



# *PARTicles*

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

April 2015

## President's Column

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### - *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*

I received an email recently from a gentleman named Neil Thomas, who was referred to me by a mutual friend. Neil was trying to plan a trip for his energetic and enthusiastic Boy Scouts who are working on their Radio merit badges. On very short notice, we arranged for 11 scouts to come over to my house and visit my ham radio shack. While 1/2 of them were in the shack, the other 1/2 were in the kitchen, working on their written assignment.

It was a contest weekend, so we heard lots of DX callsigns, and many different accents. The boys heard the phonetics, and typed the callsigns into the QRZ website. There were many countries that were new to the Scouts, but the map on that website showed the country's location. This helped the Scouts learn something about geography.

Each of the Scouts also used the Morse code key to "send" their names to me, one letter at a time. They had a chart with each letter and the code. I was able to guess each Scout's name to their delight.

The best part for the Scouts is when I called onto the 955 repeater asking if any of you were out there ready to talk to the scouts. There were at least 7-8 of you who answered immediately! The Scouts were very happy to hear that you guys were there to help them with their merit badges. I coached them to mention their first name, age, and a hobby or interest. That seemed to seed the discussion. It was also impressive to the scouts that several of you received your Radio Merit Badges when you were Boy Scouts. I'd like to thank those of

you who were available to chat with the Scouts on the radio that day.

There is a lot of club activity happening these days, and many chances for you to volunteer. Coming soon is the Kit Building activity, where many of us will get together and solder together an AM radio kit. One use would be to listen to the Westford 1630 AM radio broadcast, callsign WQSS938, with 10 watts of power.

Other upcoming events include the Westford Apple Blossom Parade, NearFest, and Field Day. I know that several of you volunteered for the Boston Marathon, and we'd all be curious to hear about your experience.

I went to the FARA Flea Market in Framingham and saw a few folks from the club who were also having a good time checking out the bargains. To my great pleasure, I found a chrome McElroy key from 1940 (deluxe model 300 stream key). I was told that the key came from a silent key's estate. This is a nice companion piece to the black bakelite Stream key that was given to me by a very generous local ham. I am having a local woodworker make two nice wooden bases for me. I hope to bring them to the May PART meeting to show you. I've made about 20 QSOs on the chrome key so far, and had a lot of fun. The bakelite key will be on the air shortly.

Have a lot of fun!

73 de Andy KB1OIQ

Next PART meeting: Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup>

@1930 – Westford Police station

## Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

### PART Treasury between 18-February '15 & 16-March '15 (As of 17-March '15)

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Repeater Fund</u>	<u>Checking Total</u>
Old Balance	\$ 3,667.31	\$ 2,871.32	\$ 6,538.63
Income	\$ 295.00	\$ 127.26	\$ 422.26
Expenses	\$ ( 53.85)	\$ 0.00	\$ (53.85)
Net	\$ 241.15	\$ 127.26	\$ 368.41
New Balance	\$ 3,908.46	\$ 2,998.58	\$ 6,907.04

### PART 2014 Membership as of 3-April '15

	Individuals		Households	
	(= New for 2015		(= New for 2015	
	+ Renew for 2015)		+ Renew for 2015)	
Full (\$25)*	28	(= 1 + 27)	28	(= 1 + 27)
Senior (\$15)*	33	(= 1 + 32)	33	(= 1 + 32)
Family (\$30)*	19	(= 2 + 17)	9	(= 1 + 8)
Student (\$15)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(= 0 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(= 0 + 0)
<b>Grand Total*</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>(= 4 + 76)</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>(= 3 + 67)</b>

ARRL members:\* 72

(Including ARRL Life members:\* 8)

NOTE: \* Starred lines changed since 9-March '15

##To pay dues##

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

-or-

Club Meeting, Westford P.D., 7:30PM, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday

## Your Call EXPIRED?

### How to avoid losing your license...

The USA Callsign database contains about 750,000 listings and at any given moment, approximately 30,000 of these callsigns are expired! Over 1,000 old callsigns are returned to the unused pool each month! <http://www.qrz.com/expired/>



## Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

### April 21<sup>st</sup> 2015

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

### May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015

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

### May 16<sup>th</sup> 2015

- Apple Blossom Parade – Contact Terry - [KA8SCP@WB1GOF.org](mailto:KA8SCP@WB1GOF.org) for more information

### May 19<sup>th</sup> 2015

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

### June 6<sup>th</sup> 2015

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

### June 16<sup>th</sup> 2015

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

### June 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> 2015

- PART Field Day - Concord Rod and Gun Club, 74 Strawberry Hill Rd, Concord MA

### July 4<sup>th</sup> 2015

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

### July 21<sup>st</sup> 2015

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

## Monthly PART Meetings and Social Events

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

## Ham Fleas/Events

### Flea at MIT

Sunday, 19-Apr'15

Buyers \$6.00, 9:00AM-2:00PM (\$1.00 discount with flyer:

<<http://web.mit.edu/wimx/www/swapfest/swapfest-2014.04.pdf>> )

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

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

<<http://web.mit.edu/wimx/www/swapfest/buyers-parking.pdf>>

### NEAR-Fest XVII

Friday, 1-May'15 and Saturday, 2-May'15

Walk-in buyers \*FREE\* Fri/Sat!

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

Deerfield Fairgrounds

43 Stage Rd. (Rt. 43), Deerfield, NH: <http://goo.gl/maps/xqKbb>

### Schedule of Events *of note - Friday, May 1st 2015*

**12:00 PM: "Buddipole In The Field" presented by Scott Andersen, NE1RD** (Located in the **Entertainment Building**, see map) Portable operation is a great way to enjoy the hobby. The Buddipole antenna system is a versatile platform for deploying antenna configurations in a variety of situations. Yagis, verticals, and dipoles can be made with this system to support nearly every situation. Scott is the author of this informative book and will review using this antenna system "in the field". NEAR-fest will give away a copy of Scott's book to one lucky audience member and don't forget a Buddipole antenna system is Fridays Main door prize here at NEAR-Fest!

# ***New England Area Ham/Electronic Fleas:***

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

## **2015**

18 Ap S Portland ME PAWA @Am Legion Bryce K1GAX 207 415 0498 A+  
19 April Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+  
25 Apr Brookline,NH NEARC Antique \$5@8:30 \$10@7:30 Bruce 603 772 7516 W+  
25 Apr Gales Ferry CT RASON Auction @FireHs \$2@10 Gary WT1SND 860 884 4218 +  
1,2 May Deerfield NH NEARfest XVII @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 R  
9 May E Greenbush NY EGARA @FireCo \$6@8 \$6/T@6 Tom KC2FCP 518 272 1494 W+  
17 May Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F  
30 May Goshen CT SoBARC @FG \$5@8 Stan W2VID 518 398 7003 W+  
31 May Fishkill NY MtBARC \$5@8 \$5@7 @QWL DnSTCorr Adam KC2DAA 845 849 3666 W+  
31 May Sorel-Tracy PQ STARC \$8@7 \$15/T@6 Luc VE2DEW 450 743 8676 R+  
31 May Queens NY HOSARC @HoS Stephen WB2KDG 718 898 5599 +  
6 June Hermon ME PSARA @8 @HS TG@6:30 Jerry K1GUP 207 848 3400  
6 June Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518 +  
7 June Bethpage NY LIMARC @Briarcliffe Richie K2KNB 516 694 4937 A+  
20 June Newington CT NARL @StMary \$5@8 \$15@6 Quintin KB1EWM 860 383 8203 F+  
21 June Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F  
19 July Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F  
16 Aug Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F  
21,23 Aug Boxboro MA FEMARA NE Conv Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 A  
30 Aug Adams MA NoBARC @BoweFld 6:30sell 7:30buy Eric KA1SUN 413 743 9975  
5 Sept Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518 +  
13 Sept Ballston Spa NY SCRACES @FG \$10@7 Darlene N2XQG 518 587 2385  
13 Sept Newtown CT CARA @TownHall\$5@8:30 Ron AB1RJ 203 938 7007  
19 Sept Forestdale RI RIAFMRS @VFW \$5/Sp@8 Pete AA1PL 401 639 4484  
20 Sept Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F  
26 Sep Brookline,NH NEARC Antique \$5@8:30 \$10@7:30 Bruce 603 772 7516 W+  
16,17 Oct Deerfield NH NEARfest XVIII @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 +  
17,18 Oct Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553  
18 Oct Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F  
25 Oct Hicksville NY LIMARC @LevitHall \$6@9 \$20/T Richie K2KNB 516 694 4937 W+  
14 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/S@7 Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422 +  
5 Dec Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518 +

## **2016**

6 Feb Springfield VT CVFMA.org @VFW @8-12 Steve N1QDT 802 885 8110 +  
5 Mar Chicopee MA MtTomARA @MooseLodge @8:30 S@6:30 Mary KB1ME 413 222 1990 +  
12 Mar Dayville CT ECARA @StJosephCh \$3@8A \$10/T Peter K1LNx 401 603 1485 +  
25,26 Mar Lewiston ME AARC ME Conv @Ramada @8 Ivan N1OXA 207 784 0350 +  
29,30 Apr Deerfield NH NEARfest XIX @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235  
14,15 Oct Deerfield NH NEARfest XX @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235





## *The 47th Annual (2015) Apple Blossom Parade – Saturday May 16*

We have once again been asked to provide communications for the Westford Apple Blossom Parade this year on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

The parade starts around 10 AM and will start near the junction of Graniteville Rd and Main St. and ending at Abbot School. You will need to be available from 8:30/9:00AM until 11:00AM/noon at the latest. You will need to bring a 2 meter walkie. We need about a dozen operators for this event.

Most volunteers will be assigned to "shadow" various members of the Parade committee. We will also be manning the Net Control Station at the Police station. Our actual duty will not start till about 9:00AM but we need to get into the center of town before the roads are closed and we need to establish our assignments by 8:30 AM or so.

Please contact Terry-KA8SCP (@WB1GOF.org) if you are interested and can assist or need more information. If someone would like to assist in organizing this year's event, that would be great!

## Field Day 2015

Field Day preparations are underway, and we're looking forward to a great outing. There will be a meeting to discuss Field Day preparations on Tuesday, May 5, at 7:30 PM, at the Concord Rod & Gun Club, 74 Strawberry Hill Road, Concord, MA.

We're looking for operators in all modes and for help in setup and tear down. Be ready for a discussion at the next PART club meeting.

- Neil Thomas, Assistant Scoutmaster - Troop 195, Westford, MA

You have heard about them, you may have even been a Scout once and earned some, but what are they?

For me they are a chance to expose a bright young mind to possibilities. Sometimes this new knowledge can lead to a thirst for even more knowledge and when that happens I want to cheer.

Merit Badges have come and gone like clothing fashions but sometimes the trend is reversed.



As a registered Merit Badge Counselor for the [Radio Merit Badge](#) of Boy Scouts of America (BSA) I have seen that effect. Just look at the numbers for the Radio Merit Badge over the last three years. This badge was introduced in 1923 and has enjoyed quite a following until recently then its fortunes turned around.

A few years ago a few friends of mine decided to create the Math Science Technology Expo to create an opportunity for those technically minded Scouts to explore careers through Merit Badges. After seven years it is still going strong. Signups are taken during Christmas and the Radio Merit Badge is one of the first to have a full set of subscriptions. This Expo takes place over two days in March each year. The first day is classroom study; the second day is a field trip. The thing to remember here is that the Scouts have pre-qualified themselves as being motivated and interested. My colleague Ron Quattrochi (WQ1Z) and I have taken great pride in that at least one Scout has pursued the Amateur Radio License after the Expo.

But the one thing that we are adamant about is the focus on the Amateur Radio aspect of the badge. Many other people seem to think that we should visit a commercial radio station. That doesn't work for us as we know how motivated the Scouts can get when they use a Morse key or start to talk to someone over the air. We believe that Amateur Radio is relevant today as always, just look at Hurricane Katrina.

However, Scouts can be cool to this especially if they believe that the technology is from the 50's. So, one of our demonstrations is to construct a Crystal Radio from junk. That gets their attention and shows what recycling can do.

This year I was struggling to find a field trip. This is when Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ) came to the rescue. At short notice he worked to me to setup a relevant trip. He hosted 11 young minds. We covered topics such as: NOAA Weather Radio; Q signals; and logging contacts

They actually got their hands on a radio and spoke to other ham radio operators. This seems trivial to us in an age of email but somehow seemed more real. The tactile response from touching the equipment left a great impression.

While Andy was working the radios, I was sitting with the other half of the group covering careers and wrapping up their homework. This gave me a chance to talk with the boys in group setting and determine the level of knowledge. Their answers proved that they were engaged. One Scout had traveled from Northwood, NH just to be part of the day.

Andy was kind enough to extend an invitation to the Concord Field Day on June 27th, 2015, as well as an offer of a radio to those Scouts who pursued this interest. There are some takers but I expect it to happen in the summer.

I would like to extend my thanks to Andy for making this year's field trip such a memorable event. If at all possible I would like to bounce ideas off him for next year as well.

## Member Contributions

### A Simple Antenna for Portable Operation

- *Bob Glorioso, W1IS*

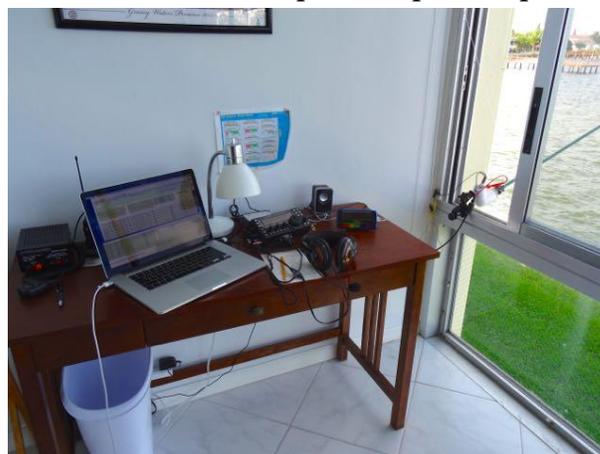
Ever since I got my KX3 and got the freedom to take that small, self contained, all band, all mode, rig anywhere including the back yard, the beach, etc., I have explored and used several different easy to launch antennas. I've used a 29' wire thrown over a tree with a 15' counterpoise lying on the ground, a random wire because that's what I had at the time, and a Buddistick. I've used the Buddistick hanging nearly horizontally out the window of our FL condo the past few years. Note that the Buddistick mount isn't strong enough to hold the antenna at that angle so I use some twine attached to the window frame as a guy and support. I found that the long whip version with seven feet of wire clipped to the end works well with the tuner in the KX3 on 40-10m without a loading coil. Of course the feed line should be short as the cable loss will be high with the high SWR on the cable on some bands. Mine is short, about 6 feet. The Buddistick without the un-needed loading coil is about 9.5 feet long and I used an alligator clip to add seven feet of wire off the end.

Our second floor condo is about 20 feet from the intra-coastal waterway and my neighbors kept asking if I was catching anything so I started looking at fishing poles to use as an antenna. Wandering through a large sports gear store, I found a ten-foot 'BnM' telescoping Crappie pole with built in reel on sale for \$12. This was perfect as the fishing line threaded inside the carbon fiber sections that collapse to five feet. The hole in the end of the pole looked perfect for threading my stripped translucent zip cord or the Silky 26 AWG antenna wire #534 from the Wireman, <http://thewireman.com/antennap.html>. I used a 17' of wire so I can use it hanging out the window. For vertical use I let the extra wire just hand down along the



outside of the pole. After you thread the wire through the pole, extend it to full length and secure the wire by tying a knot in it. Now, the question was how to mount it.

The solution was found on a trip through Lowes plumbing department with the handle of the fishing pole in hand. With a few wraps of duct tape, it fit snugly inside a 2-inch plastic pipe. For my condo configuration, I selected a 90-degree elbow mounted to the Buddistick vertical antenna clamp with a 1/4x20 nut and lock washer as in the photo. I picked up some banana plugs and jacks to connect the coax I had on hand to the antenna but a BNC or SO-239 can also be mounted on the elbow to connect the



antenna to your rig. For picnic table operation you can just run the antenna wire directly to your rig. I use the aluminum window frame in our condo for a counterpoise. You can use other things for a counterpoise but a hunk of wire from 15-30 feet long stretched along the ground works fine for picnic table operation. The trick is to find a length of wire that your rig and tuner can accommodate. You don't have to cut the counterpoise, just roll up the end until the antenna can be tuned.

To use it as a Vertical use a 4-6 inch piece of 2-inch plastic pipe with cap bolted to the Buddistick vertical mount.

There are many version of telescoping Crappie poles. BnM has three versions, 10, 12, and 14 feet for \$16-\$23, <https://www.bnmpoles.com/p-133-fish-pole-reel-combo.aspx>. The Buddistick vertical mount is available at, <http://www.buddipole.com/veranclam.html> for \$24.50.

The proof is in the operating. From our FL condo on the intra-coastal waterway, I have worked all over the U.S. including Alaska and Hawaii, the Marshall Islands, Japan and many countries in Europe, Africa and South America using the KX3 and its internal antenna tuner. DXCC country count so far is 95.



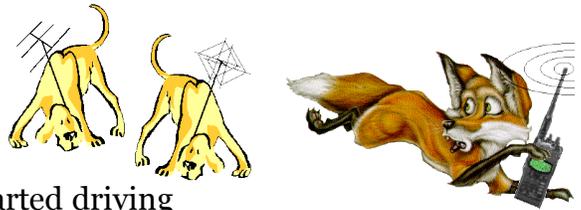
a

## Fox Hunt season is here!

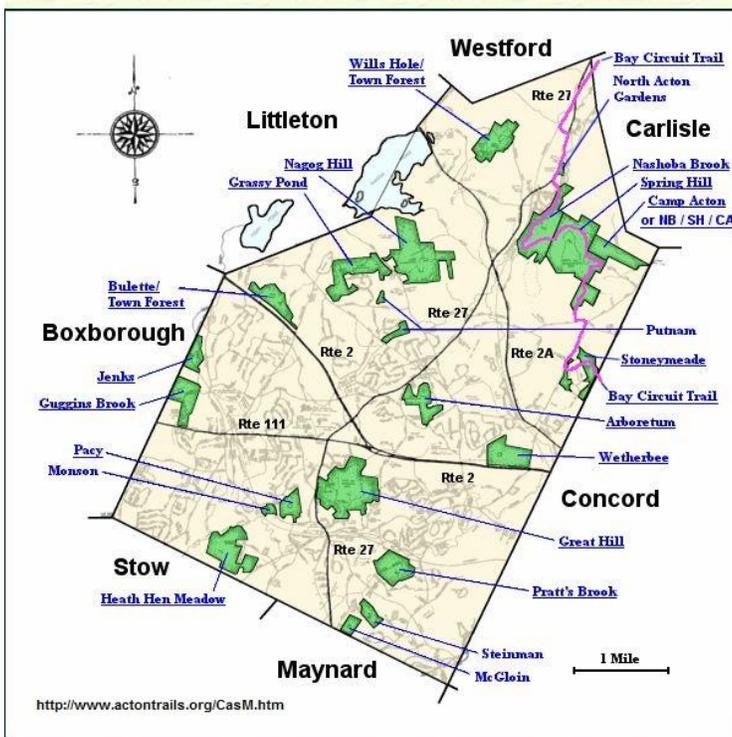
### First Fox Hunt Alone

- *George Saari, KB1VXH*

I'd like to tell you about my successful fox hunt recently. I decided to attempt it as the day had promised to be sunny and warm. I had seen the posting on the net so I decided to look up any information I could find about Acton conservation lands. I was able to print off a map of the lands. I used that for a guide. I drove down to 119 and 27 turned left towards Chelmsford. It was 9:30 am. I stopped a short distance up the road and tried turning on the fox, too far out. Went further saw a woods road and turned in and tried the tape measure yagi. The fox activated! I got a direction pointing north. I started driving north until I got to town line so I turned back. I saw an abandoned rail road so I got out there .



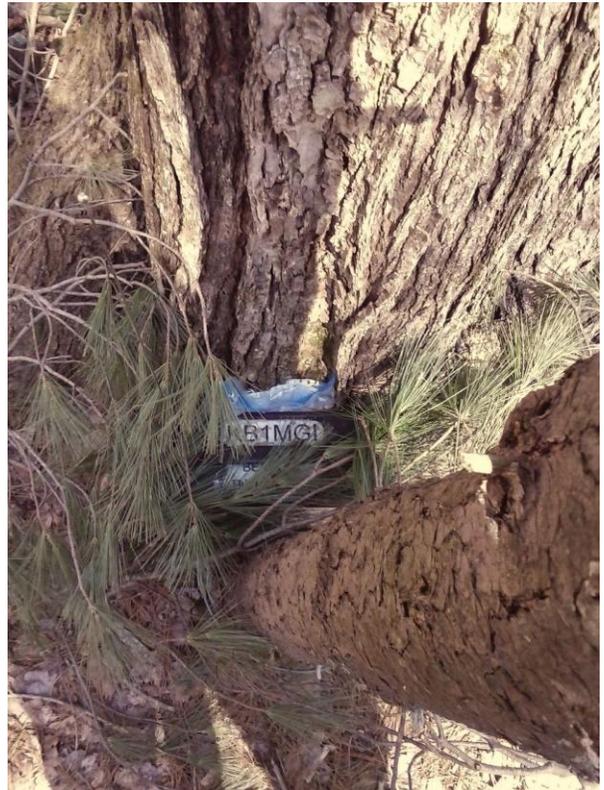
### Town of Acton Conservation Land Maps



Looked like a good prospect. I had a signal pointing south. I left the yagi in the car and was sure it was somewhere there. I looked all around. Got what I thought were good signals but later in the day I would realize they were not. I spent a lot of time looking around the area, two hours! I needed a break so I went to McDonalds for lunch and a cold drink.

My second attempt was after lunch. I went back to where I had heard it. I saw a sign this time, Acton conservation land. It was a community garden plot. I pulled in and saw some ladies getting ready to garden and asked them how big of an area it was. I thought it might be where it was hidden but realized it was just a garden plot. No place to hide a fox there, but had a stronger signal. They told me there was a conservation area across the road, the Acton town forest. I went there and had a strong signal there too. I

thought for sure it was there. I spent a long time there looking but it had some hills that I later realized were reflecting the signal and confusing me. I almost got disoriented off the trail there. After finding my way back I had the map of other possible sites nearby. I put out a call to KB1MGI about 1:30 commenting how I was looking for the fox all day. I knew I was close but I was getting tired. Thanks John for suggesting I go across the highway to the Nashoba Brook conservation area. The signal was much stronger there. I then realized how much time I had wasted on the weaker signal thinking I was close! I was just using the HT and going off frequency in 5kc increments. I knew then I was really close but not close enough yet to hear on 3<sup>rd</sup> harmonic. After doing some body fade I finally heard the signal on 3<sup>rd</sup> harmonic. I knew then I was there, but where? I was spending my time looking under trees lying down on ground, but could not see it, finally I spotted it. Well hidden under some branches. 2:30 pm. Bingo.



#### Comments by John KB1MGI

I have to give George a lot of credit for spending hours to track down his first Fox hunt by himself. I met George on the last Fox hunt of last season with 6 inches of snow on the ground at the Thanksgiving Forest in Chelmsford heading for the transmitter. I taught George some tips on Fox Hunting using body fading the signal and how to head in the right direction.

The first few times I went out Fox Hunting I did not find the Fox at all. I just walked aimlessly in circles chasing bouncing signals. I still get stumped at times thinking that I am close to the transmitter but am not.

So congrats to George again he was the first one to find the Fox this year.



***The ARRL New England Convention  
at the Holiday Inn in Boxborough,  
Massachusetts***

**August 21 - 23, 2015**

**TICKETS NOW ON SALE! [Purchase Tickets](#)**



From eHam.net News:

### [Bush Telegraph Centre Display in May:](#)

by WIA on April 19, 2015

The Tableland Radio Group with the Cardwell Bush Telegraph Museum in North Queensland will be putting on a display of old Morse code and old radio equipment on May 29 and 30. The location is the Historic Post Office, Telegraph Station, Old Shire Hall, Courthouse and Lock-up in Victoria Street, Cardwell.

### [Sandford Mill Celebrates International Marconi Day with Activities:](#)

by braintreeandwithamtimes.co.uk on April 19, 2015

THE SANDFORD Mill Science Education Centre will be celebrating International Marconi day with a day packed with activities. Guglielmo Marconi, inventor of radio completed much of his work in Chelmsford and the first regular entertainment broadcasts were transmitted from a hut in Writtle in 1922, which now sits in the Engine house at Sandford Mill, in Sandford Mill Road. IMD is held to celebrate Marconi's birth on April 25, 1874. There is an abundance of fun and educational activities to take part in at Sandford Mill on April 25 with access to the Engine house and Barn which store industrial heritage displays, the historic 1922 Marconi broadcasting hut and Marine Radio cabins dating from 1900s to 1960s and there will be demonstrations and live radio transmission from Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society. John Bowen, from the society, will be giving a talk entitled 'Saving lives at Sea up to and including the RMS Lusitania', which he will repeat during the day.

### [VOM Amateur Radio Club Hosts Hamfest:](#)

by sonomanews.com on April 18, 2015

The Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club is holding its annual ARRL Hamfest from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 25. The Hamfest will be held at the Sonoma Valley Veterans Memorial Building, 126 First St. W., Sonoma. Admission is free for the Hamfest, and "hams" and those interesting in amateur radio are encouraged to bring the entire family. Raffle tickets will be distributed at no cost to each person registering, with door prize drawings held every half hour. The event will include a walk-in volunteer examiner session with registration starting at 9 a.m. with testing for all license elements immediately following.

### [Amateur Radio Clubs to Throw Annual Hamfest:](#)

by morganton.com on April 18, 2015

Local radio enthusiasts are slated to congregate at the Burke County Fairgrounds for the 18th annual Catawba Valley Hamfest on Saturday. The Hamfest is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and provides a chance for amateur radio operators to socialize, shop for new equipment, sell old equipment, and take training classes, according to a release from event organizers. "We talk on the radio all the time, so it's a face-to-face meeting," said Nathan Jaynes, president of the Hamfest board of directors. Of particular interest this year are skywarn spotter training classes offered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Jaynes said. "NOAA comes in and does those classes," he said. "This is the first class we've had in this area for probably two years." Also of interest will be amateur radio license testing, amateur radio equipment vendors and an electronics flea market, according to the release.

### [New Communications Center Vital Element to County's Emergency Operations:](#)

by hstoday.us on April 18, 2015

Because backup communications are vital during an emergency, a new state-of-the-art Communications Center (CC) was designed to complement the Harris County, Texas Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's (HCOHSEM) new Emergency Operations Center (EOC). In 2014, HCOHSEM acquired additional space at Houston TranStar to better accommodate staff and provide a larger and more efficient EOC to serve its more than 4.3 million residents. HCOHSEM is touted as a national model of best practices in emergency planning, preparedness, response and recovery. "In a dynamic region with more declared disasters than most states," HCOHSEM said its "formula for success is the engagement of all levels of government, the business community and volunteer organizations. HCOHSEM's newest upgrades improve emergency operations not only in Harris County, but throughout the region. The EOC "exists to prepare and protect its residents from disasters of all kinds," HCOHSEM said, adding that, "During an emergency, HCOHSEM activates its Emergency Operations Center to support and coordinate emergency operations, and to keep stakeholders and the public informed." "HCOHSEM

constantly works to develop new internal systems that further improve emergency operations," said Harris County Emergency Management Coordinator Mark Sloan. "Our new Communications Center is the technology component, it provides the equipment and systems needed during disaster operations." Without solid communications during a crisis, HCOHSEM said, it would be impossible to provide assistance to local governments and incident managers in the field, and very difficult to inform the public.

### **[Visalia Experiences Radioactive Invasion. Again:](#)**

by visaliatimesdelta.com on April 18, 2015

This weekend will see the 66th International DX Convention come to Visalia, where hundreds, perhaps thousands, of ham radio operators from around the world will "invade" the Visalia Convention Center. Each year, the Northern California DX Club (this year's host) and the Southern California DX Club alternate hosting the internationally known convention, drawing interested parties from around the world. The three-day convention, held in Visalia since 1978, has events for all the myriad aspects of Amateur Radio, from seminars on "DX-peditions" (traveling and setting up radio stations in remote locations, from tropical islands to Antarctica) and how to operate a radio station in a safe and neighbor-friendly manner, to updates in technology and operating procedures. Manufacturers and organizations set up tables and booths in the Convention Center to hawk their wares, from local US Tower, to international giants Icom and Yaesu.

### **[ARNewsline Report 1961 -- April 17 2015:](#)**

by Bill Pasternak (WA6ITF) on April 17, 2015

The following is a QST. The IARU Monitoring Service identifies new intruders into the ham radio bands; a geomagnetic storm sparks auroras over Canada and the United States; Australia may soon take ham radio into space; an unlicensed broadcaster in Kentucky hit with a \$15,000 fine, and you may be surprised to learn what causes ham radio its worst interference. Find out right here on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1961 coming your way right now.

### **[FCC to Open Up Valuable Airwaves for Tech and Telecom Companies:](#)**

by Malathi Nayak on April 17, 2015

NEW YORK (Reuters) – U.S. regulators on Friday voted to open a swath of government-controlled airwaves for commercial use by tech and telecom companies such as Verizon Communications Inc and Google Inc as they seek to meet growing data demands from new wireless devices.

### **[QSO Today EP 37 Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA:](#)**

by Eric Guth (WA6IGR) on April 17, 2015

Amateur radio was the key driver that led Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, to a MSEE in Electrical Engineering and then a career as an RF design engineer with both Motorola and later Magnavox. When the hobby bites us at an early age, doors open to a bright and successful future.

### **[FCC Proposes New Privacy Rules for Amateur Radio Operators:](#)**

by amazonaws.com on April 17, 2015

The Federal Communications Commission is proposing new privacy rules for historical amateur radio operators. Under the proposed rules, these amateur radio operators would not be required to provide address information for public inspection. "The commission found that amending these rules will enhance amateur radio operators' privacy without undermining the public interest in knowing who is authorized to operate on amateur spectrum," the FCC wrote. The public has 60 days to comment.

### **[Morse Code Message for Art Piece Spelled Alarm for Some:](#)**

by theindependent.com on April 17, 2015

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) -- The flashing lights were signaling a message of love in Morse code, but they spelled out something alarming to some passers-by who saw them in Lincoln's Haymarket district. The Lincoln Journal Star reported Thursday that incandescent lights had been set up on the third floor of one building and the fifth floor of another nearby. Switches were synchronized so a Morse message could be sent. It's all part of a public art piece by Jamie Burmeister, of Omaha. He told the newspaper that the message he's been sending is "LUV U." But some people who called police or businesses in the buildings thought the message was an SOS sent by people in trouble.

### **[DX News -- ARRL DX Bulletin #15:](#)**

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on April 16, 2015

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by CX3AL, SQ9AC, WW1ME, QRZ 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.

### [ARRL, US House Members Coming Through to Support H.R. 1301:](#)

by The ARRL Letter on April 16, 2015

Many ARRL members have answered the call to urge their US House member to co-sponsor The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 -- H.R. 1301 -- helping to raise the list of co-sponsors to 39. But ARRL Regulatory Affairs Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, said the campaign continues, and more voices are needed to join the chorus.

## ARRL News

### [Special Event Stations Mark World Amateur Radio Day, April 18](#)

Today, Saturday, April 18, is World Amateur Radio Day (WARD). The event celebrates the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) on April 18, 1925, in Paris, with ARRL [...]

### [ARRL Teachers Institute Sessions Still Accepting Applications](#)

The ARRL Education & Technology Program is still accepting applications for all four sessions of the ARRL Teachers Institute this summer. Apply now! The deadline is May 1. ARRL is [...]

### [Australian Ham's "PicoSpace" Balloon Circumnavigates the Globe](#)

A foil, party-type balloon carrying a ham radio payload has circumnavigated the globe. Launched on April 6 by Australian radio amateur Andy Nguyen, VK3YT, of Kensington, Victoria, [...]

### [ARRL "Ham Aid" HF Gear Arrives in Micronesia in Wake of Tropical Cyclone](#)

An ARRL "Ham Aid" kit of HF gear has arrived in Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) as part of a relief effort in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Maysak. The Ham Aid equipment accompanied [...]

### [The K7RA Solar Update](#)

Solar activity increased this week. Average daily sunspot numbers increased from 50.1 last week (April 2-8) to 65.6 in the recent (April 9-15) period. Average daily solar flux rose from [...]

### [New ARRL Oscilloscope Book Now Available as E-Book](#)

ARRL's new book Oscilloscopes for Radio Amateurs by Paul Danzer, N1II, is now available as an e-book for the Amazon Kindle. Oscilloscopes for Radio Amateurs is filled with practical [...]

### [FCC Proposes to Make Past Amateur Radio Address Information Private](#)

The FCC is seeking comments on a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 15-81 that would restrict routine public inspection of an Amateur Radio licensee's address history. The [...]

### [British Astronaut to Share His ISS Experience with Students via Amateur Radio](#)

The UK's first European Space Agency astronaut, Tim Peake, KG5BVI, plans to share his "Principia" mission space adventure with students on Earth via Amateur Radio. He's invited [...]

### [Global Amateur Radio Emergency Conference is Cancelled](#)

The sponsors of the 2015 Global Amateur Radio Emergency Conference (GAREC 2015) have announced that the event has been cancelled due to a lack of interest. Seppo Sisatto, OH1VR, said GAREC [...]

## [ARRL 600 Meter Experiment Coordinator Recommends Renewing Experimental License](#)

ARRL 600 Meter Experiment Coordinator Fritz Raab, W1FR, said the mission of the multi-station experimental operation "has actually been accomplished," but since the US still has no [...]



Latest Amateur Radio News from around the world  
URL: <http://www.southgatearc.org>

### **1260 MHz added to Fox CubeSats**

AMSAT Vice President Engineering Jerry Buxton, N0JY, has announced plans to incorporate an L band receiver in **Fox-1C** and **Fox-1D**

### **ISS Ham Radio Digital TV**

The request to power up the Ham Video system on 2395 MHz was added to the crew task list on April 16

### **Kosmos-2504 pushes target off its orbit**

**Anatoly Zak** reports on the maneuvers of Kosmos-2504 whose signals were detected by a Dutch amateur radio enthusiast **Cees Bassa**

### **NASA Cube Quest Challenge**

The **Cube Quest Challenge**, sponsored by NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate Centennial Challenge Program, offers a total of \$5 million to teams that meet the challenge objectives of designing, building and delivering flight-qualified, small satellites capable of advanced operations near and beyond the moon

### **ZL100ANZAC**

Special event call sign **ZL100ANZAC** has been issued to commemorate this important event. To celebrate the ANZAC centenary in New Zealand ZL100ANZAC will be activated by a group of ZL operators

### **ARRL 'Ham Aid' HF gear arrives in Micronesia**

An ARRL 'Ham Aid' kit of HF gear has arrived in Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) as part of a relief effort in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Maysak

### **With a heavy heart - G3CWV - SK**

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you that I have just learnt of the passing of our dear friend **Clive Wallis, G3CWV** on 27th March 2015

### **Remaking VK Amateur LCD**

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) is to tidy up the Licence Condition Determinations (LCD) that automatically sunset in October

### **Another 450,000 DAB radios with wheels sold in Q1**

New CAP/SMMT data released by Digital Radio UK show that 450,000 new car registrations had digital radio as standard in Q1 2015

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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
- Friday 8:00 PM CanNet D-Star Net – XRF021B

NOTE: The status of the WB1GOF D-Star repeaters can be seen at <https://wb1gof.dstargateway.org>

## 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

The adult 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: \$9.00 (new price effective March 2015)*



Copyright WB1GOF,  
Robert Schmeichel  
2011



Copyright WB1GOF,  
Robert Schmeichel  
2013

## 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.*

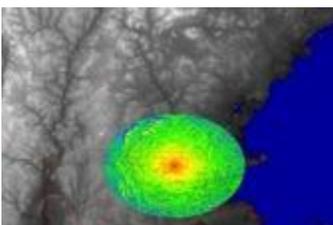
### EmComm events and repeater use

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 Terry-KA8SCP. All requests for repeater use can be initiated by email to [info@wb1gof.org](mailto:info@wb1gof.org).



**R**epeater 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](mailto: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 & Town of Westford

Bill Ohm – W1OHM, for the Town of Chelmsford

Darrel Mallory – K1EJ, North Middlesex ARES

- 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. 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

PART official mailing address is:  
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Our website is: <http://wb1gof.org>  
Our forum is: <http://wb1gof.net/forums/>  
Contact us at: [info@wb1gof.org](mailto:info@wb1gof.org)  
Follow us on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/wb1gof](http://www.twitter.com/wb1gof)  
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