



PARTicles

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

April 2012

President's Column

- *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*



This is a very busy time of year, with a lot of activities both in the hobby and with the club. With the flea markets of Marlboro and Framingham a recent memory, many people were chasing Titanic special event stations. I hope you had fun and successfully made the QSO. I found my QSL card from WOS, a Titanic special event station, from last year, the 99th anniversary of the sinking. I haven't (yet) made any similar contact this year. I may have missed my chance.

There were a lot of people at the K1P special event station run by PART. This event was held at the Concord Rod and Gun Club, the same place where Field Day will be held. I believe we had 8 different operators and a few different people logging on the computer. Band conditions were quite challenging, but we still made 100 QSOs on the first day. Operators were Anita (AB1QB), Fred (AB1OC), Andy (KB1OIQ), Geoff (KB1USE), Bob (KB1SWZ), Lawton (KG1M), Jon (N1ILZ), and Joe (KB1SSA). Thank you for your participation!

On the second day, Geoff (KB1USE) showed us how it is done by singlehandedly making about 55 QSOs, many of which were DX stations on 17m. He was working some serious pileups! I suppose writing "op age 14" on the post on DXSummit didn't hurt matters (would I do that?!). Next time you see Geoff (KB1USE), ask him which two stations were "the best" in terms of DX. One of those contacts caused a small cheer from the crowd of onlookers.

Andy (KB1WSS) got to run the logging computer and it was his first time watching folks operate a special event station. He was quite

excited to hear DX stations, perhaps for his first time on amateur radio as a new licensee.

Bob (KB1SWZ) made several K1P contacts on the AO-27 satellite, one with Titanic special event station WOS! Several other people came to absorb the social atmosphere. We had great weather and K1P was a wonderful excuse to get out of the house and avoid yard work.

In total, we made about 208 phone QSOs for K1P. There were no CW QSOs made from K1P this year. We ran one station during this event. All logs have been submitted to LoTW and eQSL. We also have quite a few K1P QSL cards left over from last year for those who request them.

At the next club meeting on Tuesday, April 17th, Mauri Niininen (AG1LE) will give PART a talk about Software Defined Radio. Field Day Chairman Bob (W1IS) will talk about the upcoming activities for June 23-24, 2012. At Field Day, there will be some new surprises and challenges to keep you on your toes, so please don't miss the meeting. There are also a few volunteer positions to be filled for Field Day.

Keep in mind that the 15th annual CQ Worldwide Foxhunting Weekend is coming on May 12-13, 2012.

One can read more about it here:

<http://www.homingin.com/joek0ov/nfw.html>

I am looking for a volunteer who would like to hide a fox on some publicly accessible land on that weekend. I remember last year's(?) event when Bryce (KB1LQC) and Brent (KB1LQD) hid a fox after the PART monthly breakfast. It was a lot of fun trying to find it. I hope we can arrange something similar this year. If interested, please contact me via email at kb1oiq@arrl.net.

Have a lot of fun, and 73 de Andy KB1OIQ

*Next PART Meeting – April 17th 7:30 PM-
Software Defined Radio (SDR)
by Mauri Niininen - AG1LE
@ the Westford Police Station*

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

April 17th, 2012

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9 p.m. Westford Police station

May 5th, 2012

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$14/\$9; kids: \$8 – see article below)

May 15th, 2012

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9 p.m. Westford Police station

May 19th, 2012

- Apple Blossom Parade. 8:00 AM - Noon Westford Common (contact KA8SCP@WB1GOF.org)

June 15th, 2012

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9 p.m. Westford Police station

June 23rd & 24th, 2012

- PART Field Day. Concord Rod & Gun Club.

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 18-Jan'12 and 20-Feb'12 (As of 21-Feb'12)

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	\$3,509.77	\$932.84	\$4,442.61
Income	\$290.00	\$77.00	\$367.00
Expenses	(\$169.91)	(\$0.00)	(\$169.91)
Net	\$120.09	\$77.00	\$197.09
New Balance	\$3,629.06	\$1,009.84	\$4,639.70

PART 2012 Membership as of 14-Apr'12

	Households (= New for 2012 + Renew for 2012)	Individuals (= New for 2012 + Renew for 2012)
Full (\$25)*	34 (= 9 + 25)	34 (= 9 + 25)
Senior (\$15)*	26 (= 2 + 24)	26 (= 2 + 24)
Family (\$30)	15 (= 0 + 15)	7 (= 0 + 7)
Student (\$15)*	0 (= 0 + 0)	0 (= 0 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	1 (= 1 + 0)	1 (= 1 + 0)
Grand Total*	76 (= 12 + 64)	68 (= 12 + 56)

* Starred lines changed since 3-Mar'12

* To pay dues *
PART, P.O. Box 503, Westford, MA 01886-0015
-or-
Club Meeting, Westford P.D., 7:30PM, 3rd Tuesday

Latest new PART members

Hank/KB1JLA (Carlisle)
Rich/N1RLR (Lawrence)
Chris/KB1WSL (Westford)
Joe/AJ1Y (Acton)

Monthly PART Events

- Every Sunday, 8 PM – PART Net on 146.955 repeater
- Every 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 PM – PART Meetings at Westford Police station
- Every 1st Saturday, 8 AM, Regency Inn Westford – PART Monthly Breakfast
- Every Wednesday, 6 AM, Owl Diner Lowell – Breakfast

New England Area Ham/Electronic Fleas:

<http://web.mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>

21 Apr S Portland ME PAWA @AmLegion John W1JLB 207 776 2288 A+
28 Apr Gales Ferry CT RASON Auction @FireCo Gary WT1SND 860 884 4218
29 Ap LaGrangeville NY MtBARC @TymorPk \$7@8 \$15/T@6 Dave KC2AFK 845 677 5079 W+
4, 5 May Deerfield NH Nearfest XI @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235
12 May E Greenbush NY EGARA @FD \$6@8 +\$6/sp@6 Glenn W2BK 518 482 5584
19 May Goshen CT SoBARC @FG \$4@8 Lee K1LEE 860 435 0051 W
20 May Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F
2 June Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518
2 June Hermon ME PSARA @HS Jerry K1GUP 207 848 3400 A
3 June Bethpage NY LIMARC \$6@9 \$10/Sp@7 Richard K2KNB 516 694 4937 W+
10 June Queens NY HoSARC @HoS Stephen WB2KDG 718 898 5599 A
16 June Newington CT NARL @StMarySch Steve WV1X 860 594 0265
16 June Brookline NH NEAntqRC@EvtCtr\$10@7:30\$4@8:30\$0@10 Bruce 603 772 7516 W+
17 June Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F
15 July Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F
11 Aug St Albans VT STARC @VFW \$5@8 Arn N1ARN 802 309 0666 F+
11 Aug Milo ME PARC @AmLegion George WA1JMM 207 441 6112 A
12 Aug Adams MA NoBARC @BoweFld \$5@9 \$10/T Tim KE3HT 413 822 7075
19 August Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F
24-26 Aug Boxboro MA FEMARA NE Conv @HI Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 W
9 Sept Newtown CT CARA @TownHall \$5@8:30 \$10/TG \$15/T Joe AB1DO 203 938 4880 W
8 Sept Ballston Spa NY SCRACES @FG @7 Darlene N2XQG 518 587 2385
15 Sept Forestdale RI RIAFMRS @VFW \$5/Sp@8 Rick K1KYI 401 864 9611
15 Sept Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518
16 Sept Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F
22,23 Sept Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553
7 Oct Wallingford CT Nutmeg John N1GNV 203 440 4973 T+
12,13 Oct Deerfield NH NEARFest XII @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235
21 Oct Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F
27 Oct Gales Ferry CT TCARC Auction @FireCo @10 Darryl WA1DD 860 443 7799 T
2 Nov Feeding Hills MA HCRA Auction @CongCh @6:30PM Jim KK1W 413 237 4666
3 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/S@7 Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422 F
1 Dec Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518

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 Emergency Communications 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.

NOTE: You can LISTEN ONLY to this repeater audio by linking to this URL:

<http://www.radioreference.com/apps/audio/?feedId=10933> (UPDATED effective 2/2012)

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

NOTE: The Port B node (442.450) is connected to [REF010C](#) Mon – Fri from 10:00 am until 3:30 pm. The Port C node (145.330) is connected to [XRF019B](#) usually 7x24 unless changed by users.

Users can LISTEN ONLY to D-Star Reflector 10C by linking to this URL:

<http://www.radioreference.com/apps/audio/?feedId=5031>

Wanted: PART Field Day Signs

On Sunday of Field Day, 2011, someone kindly picked up two of the roadside Field Day event signs. Unfortunately, we forgot who retrieved the signs. If you have the two missing signs, please notify Alan, W1AHM@ARRL.Net (who has all the rest of the signs).

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!**

Monthly Breakfast Pricing

The full breakfast is $\$10.95 + 18\% + 6.25\% = \14.00 (rounded up slightly). This price is unchanged. Here is the math for completeness and full disclosure.

Continental breakfast: \$9.00 (new price)

Full breakfast: \$14.00 (same price)

Kid's breakfast: \$8.00



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Robert Schmeichel
2011



Public Service Events



Apple Blossom Parade – May 19th

The Westford Kiwanis will Sponsor the 44th annual Apple Blossom Festival the week of May 16-20 2012 with the parade and crowning of this year's Apple Blossom Queen on Saturday May 19th 2012. PART has been cordially invited to participate in the parade and festivities. Individuals and Organizations should gather between 8:00 - 8:30 AM Sat. May 19th. 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.

ARRL Field Day!



Field Day is June 23-24, 2012

Is Field Day a contest, an emergency preparedness exercise, a public relations demonstration, a great event for clubs, or just a fun way to get on the air? Field Day is ALL these things! Hams set up away from commercial power and normal installations for 24 hours in June.



PART Field Day!

By Robert Glorioso rglorioso@comcast.net

What is Field Day?

In my opinion, Field Day is the ultimate Ham Radio experience encompassing most every aspect of our hobby including; location, power, antennas, operating, message handling, learning from each other, camaraderie and team work. You can also check out different gear and get opinions from others. Finally, my favorite, you can learn how to operate CW and get your code speed up!

Here is how the ARRL puts it;

“Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.”

What is the Object of Field Day?

From the ARRL Field Day Packet “To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12- meter bands) and in doing so to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio.”

Remember that the justification for having the operating privileges we have is based on our capabilities to provide communications in emergencies. Our real value comes when communications infrastructure is inoperable (Cell phones and Most Cell Sites have battery back-up that doesn't last more than a day or so) and we are required to operate under less than ideal conditions.

When is Field Day? (MARK YOU CALENDARS AND ADVISE THE FAMILY.)

“Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June , beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 2100 UTC Sunday. Field Day 2012 will be held June 23-24, 2012.

3.1. Class A and B stations that do not begin setting up until 1800 UTC on Saturday may operate the entire 27-hour Field Day period.

3.2. Stations who begin setting up before 1800 UTC Saturday may work only 24 consecutive hours, commencing when on-the-air operations begin.

3.3. No Class A or B station may begin their set-up earlier than 1800 UTC on the Friday preceding the Field Day period.”

I am hoping we have enough operators for continuous operation for these hours: 1400-2400 on Saturday and 0800-1400 on Sunday. We are not planning on graveyard shift operations.

Where is Field Day?

Once again we are very lucky to have the Concord Rod and Gun Club available for Field Day. It is off Strawberry Hill Road in Concord near the Concord Rotary.

What can I do?

You can sign up to help on one of our sub-committees, chair one of the open sub-committees, be part of the set-up and tear down crew, get on the operators and/or loggers list (logging is a good way to learn contest operating, or build up code speed), come to attend one of the tool box sessions or just come for moral support and kibitzing.

The list of sub-committees and chairs are:

Site - Joe, KB1SSA

Safety, First Aid - OPEN

Signs - OPEN

Food - Rick, W1RAG & Charlie, W1ADL

Under 18 years QSO op – Geoffrey, KB1USE

Antennas – Steve, N1BDA

PR – Alan, K1ALL

Traffic/Message Origination- OPEN

Logging SW, Computers, Network – Andy, KB1OIQ

Tool Box Talks – OPEN

VHF Rigs – Allison, KB1GMX
HF Rigs – Joe, KB1SSA, Bob W1IS
QRP – Andy, KB1OIQ, Scott, NE1RD
Satellite – Bob, KB1SWZ
Digital – Rich, AB1HD (if he can make it)
Fox Hunt - ?? Peter, KB1PBA ??

Generators/Batteries – OPEN (I would like to see us be at least a 2A operation and that requires emergency power if we can get the generators or batteries. Some have suggested we go QRP with Batteries – the bonus for doing either QRP or QRP with Batteries is significant (2X or 5X respectively).

How do I join the team?

Just send me an email at rglorioso@comcast.net indicating how you want to participate.

Where can I get more information on Field Day?

To start, check <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

I hope to see you all at Field Day 2012.



MIT
HAYSTACK
OBSERVATORY

[Haystack tour \(registration required\)](#)

Tuesday May 1st - The program begins at 6:30pm, with an introduction to Haystack followed by a tour of the radio telescope. <http://www.haystack.mit.edu/>

RSVP by April 20th by phoning 781-981-5400 with number of adults and children planning to attend. Reference: "museum".

From: http://www.westford.com/museum/happenings_events.html

ARRL News



The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is the national association for amateur radio, connecting hams around the U.S. with news, information and resources. URL: <http://www.arrl.org>



[Register Your ARRL Field Day Site on the Field Day Locator](#)

Today, April 16, 2012, 4:51:00 PM - First introduced in 2008, the ARRL's **Field Day Station Locator Service** has proved a popular addition to the Field Day toolbox. This service -- an interactive map that helps amateurs or those interested in Amateur Radio find a **Field Day** site near them -- is free to clubs or individuals who will be operating public Field Day stations. Stations can also be listed by state or province. So far, hams...



[Atlanta Will Host the 2012 ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference](#)

Today, April 16, 2012, 1 hour ago - The dates have been set -- September 21-23 -- for the 31st Annual ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference at the **Sheraton Gateway Hotel Atlanta Airport**. The Digital Communication Conference schedule includes forums, demonstrations, a Saturday evening banquet and an in-depth Sunday seminar. This conference is for everyone with an interest in digital communications -- beginner to expert.



[Amateur Radio Quiz: Spring for Some Contest Action!](#)

Saturday, April 14, 2012, 1:36:00 PM - By H. Ward Silver, NOAX
n0ax@arrl.net

*Spring marks the transition of the contest seasons, as the big DX contests give way to summer's domestic and VHF+ activity. See if you're ready to put some QSOs in your log with radiosport recreation in these April, May, and June on-the-air events! To help you complete the quiz, you can find contest calendars on the **ARRL website** and the **WA7BNM Contest Calenda...***

[FCC Enforcement Actions for January-March 2012](#)

Friday, April 13, 2012, 2:41:00 PM - Here's a summary of FCC enforcement actions during the past quarter (January-March 2012): Repeater-related cases: 1. General infractions (including unauthorized operation): 10. Power-line cases: 0. Click **here** for details.

[Old Hamfest – New Hams](#)

Friday, April 13, 2012, 1:12:00 PM - In the 30 years I've been teaching ham radio, I've always found that successfully training new hams is easy. Filling a class with students is not so easy. A couple of years ago, I thought, "hey, why not take the class to the largest ham gathering in the world?" Certainly, there would be many hundreds of potential hams at that location. This is the story of that strange journey.

[The K7RA Solar Update](#)



Friday, April 13, 2012, 12:28:00 PM - Solar activity took a serious nosedive this week, with the average daily sunspot numbers dropping to a value less than half the previous week's average -- down nearly 43 points to 32.6. The solar flux values were also off, down nearly 12 points to 95.9. The low point for sunspot numbers was April 9-10, when the daily sunspot number was 24 for both days. But subsequently we witnessed a rise, hit...

[Surfin': Radioing the Titanic](#)

Friday, April 13, 2012, 12:25:00 PM - By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU - Contributing Editor

This week, Surfin' hops on the wayback machine and revisits the 100 year old radio communications surrounding the Titanic disaster. - In case you missed it, the RMS *Titanic* was a British passenger liner that sank in the North Atlantic Ocean after colliding with an iceberg during her maiden voyage from Southampton, England to New York City. The **sinking of T...**



[North Texas Hams Respond When Tornadoes Strike](#)

Thursday, April 12, 2012, 2:33:00 PM - On April 3, 2012, perfect conditions conducive to tornado activity converged on North Texas. A slow moving front, combined with abnormally warm temperatures and moist air coming in from the south, produced large hail, numerous funnel clouds, and tornadoes. As the weather

worsened, hams in North Texas activated ARES® and RACES nets. Spotters reported their observations to their local Emergency Op...

[Amateurs Must Protect New Radars in 23 cm Band](#)

Thursday, April 12, 2012, 2:19:00 PM - The Federal Aviation Administration (**FAA**) is deploying a new generation of Common Air Route Surveillance Radar (CARSR) that has some implications for the use of the 1240-1300 MHz (23 cm) band by amateurs. The Amateur Service allocation in this band is on a secondary basis, with aeronautical radionavigation and several other services primary in the United States Table of Frequency Allocations. T...



[Digital QST: Coming Soon to a Computer Near You!](#)

Wednesday, April 11, 2012, 2:41:00 PM - The new Digital Edition of *QST* will debut toward the end of May. If you are an ARRL member and you haven't yet signed up to be notified automatically when the Digital Edition becomes available, you can do so easily. Just go to **EDIT YOUR PROFILE** at www.arrl.org. Click **EDIT EMAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS** and then check the box next to **NOTIFICATION OF MONTHLY DIGITAL EDITION OF QST**. That's all there is to...

Year	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
2011	1,275	1,441	1,744	1,841	1,726	7,027
2012	1,287	1,478	1,878	1,841	1,726	7,210
Change	12	37	134	0	0	183
% Change	1%	3%	8%	0%	0%	3%
Novice	1,138	1,275	1,555	1,655	1,555	6,188
2011	1,138	1,275	1,555	1,655	1,555	6,188
2012	1,138	1,275	1,555	1,655	1,555	6,188
Change	0	0	0	0	0	0
% Change	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Technician	1,138	1,275	1,555	1,655	1,555	6,188
2011	1,138	1,275	1,555	1,655	1,555	6,188
2012	1,138	1,275	1,555	1,655	1,555	6,188
Change	0	0	0	0	0	0
% Change	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
General	1,138	1,275	1,555	1,655	1,555	6,188
2011	1,138	1,275	1,555	1,655	1,555	6,188
2012	1,138	1,275	1,555	1,655	1,555	6,188
Change	0	0	0	0	0	0
% Change	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Extra	1,138	1,275	1,555	1,655	1,555	6,188
2011	1,138	1,275	1,555	1,655	1,555	6,188
2012	1,138	1,275	1,555	1,655	1,555	6,188
Change	0	0	0	0	0	0
% Change	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

[2012 Continues to Show Growth in Amateur Radio Licensing](#)

Wednesday, April 11, 2012, 1:27:00 PM - The first quarter of 2012 (January-March) saw a high level of Amateur Radio license exam sessions, producing an elevated influx of applications for new licensees. According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, these numbers outpaced the 2011 first quarter results by 30 percent. This uptick does not only apply to new applications; there was a 6 percent increase in the number of upgrades, too....



[April 18 Is World Amateur Radio Day](#)

Monday, April 09, 2012, 5:36:00 PM - The year 2012 marks the 87th anniversary of the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union (**IARU**). To mark this occasion, the IARU and its more than 160 Member-Societies will celebrate World Amateur Radio Day on April 18. For many years, the IARU has declared a theme for each World Amateur Radio Day. The theme for 2012 is *Amateur Radio Satellites: Celebrating 50 Years in Space* in remembr...



[Malaysia to Host Eighth Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference](#)

Monday, April 09, 2012, 4:53:00 PM - The Eighth Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference (GAREC) -- called **MyGAREC 2012** -- will be held November 12-14 in the Malaysian state of Negeri Sembilan at the Thistle Port Dickson Resort.

GAREC began in 2005 in Tampere, Finland. The conference attracts radio amateurs who have an interest in providing emergency communications in response to disasters or during training exercis...

[FCC Seeks Public Comments on Emergency Communications by Amateur Radio and Impediments to Amateur Radio Communications](#)

Thursday, April 05, 2012, 3:34:00 PM - In response to the **Congressional directive** to prepare a study to assess Amateur Radio's role in emergency and disaster communications and the impact of private land use regulations on the amateur community's ability to provide such communications, the FCC issued **DA 12-523** soliciting comments from the public. The period for public comment runs until May 17, 2012



The ARRL New England Convention

At the Holiday Inn, Boxborough, Massachusetts

August 24-25-26, 2012

[Call for Speakers!](#)

All speakers and organizations wanting to participate in the 2012 ARRL New England Division Convention program, please contact us at your earliest opportunity. Note the dates

for the convention this year: August 24 – 26, 2012.

While there has been good response to date, open program hours remain available. Contact us if you wish to present a talk; include a subject title and, if you are so prepared, include a brief abstract.

If you represent a regional club or organization (e.g. NESMC, CEMARC, MARS, NEWS etc.) we can help facilitate open forums or closed meetings by providing you a meeting room. We do ask that organizations like this to please consider Sunday morning time slots for their closed meetings.

Groups looking to set up information booths should get your request in early. While the information booths are offered without charge, we ask for some volunteer time in return to assist us with ticket sales and other logistics during the convention operation.

Note, if you require a hotel room, make your reservations ASAP per the instructions contained on the web site to get the special convention rate.

Keep an eye on the convention web site, <http://www.boxboro.org>, for the latest information. We look forward to meeting you at the convention, Ken Caruso, WO1N, Boxboro Program Chairman, WO1N@ARRL.net, 508-572-3347.

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.

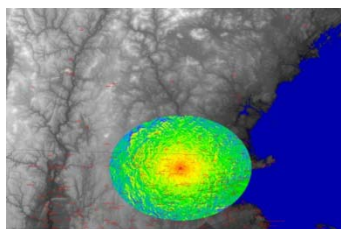
EmComm events and repeater use

Most everyone knows that the 146.955 repeater is used during times of emergency situations, drills and exercises. Skywarn and the monthly EmComm 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 EmComm 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 EmComm/Skywarn NCS) or Terry-KA8SCP (MEMA Region 1 Communications 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.

PART Gear

The PART Quartermaster has lots of great PART-ware for sale including 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

Emergency Communications – The WB1GOF 146.955 repeater is used on the first Monday of every month (except federal/state holidays) for an EmComm Net 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 Communications Officer

Hugh Maguire – N1QGE, for the Town of Westford

Bill Ohm – W1OHM, for the 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 EmComm nets 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 the EmComm Net Control Stations 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.



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