones, kerchunking or whatever.
- Signal strength: Either by ear (noisy, quiet or full quiet) or S meter
- Radio: To get an idea of the reporter's radio situation.

* Most important - what direction: How did you determine direction? This is the most essential piece of information. Even if it's an estimate as in "Roughly east" or "from the Northeast" it's useful. NEVER EVER reply or direct any thing to the sick person causing the interference. Because some of us have answered this person, he knows we are aware of him and that is what keeps him doing it. Also since you are communicating with a non IDing station you are operating just as illegally as he is. YOU ARE BROADCASTING! NEVER TALK ABOUT INTERFERENCE on air. NEVER

If you are interested in assisting in helping us identify the sources of interference, contact Terry-KA8SCP.

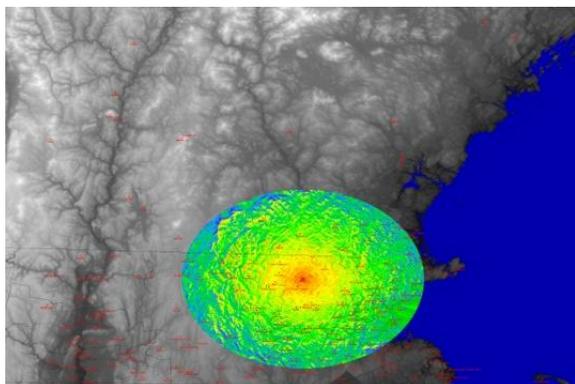
EmComm events and repeater use

Most everyone knows that the 146.955 repeater is used during times of emergency situations, drills and exercises. Skywarn and the monthly RACES drills are the normal events.

So what does this mean to those that are just looking for regular QSOs with other users? It means that if you are in a regular QSO and there is a significant weather situation that has been getting press/air-time lately, you can expect that if severe weather develops in our area, the folks from Taunton-WX1BOX may interrupt a QSO and ask anyone on frequency what may be happening weather wise. The BOX operator will probably ask for specific information, hail, wind damage, property damage from lightning or wind, etc. Please give him the information he needs or tell him that you've not heard of any such activity. You don't need to tell him it is sunny in Nashua!

There may come a time when an unexpected emergency situation arises. These will significant events that may affect life and property. This is where ARES/RACES activity may step in. Usually an NCS will interrupt a QSO and announce the situation and ask for a QSO to cease or to be "aware" of the possibility of priority calls/traffic. Please make sure you leave breaks between transmissions so stations with traffic can get in between QSOs. If there is enough traffic, it may be necessary for your existing/interrupted QSO QSY to another frequency. You should use your best judgment or check with the NCS on what he feels is best.

If you have any questions, please feel free to correspond with either Hugh-N1QGE (Westford RACES Officer and Skywarn NCS) or Terry-KA8SCP (regional RACES Officer and Skywarn NCS) . They will be more than happy to talk about these programs with you.



New additional repeater info is now available on the PART [website](#). Check out the links to the summit information as well as coverage and plot plans maps for the WB1GOF repeaters. Also our PART/WB1GOF Forums are found at <http://wb1gof.net/forum/>

PART Gear

The PART Quartermaster has lots of great PART-ware for sale including hats, mugs, and shirts. You can get information how you can obtain your PART-ware at the monthly club meetings.

Club members are also encouraged to obtain an official PART badge from [The Sign Man](http://thesignman.com/clubs/part.html) (<http://thesignman.com/clubs/part.html>) PLEASE NOTE: There is a new PART badge available if you'd like to order one. Price for badge is \$15 which includes shipping and handling.



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.

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.



PARTicles © 2010, a publication of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

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