



PARTicles

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

April 2013

President's Column

- *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*

I was able to get version 13 of my Linux Ham Radio DVD released a couple of weeks ago. Besides updating the existing software, it now includes a software defined radio receiver, a new browser, and a new 64-bit version to complement the 32-bit version. Now, I can get off the computer and back on the air! One may find information, screenshots, and the download links here:

<https://sourceforge.net/projects/kb1oiq-andysham/>

K1P is coming up shortly! On Saturday, April 13th, we'll meet at the Concord Rod and Gun Club from 10 AM to 4 PM, on Strawberry Hill Road in Concord, MA. On Sunday, April 14th, we'll meet at my house at 25 Monument Hill Road in Chelmsford from 10 AM to 4 PM. K1P is our annual special event station commemorating Patriots' Day. We'll be running one phone station, and we need volunteers to operate the station. Please contact Andy (KB1OIQ) if you are interested in operating the station. Oh, that reminds me to setup eQSL and LoTW for this event (and Field Day) - so much for staying off the computer.

At the April 2013 PART meeting, our speakers will be Allison (KB1GMX) and Andy (KB1OIQ). Allison recently purchased a Tentec Eagle to go with her other Tentec radios: 6N2

model 526, Triton IV model 540. She'll talk about these radios at the meeting, describing their evolution while comparing their features.

Additionally, Andy (KB1OIQ) will talk about his recent learning experiences with a short vertical whip antenna and some homebrew coils, moving from a fixed coil for each desired band, to a single coil with fixed taps, to a single coil with infinite taps. Toss in a single wire counterpoise, and one gets an antenna that works on HF and is fairly portable, but loses some efficiency due to its short length. Despite the compromises, this antenna has been used in 2 outdoor QRP operations to date.

The Apple Blossom Parade is coming up in mid-May, and PART is looking for volunteers to work at this event. The requirements are a desire to serve, a 2m handheld radio with extra batteries, and the ability to do a fair amount of walking, since we usually are asked to "shadow" (tag along with) parade officials. More details will be coming, so stay tuned.

Field Day is coming! June 22 and June 23, 2013, at the Concord Rod and Gun Club. Save the dates!

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

Next PART meeting: Tuesday April 16th

@1930 – Westford Police station

**Allison-KB1GMX & Andy KB1OIQ guest
speakers**

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

April 13th & 14th, 2013

- Patriot's Day Special Event station – K1P

April 16th, 2013

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

May 4th, 2013

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$15/\$9; kids: \$8 – see note below)

May 18th, 2013

- Apple Blossom Parade. 08:00 a.m. – noon, muster @ Westford Police station by 0800

May 21st, 2013

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

June 1st, 2013

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$15/\$9; kids: \$8 – see note below)

June 18th, 2013

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

June 21st -22nd, 2013

- PART Field Day – Concord Rod & Gun Club (see announcement)

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

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 20-February '13 & 18-March '13 (As of 19- March '13)

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	\$3534.38	\$2140.57	\$5674.95
Income	\$200.00	\$54.25	\$254.25
Expenses	(\$243.65)	(\$0.00)	(\$243.65)
Net	\$43.65	\$54.25	\$10.50
New Balance	\$3490.73	\$2190.42	\$5685.55

PART 2012 Membership as of 6-March '13

	Individuals (= New for 2013 + Renew for 2013)	Households (= New for 2013 + Renew for 2013)
Full (\$25)*	28 (= 4 + 24)	28 (= 4 + 24)
Senior (\$15)*	27 (= 0 + 27)	27 (= 0 + 27)
Family (\$30)*	17 (= 0 + 17)	8 (= 0 + 8)
Student (\$15)	0 (= 0 + 0)	0 (= 0 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	0 (= 0 + 0)	0 (= 0 + 0)
Grand Total*	72 (= 4 + 68)	63 (= 4 + 59)
ARRL members*:	64	
ARRL Life members*:	6	

Latest new PART members:

Justin/KJ1H (Acton)

NOTE: * Starred lines changed since 6-Mar'13

##To pay dues##

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

-or-

Club Meeting, Westford P.D., 7:30PM, 3rd Tuesday

Ham Fleas/Events

New England Area Ham/Electronic Fleas:

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

2013

13,14 April Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553 +
13 April LaSalle PQ MARC @ RCLegion \$5@9 \$10/T@8:15 James VE2VE 514 990 1965 W+
14 Ap Middletown NY OCARA @CommCtr Neil AC2O 914 490 2001 A+
20 April Gales Ferry CT RASON Auction@ FireHS Gary WT1SND 860 884 4218 A+
20 April Portland ME PAWA @AmLegion \$5@8 \$10/T@6:30 John W1JLB 207 776 2288 W
20 April Brookline NH NEARC Antique \$10@7:30 \$4@8:30 Bruce 603 772 7516 F
21 April Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F+
Third Sunday April thru October
28 Ap Manchester CT NEWS V/UHFConf @Baymount@8 I84x63 MarkK1MAP 413 566 8118 +
3,4 May Deerfield NH NEARFest XIII @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 T+
11 May Dartmouth MA SEMARA @Clubhouse \$2@9 S\$10@8 Eric N1WCO 508 295 2468 W
11 May E Greenbush NY EGARA @FireCo \$6@8 S\$6/T@6 Thomas KC2FCP 518 272 1494 W+
19 May Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F+
1 June Hermon ME PSARA @HS \$5@8 Jerry K1GUP 207 848 3400 +
1 June Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518 +
1 June Goshen CT So.BARC @FG \$5@8 Doc K1CTT 860 672 2659 W+
2 June Bethpage NY LIMARC Richard K2KNB 516 694 4937 A+
2 June Sorel-Tracy PQ STARC \$8@9 \$15/T@6 Luc VE2DWE 450 743 8676 R+
15 June Newington CT NARL @StMarySch \$5@8 \$15/T Vinnie W1VJA 203 987 2108 +
16 June Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F+
30 June Queens NY HOSARC \$5@9 +\$10S@7:30 Stephen WB2KDG 718 898 5599 W+
21 July Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F+
3 Aug St Romuald PQ ARESDQ @9 @Arena X318 Rt20 France VE2AFC W+
18 Aug Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F+
7 Sept Ballston Spa NY SCRACES @FG @7 Darlene N2XQG 518 587 2385 +
7 Sept Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518 +
8 Sept Newtown CT CARA @TownHall \$5@8:30 \$10/TG \$15/T Joe AB1DO 203 938 4880 +
15 Sept Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F+
21 Sept Forestdale RI RIAFMRS @VFW \$5/Sp@8 Rick K1KYI 401 864 9611 +
21 Sept Manchester CT PVRA @MarcusComm George AB1GL 860 716 3367 A+
28 Sept Brookline NH NEARC Antique \$10@7:30 \$4@8:30 Bruce 603 772 7516 F
6 Oct Queens NY HoSARC Stephen WB2KDG 718 898 5599 A+
11,12 Oct Deerfield NH NEARFest XIV @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 T+
13 Oct Meriden CT Nutmeg @Sheraton was Wallingford John N1GNV 203 440 4973 +
19,20 Oct Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553
19 Oct Longueuil PQ CRAR-S \$7@9 \$10/T@6 Martin VE2DNF 450 466 2810 R+
20 Oct Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F+
26 Oct Gales Ferry CT TCARC Auction @FireCo @10 Darryl WA1DD 860 443 7799 +
27 Oct Hicksville NY LIMARC @LevitHall Richard K2KNB 516 694 4937 +
9 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/S@7 Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422 +
30 Nov Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518 +

Near-term local fleas

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

Flea at MIT

Sunday, 21-Apr'13

Buyers \$5.00, 9:00AM-2:00PM (\$1.00 discount with flyer:

<http://web.mit.edu/w1mx/www/swapfest/swapfest-2013.04.pdf>

Parking Lot/Garage on Albany St. Cambridge, at Portland St.

<http://goo.gl/maps/KpTQO>



NEAR-Fest IX

Friday, 3-May'13 and Saturday, 4-May'13

Buyers \$10 for Fri+Sat

<http://near-fest.com/>

Deerfield Fairgrounds

43 Stage Rd. (Rt. 43), Deerfield, NH:

<http://goo.gl/maps/xqKbb>



[SEMARA Tailgate Flea Market, May 11, 2013](#)

The Annual SEMARA Tailgate Flea Market on Saturday, May 11, 2013. Set-up will begin at 8:00AM and open to the all from 9:00 AM to 2:00PM.

Admission is as follows: Vendors, \$10.00 per table; general admission: \$2.00; club members and children under 12 attend for free. Talk-in will occur on the 147.00 Dartmouth PL 67.0 and the 224.800 repeater PL 67.0. For further information, contact Eric, N1WCO at <n1wco@aol.com>.

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> (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. **CHANGE!!** - The Port C node (145.330) is connected to [XRF038A](#) Mon – Fri from 07:00 am until 11:00 pm. Users can LISTEN ONLY to D-Star Reflector 10C by linking to this URL: <http://www.radioreference.com/apps/audio/?feedId=5031>

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 \$15 (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 ****CHANGED****

The full breakfast is $\$11.95 + 18\% + 6.25\% = \15.00 (rounded up slightly). This price has recently changed. Here is the math for completeness and full disclosure.

Continental breakfast: \$9.00 (same price)

Full breakfast: \$15.00 (new price)

Kid's breakfast: \$8.00



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Public Service Events



Apple Blossom Parade – May 18th

The Westford Kiwanis will Sponsor the 45th annual Apple Blossom Festival the week of May 15-19 2013 with the parade and crowning of this year's Apple Blossom Queen on Saturday May 18th 2013. 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.

Patriots' Day (weekend) Special Event - April 13th & 14th, 2013



K1P is a special event station setup on Patriots' Day weekend in Massachusetts, a state holiday to commemorate the anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, which were the first battles of the American Revolutionary War.

Dates: April 13 & 14, 2013 1600 UTC to 2200 UTC each day (approximately), Callsign: K1P, Frequencies: 10m-80m as conditions permit. QSL: LOTW, eQSL or Direct. Want to operate this station? Send an email to info@WB1GOF.org for more info.

Member Contribution

Middlesex ARES get-together

- *Alan H. Martin (W1AHM)*

Rob Macedo/KD1CY, the Eastern Massachusetts Section Emergency Coordinator, has issued a call for ARES operators to meet more frequently at the county level. On Wednesday, 27-Mar '13, Middlesex County District EC Steve Telsey/N1BDA lead a dinner meeting of ARES members to forge relationships. The event took place at Yangtze River Restaurant in Littleton Common.

Much of the initial discussion centered on the kind of operations where we felt we could be most effective. The focus was on local support especially in an extended power emergency where large sections of the population would not have phone service. The West Middlesex group has been working to support the MRC (Medical Reserve Corps) that is putting resources in neighborhoods. Several MRC members are interested in Ham Radio so a Tech Course is being explored. Mutual support for this effort was offered and gratefully accepted.

Steve/N1BDA and Darrel/K1EJ talked about training and we all agreed that the ICS-100B on-line course should be taken by all who haven't done it yet.

Bob/W1IS encouraged all to participate in the W. Middlesex (Stow) simplex net on the second Tuesday of each month on 147.435 MHz, PL 110.9 Hz at 1930 hours.

All thought the meeting was worthwhile and look forward to meeting periodically.

North Middlesex ARES leader Darrel Mallory/K1EJ was accompanied by Ed/KB1HLX, Kevin/KB1KTR, Kim/KB1KYS (plus harmonic Cassidy), Russell/KB1UKU (plus XYL Michelin), John/WB2OSZ, Alan/W1AHM and Johan/K1ARG. West Middlesex (Stow) ARES leader Bob Glorioso/W1IS was joined by Marvin/W1MDD, Bob/N1BE, Dirk/KB1HKN, Jerry/K1GOI and Joe/WA1AOS.



Special Notice

Screening of "The Treasure Hunt"

- *Ken Cantrell (K1OTA)*

I would like to invite any club members interested. Tickets are free and I will have them with me at the next meeting. The drama is called "The Treasure Hunt". Screening is at the Chelmsford Center for the Arts On May 18th at 8PM. A link describing it follows.



Perhaps I could do a documentary in the future about ham radio for showing on our local cable TV stations if anyone is interested in participating. More info at:

<http://www.chelmsfordarts.com/2013/03/13/screening-of-the-treasure-hunt/>

Scanner/Public Safety Page

- *Ron Knight (KB1UXT)*

Scanners bore you? You don't care about the local police department pulling over cars or going to the barking dog calls. You only want to turn it on when significant events occur? Well there are some groups out there that may be able to help you.

There are formal and informal organizations of public safety monitoring experts. Other wise known as buffs or whackers, these people are people who love to monitor and sometimes observe public safety in action at high profile events. Members include off duty Law Enforcement Officers, Fire Fighters, Emergency Medical Technicians, Press, Emergency Management and other curious members of the community.



These people will often respond to these events in a safe manner, keep back at a safe distance, observe, take pictures and occasionally lend a hand. Since these are mostly public safety officials they know to keep back and do not interfere with the ongoing emergency operations.

One of the oldest groups around is the Boston Sparks Association. They were founded back in 1938. They currently also manage the volunteer canteen service for Metro Boston Fire Area. Members respond to significant fire related events set up rehab tents and hand out food and beverages to public safety staff that need it. Radio Comm.'s can be heard on Boston Citywide 463.550 Pl 167. 9 Check out their web site at www.bostonsparks.com

A local group called Merrimack Valley Radio is similar. They do not run a canteen service, however its members are off duty or retired members from public safety. They can be monitored on 463.500 Pl 186.2

Now the two proceeding groups will only broadcast information that is fire services or emergency medical services based. These groups do not send information about Law Enforcement Activities. If you are looking for a buff group that send fire, ems, and law enforcement that try New England Citywide. They have a local towers located in North Andover 461.925 pl 118.8 and Fitchburg 462.125 pl 88.5 and the broadcast a wealth of information about ongoing public safety events in the area. Check out their website at www.newenglandcitywide.com.

Back in the old days of pagers I used to get a lot of information on events sent to my pager. Now with Facebook, Twitter and other social media outlets there are hundreds of groups you can join for free to receive timely and accurate information about public safety events.

On twitter I monitor the following:

N.E. Alerts @NEincidents, NE F-R_P Alerts @nefrpalerts, NEFN @newenglandfire, Northeast Fire Alert @ n_eastfirealert, NH Fire Calls @nhfirenews and countless others. Most of these are also on Facebook so check them out when you have a chance.

Some Frequency Changes coming up:

Methuen Fire will be going to UHF. They continue testing the new frequency 484.925 Pl 162.2

Massachusetts State Police have done some work on Zone 5 (PART Listening Area). The following are the frequencies for this area. Remember this is a trunked radio system and you need a scanner that can monitor a trunking radio system:

860.7125, 859.7125, 858.9875, 857.9875, 857.7125, 856.9625, 856.7125, 856.0625, 854.6125, 854.5625 and 854.0875

Homework until next month is to monitor your local fire department and report any findings. The Scan New England Website can provide information on last known frequencies for your area. Email your reports to KB1UXT@comcast.net and we will report them in an upcoming issue of Particles. Until then Happy Listening and 73's

Member Contribution



The Online Experience

By B. Scott Andersen, NE1RD

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the hobby, in my opinion, is the tallying of the work done on the air. In the pre-Internet era that was done entirely by QSL cards. Pursuing awards such as the ARRL's *DXCC* or CQ Magazine's *WPX* meant riffling through hundreds or even thousands of cards to muster the evidence necessary to achieve one of these awards. That has changed—and for the better. This brief article will illustrate how easy, and fun, paper chasing can be in the new paperless-QSL world.

The WPX Award

WPX stands for “worked all prefix”, perhaps a bit of a misnomer, but carries the correct implication for the award. You do not need to work “all” prefixes to get an award; you just need to work some minimum number of prefixes to qualify for the basic award.

Of course we are getting ahead of ourselves. What is a prefix? Amateur radio call signs have letters and at least one digit in them. My call, NE1RD, has two letters “NE” followed by a single digit “1”. In the United States the digits roughly correspond to areas of the country with the 1 call area corresponding to New England. A prefix is any letters or numbers corresponding to the country (N, W, K, and some A's in the US) plus the digit indication for a call area. Canada has prefixes like VE1, VO1, etc. Every call has a prefix and a suffix (the letters following the prefix).

The *WPX* is an award system that is based on collecting prefixes. So, if you work three stations on the air: KB1OIQ, NE1RD, and W1RAG you will have worked three different prefixes. Working 300 different prefixes will get you a basic award for phone, data, or CW.

A Sea of Cards

Just a few years after being licensed I had a small hoard of QSL cards that I had gotten both from direct requests and from the ARRL QSL Bureau. (The ARRL QSL Bureau, sometimes shortened to just “BURO”, is a fascinating topic and worthy of an article all its own.) When I thought I had enough, I spread out all the cards on the living room floor and began looking for unique prefixes. I may have worked Italy dozens of times but only one card with an “I1” prefix was going to help me get a WPX award. I needed to look for variety!

The interesting thing about pursuing this award is that stations worked locally in the United States count just as much as something exotic such as Tonga, China, or [Tajikistan](#). This award is not about distance; it is about perseverance. It is about being on the air and making many, many contacts with as many diverse stations as you can. You can get DXCC with just 100 contacts in your log; WPX takes quite a bit more effort!

So, there I was, sitting in the middle of the floor surrounded by cards. I thought I might have had enough, just enough, but I was not sure. Only after about an hour of sorting, checking, and double-checking did I breathe a sigh of relief: I had just enough—302 prefixes as memory serves.

The next step was to print master pages from the web site and carefully fill in the matrix listing every contact, their call sign, the band, and the date and time. It was more tedious business. Luckily, CQ Magazine (the sponsor for this awards program) did not require that I send in all 300+ cards; it was something of an *honor system* as they only required that I have them in my possession.

I did all this in 2006 and in return I received a single, large sheet of paper with the WPX award for SSB emblazoned on the top with my name and call sign shown proudly in the middle. It represented a milestone. Though I felt like I was stumbling around most of the time I must have done something right to have gotten to that point.

A Better Way

It has been over six years since I did that exercise and many things have changed. I have moved to a new house and have permanent antennas erected. I’ve learned a few things in the intervening time about operating and building a better station. And, the ARRL *Logbook of the World* (<http://www.arrl.org/lotw>) has become the de facto way to provide electronic QSLing.

The ARRL has offered its awards programs including *Worked All States* (WAS) and *DX Century Club* (DXCC) for many years. These awards programs were the first to be built into the Logbook of the World (LoTW) system. I have recently been granted WAS for both my new home in New Hampshire, and for my operations on St. Thomas in the US Virgin Islands.

In the “old days” this would have required collecting QSL cards from all those contacts and either showing them to a “card checker” (a person designated by the ARRL to confirm the validity of QSL claims) or sending the cards directly to the ARRL headquarters. As you might guess, this was an expensive and time-consuming process. (I know: I did this for my first WAS award that I received while living in Acton.)

For the two most recent WAS awards I was able to do everything electronically. I captured the details for every contact in my electronic logging program. I uploaded those contacts to the LoTW server (usually the same day that I made the contact). And I made the application for, and paid for, the award using the LoTW web interface. The only paper in the system was the award certificate sent to me from the League!

CQ WPX

With six years passing since the first certificate was granted I wasn't sure how much progress I had made towards a more advanced WPX award. In fact, I wasn't sure exactly what other WPX awards existed! The CQ WPX website had all I needed to know in a single PDF document located here: http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_awards/cq_wpx_awards/042208_cq_wpx_new_rules.pdf

In short, the following basic awards are available:

Mode	Minimum for an award
CW	300 prefixes confirmed
Digital	300 prefixes confirmed
Mixed	400 prefixes confirmed
SSB	300 prefixes confirmed

Endorsements on these awards are also available. You can get an endorsement for any of the above if you have an additional 50 or more prefixes that you could apply to that category.

In addition to basic awards there are endorsements for particular bands that have the following minimums:

Band	1.8	3.5	5	7	10	14	18	21	24	28	6
Minimum	50	175	175	250	300	300	300	300	300	300	250

Finally, there are endorsements for particular continents worked:

Continent	NA	SA	EU	AF	AS	OC
Minimum	160	95	160	90	75	60

These endorsements can be combined, also, so you can have WPX SSB NA if you have worked a minimum of 160 of your 300+ phone prefixes [you still have to have the minimum for the basic award] from North America.

WPX: Applying Online

The ARRL has integrated the WPX award system into its Logbook of the World website. I was a little surprised at first seeing this (the two magazines QST and CQ are competitors, of sorts). But, there was a financial incentive for the ARRL to do this: any QSL records used for awards must be "purchased" through the *LoTW* system. The cost of buying the right to use a QSL for an award is relatively small: 12-cents each. When you consider the expense of QSLing via paper you must reckon the cost of printing the card, sending the card to your contact, paying either for the expense of sending it back (if direct) or funding the ARRL QSL Bureau. Getting a QSL for 12-cents is a bargain!

A bargain though it might be, there is still a substantial expense to get even the most basic award. Multiplying 12-cents times 300 QSLs needed for a single mode award means spending \$36 on *LoTW* QSL records. There are small fees also charged by CQ Magazine to process the award. The application is done online within the *LoTW* website managed by Steve Bolia, N8BJQ, the CQ WPX Award Manager. Steve will contact you after your application has been submitted to orchestrate payment of the nominal fees, etc. Steve was *extremely* pleasant to work with. I give the whole experience an A+ for ease-of-use. Just click the awards and endorsements that interest you and those QSLs are moved over into a "staging area" where you can buy them.

There is one caveat that I should include here. QSL records purchased for the WPX program are not transferable to the ARRL awards programs. So, if a given QSL is purchased for the WPX program it cannot be used for WAS or DXCC unless you pay another 12-cents. But, once you've bought that QSL for a given program it can be used and reused as many times as you need it. For example, a QSL with AB1HD on 20-meters could be used for the basic SSB award, a MIXED award, a North America endorsement, and a 20-meters endorsement, all without paying more than the original 12-cents. Similarly an Alaska contact can be used for both WAS and DXCC on the ARRL side.

Paper chasing

Paper chasing is not for everybody. It might not even be rational! But I contend it is fun. I've been able to rack up quite a few of the awards with the QSLs already living in the *LoTW* system. In fact, I just purchased over \$200 worth of QSLs for the latest batch of awards and endorsements!

The highest award requires 1000 prefixes and endorsements from all six continents. I am not quite there. I have 950 or so prefixes and only two of the six continents so far. There is still work to do!

Having something to strive for gives me joy—and isn't that why we're in this crazy business in the first place?

Member Contribution

Getting Back into Ham Radio after 7 Year Layoff

- *Dick Ferry (AB1A)*

I am now 61 yrs. old, have live in Westford since 1975 and in the late 1970's and 80's, 90's I was very active in Ham Radio. I got my Novice, Advanced and Extra when getting the Extra in the days when code a test was required every time you went in to the Custom House Boston. When I got my Extra that same day they had just started assigning 2x1 call signs (no vanity calls allowed), so I was hoping for AA1A but there was a glitch and they gave that call to someone else. In a rare moment for the FCC, they called me, apologized and said I would get AB1A. I was happy with that.

I was a member or the original PART group with Chief Connell, Bud and Bo, et al. In the early 80's I also went crazy and put up two 120 ft. towers, one about 400 ft. from the house and the other about 800 ft. from the house. Both fed by 7/8 heliax with multiple switches and matching devices. One was a vertical on 160 with a 40M beam on top. The other had a TH6DXX on it. On 80M had a phased sloper system on tower one with 5 antennas fed in phase. Running 2KW, the station was number one in pileups and contests. I did all my maintenance including climbing both towers. One day, I climbed the tower and all of a sudden was scared to do so. I think that was in the early 2000's. At the same time I started my own business after retiring from the Phone Company with 25 yrs. It was one of those golden parachutes. I was only 43. I started my own business in PC and Satellite TV. Had no time for ham radio and couldn't climb so sold both towers and all my gear except ICOM IC-718. Put up a dipole running 100 watts. Soon was discouraged with this and sold the radio. This was around 2005. Ended my business the same year and then worked for Radio Shack, ForTek a company selling utility poles and New Penn trucking doing weights and measures until 2012. I was off the air from 2005 to 2013. I was missing ham radio every day.

In 2013 I decided to get back into ham radio. It started with an IC-718 again bought on eBay. Put up a G5RV (ZS6BKW version) at 50 ft. You can see my current setup at QRZ.com. I am planning a 55 or 60 foot crank up tower, actually looking for one. Today I verified that the 400 ft. of 7/8 hardline I used to feed the two towers is intact. I will have to test the cable to see if I can use it. It should be OK as it was very well insulated.

The inverted V works very well but I am looking forward to getting a tower up and moving the dipole to the tower at the barn. It feels really good to get back into ham radio and reconnect with the many friends I made over the year.

73's, Dick Ferry AB1A



2013 Field Day: June 22-23!

Head for the hills - or parks, beaches, mountaintops, or yes, even fields! The largest on-air amateur radio event in North America is not too far away.

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>

[Surfin': Getting Parts in the 21st Century](#)

Friday, April 05, 2013 - By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU, Contributing Editor

This week, Surfin' finds radio parts on a fascinating website.

Back when I began stinking up my parent's house with the scent of liquefied solder, there were radio and electronic stores in the area where I could buy all the parts to build my projects. But in the 1970s, those stores went the way of the vacuum tube. I had to go the mail order route to buy ...

[FCC Seeks to Reassess RF Exposure Limits](#)

April 04, 2013 - On March 27, the FCC released a *First Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* and a *Notice of Inquiry* (**ET Docket Nos. 13-84 and 03-137**). The documents seek to reassess the FCC's RF exposure limits and policies, as well as to propose changes to the FCC's rules regarding human exposure to RF electromagnetic fields. These proposed changes would affect the Amateur Radio Service (**Par...**

[ARRL Meets with FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, KK4INZ](#)

April 04, 2013 - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate, KK4INZ, met with ARRL leadership at FEMA Headquarters in Washington, DC last month. Fugate, an ARRL member, spoke with ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, and ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, as well as ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, KI1U, about Amate...

[2013 World Amateur Radio Day -- April 18 -- Celebrates 100 Years of Disaster Communications](#)

April 04, 2013 - This year marks the 88th 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 Administrative Council has declared a theme for each World Amateur Radio Day. The theme for 2013 is *Amateur Radio: Entering Its Second Century of D...*

[Amateur Radio Quiz: Your Days Are Numbered](#)

April 03, 2013 - H. Ward Silver, NOAX
n0ax@arrrl.net

Worse than the dreaded "word problem," this April quiz is full of backward problems where I give the answer and you pick the problem. Or something like that. You'll figure it out!

- 1) 9
 - a. The dB equivalent of a power ratio of 4.
 - b. The number of wavelengths traveled by a 7 MHz signal in 1.29 μ s.
 - c. Value of SWR if a 337.5 Ω load is connected to 75 Ω coaxial cable....

[Be Ready for Field Day in Official Field Day Gear from the ARRL](#)

April 02, 2013 - **ARRL Field Day**, Amateur Radio's largest on-the-air operating event is June 22-23 -- just a little more than two months away -- so be sure to get your official 2013 Field Day gear *before* supplies run out.

This year's ARRL Field Day shirt is a white **t-shirt** that sports the 2013 Field Day logo on the front, with the ARRL diamond logo and "Ham Radio" on the back. Shirts are available in sizes Small-...

[J. Kenneth Pulfer, VE3PU \(SK\)](#)

April 02, 2013 - J. Kenneth Pulfer, VE3PU, of Ottawa, Ontario, **passed away** Sunday, March 31 after a long illness. He was 80. In 1994, Pulfer became the Secretary, then Secretary Treasurer for the Radio Amateurs of Canada (**RAC**), that country's IARU Member Society. He also served as the RAC's Vice President for Government Affairs and Vice President for International Affairs. When former ARRL Chief Technology Offi...

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

April 02, 2013 - 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:

- Where is your primary HF vertical antenna installed?
- What is your favorite voice mode?
- How long has it been since you've used **Ohm's Law** to help design a circuit or solve a problem?
- Does your home antenna system include any type of lightning...

[World Radiosport Team Championship 2014 Organizers Solicit Volunteers for Station Test](#)

April 02, 2013 - The **WRTC 2014** Organizing Committee will be conducting a capability and training test for the World Radiosport Team Championship stations and volunteers during the 2013 running of the IARU HF Championship, July 13-14.

According to WRTC 2014 Co-Chairman Randy Thompson, K5ZD, the organizing committee is looking for local hams and volunteers willing to visit New England during the contest to assist ...

[ARRL in Action: What Have We Been Up to Lately?](#)

April 01, 2013 -Compiled by S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, ARRL News Editor
news@arrl.org

This feature -- including convenient web links to useful information -- is a concise monthly update of some of the things the ARRL is doing on behalf of its members. This installment covers the month of March.

With the assistance of ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, **Montana now has a law** that establishes a 100-foot by-right...

[Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, Wins March QST Cover Plaque Award](#)

April 01, 2013 - The winner of the March *QST* Cover Plaque Award is Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA for his article "**The Sun and the Ionosphere.**" *Congratulations Carl!* The *QST* Cover Plaque Award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the ***QST Cover Plaque Poll web page***. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the April issue today.

[The Amateur Amateur: It's Not Easy Being Green-less](#)

March 31, 2013 - By Gary Hoffman, KBOH, ARRL Contributing Editor

Many years ago, my grandfather used to build radio sets and sell them to his neighbors. Somewhat later, just after World War II, he and my father installed radios in cars for Western Auto. They saved up their earnings and eventually started Hoffman Radio-Television Sales and Service, which was the premiere TV shop in Savannah, Georgia for a number of...

[Youth@HamRadio.Fun: New Kid in Town](#)

March 30, 2013 - Sterling Coffey, NOSSC, ARRL Youth Editor

Moving to a new town is a big undertaking, whether as a family, a temporary move to study abroad or get work experience while in college -- or even moving to college itself. Although it's never easy to let go of the old and become acquainted with a new place, you never know what amazing opportunities can lie ahead.

[Surfin': Got Traffic?](#)

March 29, 2013 - By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU, Contributing Editor - *This week, Surfin' remembers George Hart, W1NJM, and his National Traffic System.*

My first professional job after graduating from college in 1977 was at ARRL Headquarters, working for ham radio legend George Hart, W1NJM.

George ran the Communications Department at the League. While I worked in the department's Public Service Branch and reported directly t...

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS (various sources)

[Purdue's West Tower Home to Longest-Standing Club:](#)

by purdueexponent.org on April 7, 2013

Thanks to his involvement in Purdue's longest-standing club, one student was able to communicate with his family during a natural disaster. The west tower of the Memorial Union, otherwise known as "The Shack," is the official meeting place of W9YB. The shack's walls are covered with computers, radios, other electronics and postcards from around the world. By a large window on the far wall sits a large satellite antenna, almost as long as the room itself. After spending some time with the club, members can earn "call numbers," which act as a username over the radio. Mat Amore, call number KD2CMJ and a freshman in the College of Technology, is involved with the W9YB, or the Purdue Amateur Radio Club. "I live in New Jersey, and when Hurricane Sandy came through, I tried to call (my family)," Amore said. "I was freaking out because I was seeing pictures on Facebook ... I was seeing the worst of it." Luckily, Amore and his father both had experience using amateur radio. "If any type of emergency happened, we had a set frequency to communicate," Amore said. "It was a relief to hear from them."

[Amateur Radio Connects Discovery Class to Space Station:](#)

by madisoncountyrecord.com on April 6, 2013

MADISON -- Amateur radio may seem low-tech, but this medium went sky high to an in-flight astronaut for Discovery Middle School students. "The students chatted with astronaut Dr. Tom Marshburn (who serves as physician for the space station team) for approximately 10 minutes as the International Space Station flew directly over Huntsville," Jane Caudle said. The session was staged at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. "We put to use our amateur radio lessons that we explored for a month preceding the UAH field trip," Caudle said. Caudle teaches eighth-grade physical science and serves as science department chair at Discovery. "This opportunity allowed our university students to share their experience with amateur radio to middle-schoolers in the area." Two of Caudle's classes, or about 60 students, participated in the session. "Students asked questions about what astronauts did when they had personal time on the space station," Caudle said. In addition, the Discovery youth wanted to know about required training to become an astronaut. "What was the scariest thing that happened to you onboard the ISS?" was one question. Four Discovery students had the opportunity for one-and-one conversations with an astronaut. This exchange was affiliated with an education partnership program named Amateur Radio on International Space Station (ARISS).

[Solar Maximum: Fizzle, or Finale Yet to Come?](#)

by science.kqed.org on April 6, 2013

Thinking back through my life, I recall four times when I took notice of sunspots one way or another. Back in 1980 when I was in the 12th grade, I remember seeing them in solar images I projected from my 4-inch Astroscan telescope. Then in 1991, when I worked in an aircraft hangar at NASA/Ames Research Center, I remember walking by a disk of light on the floor and realizing that it was an image of the sun projected from a hole in the hangar roof -- making the entire hangar a giant pinhole camera. The disk

was several inches across, and in it I saw sunspots once again. In 2002, around the time that I started working at Chabot Space & Science Center, I made a regular activity of sharing the spotty sun with visitors, teachers, and summer camp kids alike, using Sunspotter Telescopes, pinhole projectors, and filtered telescopes. Again, the spotty sun was raised in my awareness. And now in 2013, we have spots once again! The pattern was always there for me to notice: 1980, 1991, 2002, 2013. See it? I didn't, until in recent years, because noticing the regular pattern of the appearance of sunspots over time requires that you notice the times when the sun isn't so spotty. During those times, the sun simply fell from my attention because there wasn't much to see. blf you've been following the sun lately, you're aware that we're somewhere in the midst of Solar Maximum: that season in the solar cycle of greatest magnetic activity when sunspots and other related magnetic events like solar flares and coronal mass ejections are frequent and pronounced. On average, Solar Maximum comes every 11 years, reaching a singular high in magnetic activity and then relaxing toward Solar Minimum. By the original predictions, Solar Maximum was expected to peak around May of 2013. However, except for a sharp spike in activity in late 2011, all of 2012 fell below par, appearing on graphs as if Solar Maximum climaxed a year early and is now on the way out. Did it fizzle, ending unexpectedly early -- and after a performance that fell short of the anticipated mark? Or perhaps...with a light drum roll...is the drop in activity we've observed lately only a brief calm before a spectacular resurgence?

[ARNewsline Report 1860 -- Apr 5 2013:](#)

by Bill Pasternak (WA6ITF) on April 5, 2013

The following is a QST. The FCC says it is reviewing RF exposure limits in all radio services; a look at the possible candidates to be the next FCC Chairman; a UK ham's signal is heard 2000 Kilometers away with only 10 milliwatts from a Raspberry Pi transmitter; the tiny Baofeng HT becomes a paradise for makers and hackers and the story of how ham radio help to stop a civil war. All this and more on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1860 coming your way right now.

[Propagation Forecast Bulletin #14 de K7RA:](#)

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on April 5, 2013

Solar activity increased over the past week, with average daily sunspot numbers up 32 points to 81.6, and average daily solar flux increasing more than 16 points to 113.4. The geomagnetic field was active on March 29, due to solar wind.

[Stratford Students Host Question and Answer with Space Station:](#)

by 13wmaz.com on April 5, 2013

Stratford Academy students made their own history today by hosting chat with an orbiting astronaut 250 miles above them. The students held a Question and Answer with Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield, who is on the International Space Station. It was all part of a project through amateur radio to connect the ISS to schools. The event was only possible during a 9-minute window from 8:47 a.m. to 8:58 a.m., when the ISS was flying over the radio center in Santa Rosa, California. During that time, kids squeezed in questions on everything from what astronauts do for fun in orbit to how they tell the difference between night and day. Since the radio project is experimental, there was no guarantee of a connection. Although the astronauts could hear their questions, the responses coming in were staticky and hard to follow. "It's still really cool that we actually got to hear his voice and know that he's actually listening to us speak," says junior Maggie Bergmark. They say it's still a moment they'll never forget.

[DX News -- ARRL DX Bulletin #14:](#)

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on April 4, 2013

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by N7QT, NC1L, The Weekly DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

[This Week in Radiosport:](#)

by The ARRL Letter on April 4, 2013

This Week in Radiosport:

[World Radiosport Team Championship Solicit Volunteers for Station Test:](#)

by The ARRL Letter on April 4, 2013

The WRTC 2014 Organizing Committee will be conducting a capability and training test for the World Radiosport Team Championship stations and volunteers during the 2013 running of the IARU HF Championship, July 13-14. According to WRTC 2014 Co-Chairman Randy Thompson, K5ZD, the organizing committee is looking for local hams and volunteers willing to visit New England during the contest to assist with station setup and operation; preference will be given to those volunteers who intend to return and assist with the 2014 event. Thompson said the committee is looking to set up and operate up to 30 stations during for the final station test before the WRTC 2014 competition in July 2014.

[ARRL in Action: What Have We Been Up To Lately?](#)

by The ARRL Letter on April 4, 2013

This feature is a concise monthly update of some of the things that the ARRL is doing on behalf of its members. This installment -- which covers the month of March -- takes a look at the FCC's decision to grant the ARRL's waiver request for TDMA operation, the 2013 sessions of the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology, the ARRL's Second Century Campaign, new League publications, updates from the ARRL Development Office, reports from the Official Observer Desk and more.

[Southgate Amateur Radio News](#)

- 7 April [Propagation Report from Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP](#)
[ICASA getting tough on ISPs](#)
[Upcoming ARISS contact with Innalik School, Inukjuak, Nunavut, Canada](#)
[Upcoming ARISS contact with Sir George Simpson Jr. High, Albert, AB, Canada](#)
[Pedestrian mobile Radio Ham works Australia](#)
[PA1DYK Silent Key](#)
[Wireless lighting - ham radio style](#)
[AMSAT Life Member VK4PJ is 100 on April 13](#)
[Rare Scottish grid squares on the satellites](#)

- 6 April [Propagation de K7RA](#)
[GB3FK Handbook](#)
[Radio hams active in Argentine floods](#)
[IRESC Training Course](#)
[VOA Radiogram features MT63](#)
[New G8YTZ Digital TV Transmitter website](#)
[Ted Cooke-Yarborough 1918-2013](#)
[Ham Radio Direction Finding for Beginners](#)
[GB3CP Repeater Gathering](#)
[Radio ham publishes post 9/11 book](#)

- 5 April [G100RSGB on the amateur radio satellites](#)
[First Cuba to EI contact on FO-29](#)
[CR5IARU - World Amateur Radio Day 2013](#)
[SolderSmoke Amateur Radio Podcast 151](#)
[Dave Raycroft's ICPO Bulletin](#)
[DX News from the ARRL](#)
[FCC seeks to reassess RF exposure limits](#)

- 4 April [Tony's 10 Metre Band Report](#)
[IOTA news from the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club](#)
[Diamond DXCC](#)
[144 MHz Trans-Equatorial Propagation](#)
[InnovAntennas introduces DESpoleTM Multiband Antenna Line](#)
[The World of Amateur Radio TV show](#)
[STRaND-1 signal reports requested](#)
[RAC Field Organization on Twitter](#)
[Banaba Island](#)
[Cairngorms National Park](#)
- 3 April [Upcoming ARISS contact with Stratford Academy, Macon, GA](#)
[The voice of the Falklands](#)
[AROS Deputy Controller sought](#)
[Best Handheld Radios](#)
[RSGB Centenary AGM](#)
[SA AMSAT Space Symposium to feature interesting topics](#)
[Irish entries wanted for Youngsters On The Air](#)
[Samoa DXpedition](#)
[RAFARS anniversary](#)
[French CW Society - Special Event](#)
[F6KOP Special Event](#)
[Edinburgh Mini Maker Faire this Sunday](#)
[Final IARU-R1 Vienna 2013 papers released](#)
[Have any UK Amateur Radio Licences expired ?](#)
- 2 April [Fall in UK amateur radio exams](#)
[1940's Family Experience Weekend](#)
[Ham Radio Satellite at 15th EISC](#)
[G100RSGB on Amateur Radio Satellites](#)
[Cuban radio ham looking for UK satellite contacts](#)
[Ham radio club has fun and helps community](#)
[ARISS contact on Echolink and IRLP](#)
[Martlesham Microwave Round Table programme now published](#)
[Latest issue of CQ-DATV](#)
[InnovAntennas at TARG](#)
- 1 April [Vintage Hallicrafters Movie - Voice of victory](#)
[Mexican amateur radio club celebrates 80th anniversary](#)
[SARL National Convention](#)
[Ham radio: Staying relevant in the social media era](#)
[First of its kind in Ireland](#)
[CQ WW SSB DX Contest 2012 results](#)
[The Buzz - Electric car and 52MHz](#)
[Spring issue of OSCAR News](#)
[DATV-Express Project – March update report](#)
[GEO Group introduce Electronic Membership](#)
[History This Week](#)

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.

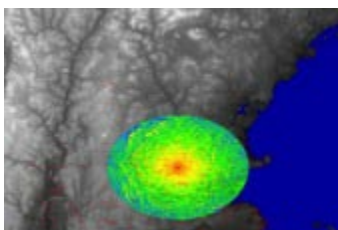
EmComm events and repeater use

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.



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. Complete info on the site can be found at this [URL](#).

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: Please check with Hugh Maguire-N1QGE, hulin127@verizon.net, if you need a badge.



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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This month's editor: Terry Stader – KA8SCP

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Our forum is: <http://wb1gof.net/forums/>

Contact us at: info@wb1gof.org

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