



PARTicles

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

April 2014

President's Column

- *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*

Our busy season begins with a special event station to commemorate Patriots' Day here in Massachusetts. K1P will be operational from the Concord Rod & Gun Club on Saturday and Sunday, April 19th and 20th. Yes, that Sunday happens to also be Easter, which is a bit unfortunate, but we'll be on the air nonetheless. The station will be operational on SSB from 10 AM to 4 PM. Some people have sent email to me indicating an interest to operate the station. This is an excellent opportunity for people with less experience operating in the HF bands. If you are interested in operating the station, please send me email at kb1oiq@arrl.net.

At our next monthly meeting, our speaker will be Vadim (KB1RLI) Afonkin, who is heavily involved with the Boston ARDF (amateur radio direction finding, a.k.a. fox hunting) group. Vadim visited us in November 2009 and it is our pleasure to have him speak once again. His talk will be about fox hunting in general and the 14th USA ARDF Championship, which will be held on the first weekend in June 2014. Vadim learned about fox hunting in his native Russia and has competed in events worldwide. This promises to be an excellent meeting that you won't want to miss.

Near-Fest is coming May 2nd and 3rd (which are a Friday and Saturday). If the weather is good, this is a great excuse to take the day off from work, stomp around a flea market, and see lots of your friends. You're bound to buy stuff that you need,

and also that you don't need, but don't let that dissuade you from attending!

The Westford Apple Blossom Parade will take place on Saturday, May 17th, 2014. Many thanks to Terry (KA8SCP) for leading the team from PART who will be volunteering to provide radio communications for the parade. Terry is looking for about a dozen operators for this event. If interested, please contact Terry directly at: ka8scp@wb1gof.org

Field Day is going to be on the 4th full weekend in June, which this year is June 28th and 29th. If you are interested in volunteering for anything, please send email to our Field Day chairman, Bob (W1IS), or speak to him at the club meeting.

I was finally able to put the finishing touches on the latest versions of the Linux / ham radio software on which I've been working. The complete list can be seen on my QRZ page, with links for more information. A few people in the club have expressed interest, and I'll be working with them to get the software up and running on their computers. This is a never ending task, due to enhancements and bug fixes, but I find it to be a lot of fun.

If you have not paid your dues for 2014, please see Alan (W1AHM) at the club meeting.

Have a lot of fun!

73 de Andy KB1OIQ

Next PART meeting: Tuesday April 15th

@1930 – Westford Police station

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 25-February '14 & 17-March '14 (As of 18-March '14)

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Repeater Fund</u>	<u>Checking Total</u>
Old Balance	\$3,508.81	\$2,361.12	\$5,867.93
Income	\$ 250.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 265.00
Expenses	\$ (0.00)	\$ 0.00	\$ (0.00)
Net	\$ 250.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 265.00
New Balance	\$3,576.81	\$2,376.12	\$6,132.93

PART 2014 Membership as of 3-April '14

	Individuals (= New for 2014 + Renew for 2014)		Households (= New for 2014 + Renew for 2014)	
Full (\$25)*	32	(= 6 + 26)	32	(= 6 + 26)
Senior (\$15)*	31	(= 0 + 31)	31	(= 0 + 31)
Family (\$30)*	19	(= 2 + 17)	9	(= 1 + 8)
Student (\$15)	1	(= 0 + 1)	1	(= 1 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(= 0 + 0)
Grand Total*	83	(= 9 + 74)	73	(= 8 + 65)
ARRL members:*	75			
ARRL Life members:	8			

NOTE: * Starred lines changed since 11-March '14

##To pay dues##

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

-or-

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

Latest new PART members:

Bruce/AB3BB (Groton)
Cherie/KB3JSI (Groton)

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

April 15th, 2014

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

April 19th & 20th 2014

- K1P Patriots Day Special Event Station – Concord Rod & Gun Club (http://www.wb1gof.org/F_activities/K1P/K1P.html)

May 3rd, 2014

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

May 17th, 2014

- Apple Blossom Parade

May 20th, 2014

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

June 7th, 2014

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

June 17th, 2014

- 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 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

Ham Fleas/Events

New England Area Ham/Electronic Fleas:

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

2014

12,13 Apr Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553 F+
12 Apr Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518 +
12 Apr Montreal PQ MARC @StIgnatiusCh \$5@9 \$8/T@8:15 James 514 990 1965 W+
13 Ap Manchester CT NEWS V/UHFConf @Baymount@8 I84x63 MarkK1MAP 413 566 8118 W+
19 April S.Portland ME PAWA @AmLegion \$6@8 \$10/T@6:30John W1JLB 207 776 2288 W+
20 Apr Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
Third Sunday April thru October
26 Ap Gales Ferry CT RANSON Auction @FireHs \$2@9 Gary WT1SND 860 884 4218 W+
26 Apr Brookline NH NEARC Antique \$5@8:30 \$10@7:30 Bruce 603 772 7516 F+
27 Ap Middletown NY OCARA @CommCtr \$7@9 \$12Sell Neil AC20 914 490 2001 F
2,3 May Deerfield NH NEARfest XV @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 R+
10 May E Greenbush NY EGARA @FireCo \$6@8 \$6/T@6 Tom KC2FCP 518 272 1494 W+
18 May Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
31 May Goshen CT SBARC @FG Rt63 Marc K1CTT 860 672 2659 A+
1 June Bethpage NY LIMARC @Briarcliffe Dave AK1NS 516 312 8745 A+
7 June Hermon ME PSARA @8 @HS TG@6:30 Jerry K1GUP 207 848 3400 W+
7 June Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518
8 June Queens NY HoSARC Stephen WB2KDG 718 898 5599 A+
15 June Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
21 June Newington CT NARL @StMarySch Quentin KB1EWM 860 383 8203 A+
18,19 July Hartford CT ARRL Nat Conv 100th Anv. W+
20 July Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
9 Aug Milo ME PARC @AmLegion George WA1JMM 207 441 6112 A+
17 August Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
24 Aug Adams MA NoBARC @BoweFld \$5@9 \$10S@8 Eric KA1SUN 413 743 9975 F+
6 Sept Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518
7 Sept Ballston Spa NY SCRACES @FG \$10@7 Darlene N2XQG 518 587 2385 W+
14 Sept Newtown CT CARA @TownHall\$5@8:30 \$10/TG \$15/T Ron AB1RJ 203 938 7007 +
20 Sept Forestdale RI RIAFMRS @VFW \$5/Sp@8 Pete AA1PL 401 639 4484 T+
21 Sept Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
27 Sept Brookline NH NEARC Antique \$5@8:30 \$10@7:30 Bruce 603 772 7516 F+
5 Oct Queens NY HoSARC Stephen WB2KDG 718 898 5599 W+
10,11 Oct Deerfield NH NEARfest XVI @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 +
12 Oct Meriden CT Nutmeg @Sheraton was Wallingford John N1GNV 203 440 4973
18,19 Oct Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553 +
18 Oct Longueuil PQ CRA-RS \$10/T@7 \$7@9 Martin VE2DNF 405 466 2810 R+
19 Oct Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F
25 Oct Gales Ferry CT TCARC Auction @FireCo @10 Darryl WA1DD 860 443 7799 T
26 Oct Hicksville NY LIMARC @Levittown Hall Richie K2KNB 516 694 4937 A
8 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/S@7 Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422
29 Nov Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518

Area Events

USA ARDF Championships in Boston June 5 - 8

Joe Moell KØOV USA ARDF Coordinator



USA's national ARDF championships will return to the northeast this year. Radio-orientees of all skill levels will gather in Boston, Massachusetts for four days of intense competition on the first weekend of June. The events will be open to any fan of on-foot hidden transmitter hunting, with or without a ham license. Visiting competitors from outside USA

are welcome.

Classic five-transmitter competitions will take place on June 7-8, two meters on Saturday and 80 meters on Sunday. Prior to that will be the optional competitions in sprints and foxoring on June 5-6.

Organizing and hosting these championships will be Vadim Afonkin KB1RLI, one of USA's most accomplished radio-orientees. He will be assisted by members of Cambridge Sports Union. Winners of the 2014 USA championships will be under consideration for membership in ARDF Team USA, which will travel to the mountains of Kazakhstan for the 17th ARDF World Championships in September.

Registration is now open, with a deadline of May 1. Go to the Boston ARDF Web site (www.bostonardf.org) to register online and get more information. For the latest updates, subscribe to a special group mailing list for participants and others interested in these championships by sending a blank e-mail to usa2014ardf-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Information about the sport of ARDF and ARDF Team USA is at www.homingin.com.



[You can be part of the "Ham Radio Olympics"](#)

Doug Grant, K1DG writes:

The World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) will be held in Massachusetts July 12-13, 2014. Like the Olympics or the Boston Marathon, this event draws the "best of the best" from around the world. Fifty-nine two-operator teams will be set up with Field-Day-style stations on 16 properties around the Route 495 corridor, from Pepperell in the north to Plymouth and Taunton in the south.

The international teams will compete to see which team can make the most contacts with the most countries and take home the gold medal. This Olympic-style world championship will be widely covered in the local, regional, and national media and provide excellent publicity for amateur radio.

The WRTC2014 organizers need volunteers to help with this once-in-a-lifetime event. The biggest need at the moment is for people to help set up and keep an eye on the stations and provide local transportation for the teams between the headquarters hotel in Westborough and the sites.

Several clubs in the area have "adopted" one or more sites. Perhaps your club would be interested in doing this as a club project. We'd be happy to send someone to your next club meeting to provide more details.

Please visit www.wrtc2014.org/volunteer to sign up and tell us how you would like to help make this exciting event a success.

Learn more about WRTC2014 at <http://www.wrtc2014.org>.

73, Doug Grant, K1DG

Walk for Hunger, May 4, 2014

Eric Horowitz, KA1NCF writes:

Attention Boston area hams: It is that time again... Public Service season is here. We are now looking for help for this year's Project Bread Walk for Hunger on Sunday, May 4th, 2014.

This will be the 46th running of the event. We need people to provide communications support for the Project Bread Staff and volunteers along the 20 mile walk.

If you are interested in helping out this year, go to <http://www.mmra.org/wfh/> to log in and fill out the signup form.

If you have questions please send an email to: wfh14@mmra.org

73,

Eric - KA1NCF

Walk For Hunger 2014

Amateur Radio Communications Coordinator

Email: wfh14@mmra.org



The 46th Annual (2014) Apple Blossom Parade – Saturday May 17

We have once again been asked to provide communications for the Westford Apple Blossom Parade this year on Saturday, May 17th, 2014.

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!

Patriots Day 2014 Celebration Special Event Station

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 19 & 20, 2014 1400 UTC to 2000 UTC each day (approximately)

Callsign: K1P

Frequencies: 10m-80m as conditions permit, but probably 20m & 40m. We will spot on [DxSummit](#).

QSL: LOTW, eQSL, Bureau or Direct



K1P QSL card address (Please include a SASE - small envelope, #6 3/4 - thanks):

K1P/2014
c/o Andy Stewart
25 Monument Hill Road
Chelmsford, MA USA 01824

D-Star

D-STAR Tidbits

- Terry Stader KA8SCP

Local D-Star goings on:

- The KB1ZEG Falmouth D-Star machine is operating very nicely with a number of new users being heard on the air. They are usually connected to REF050C.
- There will be a D-Star presentation at Deerfield this year at 10:30 AM on Saturday. Hope you can make it. <http://forum.near-fest.com/index.php?topic=1120.msg2680#msg2680>
- Looking for a list of D-Star repeaters in New England? A resource to take a look at: <http://nerepeaters.com> select the band at top and then hit the "down" arrow next to Mode, you'll see the D-STAR repeaters at the top of the list.





New England Amateur Radio Festival

NEAR-Fest XV – May 2 and 3, 2014 – Deerfield, New Hampshire

Member Contribution

PART Members Help Make Half Marathon in Ashland a Success

- *By Lyman Smith, W1LKS and Mark Richards, K1MGY*

The Marathon Park Prep race, possibly the first public service event of 2014, was held on Sunday, 16 March, and several PART members participated. Organized by Mark Richards, K1MGY, and David Wolfe, KG1H, under the auspices of the Minute Man Repeater Association (MMRA), this 13 mile race hosted some 700 eager runners.



Photo: Lyman Smith, W1LKS

Ashland served as the original starting point of the Boston Marathon with the first race on April 19, 1897. The starting line was eventually moved to Hopkinton in 1924 to meet the Olympic standard length of 26 miles.

The Town of Ashland and civic groups have both worked to preserve their bit of Boston Marathon history. With the Marathon Park and recently-approved expansion plans including a Marathon Museum, Ashland intends to promote and enjoy their unique place among running enthusiasts.

Last fall the Ashland Sporting Association hosted a half marathon event and Amateur Radio played a public service role for the first time. The event organizers took notice. This year our work was expanded considerably. A larger team was formed, training materials were created, a communications plan developed, and it all came together starting at 0830 – sharp.

Having served as an Amateur Radio volunteer in various events since 2000, I was exposed to many

levels of planning and event management. I frequently encountered waste of the precious time donated by volunteers, time lost due to lack of preparation, or in its worst form, having the organizers arrive late and not ready to begin. Perhaps to the annoyance of our team I went overboard in the other direction. A few weeks prior to the event date our 16-person team was treated to a stack of documents, including a communications plan, a detailed assignment and resource document, and supplementary training material with topics common to this type of public service work. Lots of bathroom reading.

On event morning a briefing was conducted which introduced each volunteer, summarized the key procedures, what volunteers might expect during the event, last minute changes, and Q&A. This was vital, as it was important to form a unified team bound to one cause: safety. Our team came through in stellar fashion, reporting potential dangers along the race route, and along with Police, Fire, EMT, and event staff, helped to seal the safety envelope.



Left to right: KC1BGT, KG1H, K1MGY, KB1WKI and KC1ACV at pre-event briefing.

Photo: Lyman Smith, WILKS

30 degree

temperatures and 15 Mile per Hour winds may have been appreciated by the runners. For volunteers, the cold was something to be endured. Many shivered, longing for warmer venues that the bright sunshine of spring will bring. The team started on time, was fully prepared, and demonstrated an eagerness to serve and participate that cold and wind was not about to overcome.



Chris Handwerker, KB1WKI, WATER 3

Photo: Lyman Smith, WILKS

Returning from last year's participation in the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's Cycle For Life event, Chris Handwerker, KB1WKI who held the tactical assignment **WATER 3**, assisted with the day's only medical call, a runner who had difficulty breathing. On scene the Ashland Police dispatched an ambulance, and Chris made sure the Event Manager was made aware of the runner's BIB number and status through the communications net. Not to be deterred, the participant's composure was regained and, much to the surprise of all, she re-joined the race. There were 5 water stops along the route. None needed ice! Having a northern and southern component, the course traversed a business district, busy intersections, State roads, and rural lanes, all contained within Ashland proper. The cold weather, number of participants, and course length necessitated a Medical tent at the finish, SAG units to provide non-medical transport to racers who decided to stop before reaching the end, an Amateur Radio operator at each of the 5 water stations, one at the MEDICAL tent, another serving as the START/FINISH line contact, an Event Manager Liaison, and the communications control point, NET.

Two experienced SAGs were recruited for this event. PART member Alan Lewis, K1ALL, served as **SAG 1**, with Gary Schwartz, N1ZCE, in **SAG 2**. Each **SAG** unit consisted of a driver and a navigator/assistant, both hams. This freed the driver to remain “heads up”, while the navigator/assistant maintained awareness of location, direction of travel, and handled the radio calls as directed. Into this role I assigned Jeff Marden, KB1TJI and Peter Tardiff, KC1BGT. The arrangement also served as training, and both Jeff and Peter soaked it up. Notably, Peter’s Amateur Radio license was newly-minted; just one week old. Both gave stellar service, and their transmissions, consistent with the entire team, were crisp, unambiguous, and carried a satisfying professional tone.

PART members Lyman Smith, W1LKS and his XYL Lela, KC1ACV, took on the unique tactical calls **ROVER** and **PHOTO**. **ROVER** was established to provide general transportation for volunteers. **PHOTO** served to document the event with both still photos and a few videos. Although **ROVER** was never called into service, the role of Amateur Radio self-promotion was met in extraordinarily complete fashion by **PHOTO**. The first time for such a role in events I’ve managed, it will be included in future. Our Amateur Service can be well-served through public relations and education. Thanks to both Lyman and Lela for holding up so well in the freeze.

Experience suggested that we prepare for personal contingencies – operators who might have to cancel at the last minute, or who need to respond to a family emergency – and so two additional units were assigned in the role of **READY ALERT**.

Experienced operators were selected for these unenviable positions (being on stand-by) and both ended up providing helpful, and quite vital, service. Jeff Pinterparsons, W5UVO, **READY ALERT 1**, took on the role of “scribe” for the **NCS**, K1MGY (your author). This was extremely valuable as my ability to juggle multiple issues at one time is not as sharply tuned as it was 20 years ago. Having Jeff’s impeccable handwritten log at the ready grew to be an essential I could not (and will not ever) do without. Jeff also took on the **NCS** role occasionally, for every task should provide both service and training opportunity. Jeff followed the script well and has a future in the **NCS** role if he might lean in that direction.



Peter Tardiff, KC1BGT (left) and Alan Lewis, K1ALL, hold down the fort as SAG 1

Photo: Lyman Smith, W1LKS

READY ALERT 2 was filled by Jay Lewis, KB1OZP. Early in the event, Jay assumed a new tactical call **SAFETY SWEEP 1**. This role was created to provide relief to the **SAG** units and to increase coverage. Jay attended to the event finish with multiple trips back and forth along the end of the course, identifying and accompanying the last runners, just as he has for many years as **SAG** for the MS Society’s cycling events. As **SAG** and **SAFETY SWEEP** coverage was so complete, the race organizers extended the “hard stop” by 30 minutes, allowing stragglers to enjoy an officially-sanctioned finish line experience. It occurred that our team had occasion to make tactical decisions on the spot, and this is just the way I like it. Direct coordination with the Event Manager Liaison (tactical call sign **EM**), David Wolfe, KG1H, afforded an efficient use of resources. The role of **NCS** was to manage the communications net, help maintain situational awareness, lead units through procedures and requirements, and share a role in maintaining safety. Resource use was in the hands of the **EM**, right where it belonged.



K1MGY, with W5UVO in the warm “NCS car”
 Photo: Lyman Smith, WILKS

David did double-duty, serving as a **SWEEP** unit at the conclusion of the event. He checked the entire course for stragglers and accounted for two of the three participants transported by the **SAG** team. Small numbers, but those runners really appreciated a warm ride to the end. David's coupling with the organizers helped to communicate the value of trained and managed Amateurs in this role.

Just as the day began we were informed that two roving EMT units planned for the course were unable to provide service. This put an emphasis upon the EMT team at the finish line, and added weight upon the shoulders of PART member Tim Pandiscio, W0TJP, tactical call sign **MEDICAL**. Tim quickly established excellent rapport with the EMT team, and as a result “they handed me one of

their radios,” he said, “which gave us immediate access to the medical team”. This level of trust and cooperation is, in my experience, a rare and beautiful thing. Amateur Radio as a public service was well represented in this instance.

From start to finish this event was cold, but fun, and had potential for difficulty but turned in a stellar safety performance that might be the envy of any similarly-sized event. I believe it is no boast to suggest that Amateur Radio in an organized, managed, and coordinated fashion, contributed to such a positive finish. As we gain even more experience and take on increasingly complex tasks, I believe this event, among so many others where Amateur Radio is serving, represents a very good start. Thanks to every member of our team for making it so.

Field Day Safety Preparation

- By Brian McCaffrey - W1BP, w1bp@arrl.net

Introduction

Field Day will be held 28-29 June, 2014. The field day chair and team leaders are preparing to make this year's event another success. It will be late June and the weather will be warm and there will be a chance of storms in the afternoon. Many participants will be lifting, carrying and setting up antennas and radio equipment. Safety must be our first concern to prevent injuries or damage to property.

Top Three Hazards of Field Day

There will be many hazards during Field Day, but I see lifting injuries; slips, trips, and falls; and weather to be the top three key hazards that we will face. There are others such as electrical shock and fire, but with so many antennas, cables and equipment the top three could affect anyone on site, including family members and other observers.

Mitigation Strategy

Lifting Injuries:

By using proper technique and appropriate personal protective equipment, we can prevent many injuries. Use gloves when handling sharp or rough-edged materials. Wear closed-toed shoes. Remove rings and watches. Ring avulsion injuries occur when a ring gets snagged on an object and cuts, "de-gloves", or amputates the finger. The injury is not uncommon and can happen even when doing something as simple as moving luggage and a strap gets caught on the ring. A quick Google search on the topic can provide motivation to remove your ring prior to starting work.

There will be many antenna structures and parts, radios, and other equipment to unload and move all around the site. Many objects will be heavy and awkward to carry. Use proper lifting techniques and get a helper. Carrying a large object can also block your view of where you're walking and brings us to our next hazard.

Slips, Trips and Falls:

With so many participants moving so many antennas and pieces of radio equipment over the uneven terrain of the Concord Rod and Gun Club, there will be many opportunities to fall and get injured. Slips, trips and falls are one of the most-frequently reported workplace injuries and represent more than 17% of disabling occupational injuries.

The main causes of slips, trips and falls are tripping hazards, changes in elevation and carrying large objects. To prevent these injuries, be sure to route cables and wires away from walking paths. Use troughs or tape to secure the cables to the floor or ground. With so many radios and equipment being brought in, be sure containers and other objects are kept neatly and out of walkways. The site has uneven terrain so be sure to use a spotter if you are carrying a large object and use a flashlight if walking at night.

Weather

The main weather-related hazard will be the heat. Aside from dehydration, the three heat-related illnesses are heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.

Key to preventing heat-related illnesses is to stay hydrated and to observe an appropriate work/rest cycle.

Heat cramps:

Heat cramps are painful muscle cramps or spasms, frequently occur along with heavy sweating. They can be relieved with direct pressure and massage to the affected muscles and sipping water.

Heat exhaustion:

Symptoms of heat exhaustion include heavy sweating; weakness; cool, pale, clammy skin; dizziness and nausea. The body temperature may be near normal. First aid for heat exhaustion is to move the victim to a cooler environment, remove or loosen clothing, apply cool wet cloths, fan the victim or move to an air conditioned room and to offer sips of water.

Heat stroke:

Heat stroke is the most serious heat-related illness. It is a medical emergency and the victim should be taken to the hospital.

Symptoms include an altered mental state, possible throbbing headache, confusion, nausea, dizziness, shallow breathing. The victim will likely have a high body temperature of 106° and may lose consciousness.

First aid is to call 911 and move the victim to a cooler environment. Reduce the body temperature with water mist and a fan. Don't give fluids to an unconscious person.

Storms and Lightning:

Field Day will be held during summer and the possibility exists for a thunderstorm. The two hazards of a thunderstorm to our activities are lightning and wind.

If lightning threatens, we will stop all operating, unplug all the radios and move away from the antenna lines. People outdoors should move into a sturdy building away from windows.

Conclusion

We deal with each of these hazards every day at work, school, and at home. A little common sense will go a long way to making Field Day a success. Be sure to look out for your fellow Field Day participants. Make sure visitors to the site avoid the hazards. Identify a spotter to help with hazardous tasks. Watch for the signs of heat-related illness in each other.

With care and attention to detail we will have a great time and everyone will be able to go to work on Monday!



COMPUTERS—ELECTRONICS—HAM RADIO
FLEA at MIT
All Summer
Third Sunday, April thru October

Etc.

Letterman Issued Embarrassing Ham Callsign

- By WBØRUR, on the scene

NEW YORK, NY – After months of studying, practice exams, and thumbing through the latest Ham Radio Outlet catalog, Late Night talk show host and comedian David Letterman has been issued a FCC amateur radio service callsign.

Letterman passed the amateur radio “General Class” exam last Sunday at the Empire State hamfest.



After successfully convincing his wife that he needed a new hobby to occupy his time during his upcoming retirement, Letterman passed the exam with an 86% score.

The Late Night host says despite his accomplishment, he’s disappointed in his callsign.

“I was hoping for something funnier,” says Letterman.

Letterman will join the amateur ranks with the call sign: KL1ENO

FCC spokesman Robert Thorndyke declined comment, except to say, “Wait until you see what we have planned for Conan O’Brien.”

You can work Letterman at 1800 UTC Thursdays when he checks into the Top Ten-Ten Net on 14.242 MHz SSB.

hamhijinks.com

Thanks Bill Principe – K1NS

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
- 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 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



Copyright WB1GOF,
Robert Schmeichel
2011



Copyright WB1GOF,
Robert Schmeichel
2013

[Celebrate Ham Radio – WARD 2014](#)

April 04, 2014

As is well known to all, World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) is celebrated every April 18 to commemorate the 1925 creation of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) in Paris, France. The IARU's job is to watch over the interests of the Amateur Radio community around the world. Each year WARD has a different theme and in 2014 the theme is "Amateur Radio: Your Gateway to Wireless Communication."...

[The K7RA Solar Update](#)

April 04, 2014

Average daily sunspot numbers declined over the past reporting week (March 27 to April 2) from 135.6 to 130.4, compared to the previous seven days. Likewise, average daily solar flux drifted lower, from 153.2 to 149.

The current prediction (from USAF/NOAA on April 3) has solar flux at 155 on April 4, 160 on April 5-8, 150 on April 9-10, 140 on April 11, 135 on April 12-13, then 140 and 145 on Ap...

[Stormy Weather May Force Retreat of Mellish Reef VK9MT DXpedition Team](#)

April 04, 201

Update from VK9MT:

The VK9MT DXpedition ended operations at 0330 UTC on April 4.

'Due to the ever-worsening weather associated with an impending tropical storm, the team decided in the interest of safety to end the operation early.

The last night on the island was extremely difficult. With continued heavy rain and wind, radio operations were nearly impossible. We have set sail for the Australian...

[More Peanut Butter and Jelly: FCC Drops the First Shoe in 5 GHz U-NII Devices Proceeding](#)

April 03, 2014

The FCC has taken the opening steps on its proposal (**ET Docket 13-49**) to make available another 195 MHz of spectrum at 5 GHz for Part 15 unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (U-NII) devices. U-NII devices use "wideband digital modulation techniques to provide a wide array of high data rate mobile and fixed communications for individuals, businesses, and institutions," the FCC has expl...

[Hams on Alert in Wake of Chile Earthquake](#)

April 03, 2014

A magnitude 8.2 earthquake occurred off Northern Chile on April 1, and a powerful 7.6 magnitude aftershock rocked the area on April 3. After the initial temblor, the **Radio Club de Chile** activated in collaboration with ONEMI, the National Emergency Office of the Ministry of Interior and Public Security.

Radio amateurs established an emergency communication net using 7.050 and 14.255 MHz, accordin...

[Washington Aeronautic Safety Law Exempts Amateur Radio “Guyed Towers”](#)

April 02, 2014

Washington Gov Jay Inslee has signed into law legislation aimed at providing a safer “flying environment” for pilots of aircraft engaged in “low-flying activities,” such as crop dusting and search-and-rescue. The new law includes provisions to alert pilots to “guyed towers that may be erected at short notice” that might be hard to see and pose an air safety hazard, and it contains specific mark...

[ARRL Calls for Timely, Visible FCC Amateur Radio Enforcement](#)

April 01, 2014

In **comments** filed in response to the FCC’s February 14 *Report on Process Reform (GN Docket 14-25)*, the ARRL has called for a more visible, responsive Amateur Radio enforcement program. The League also said it was concerned that FCC policies for adjudicating certain complaints of interference to radio amateurs, especially those involving electric utilities, provide no incentive for the utilities...

[Tom Clark, K3IO, to Speak at AMSAT/TAPR Banquet](#)

April 01, 2014

[Solar Flare Causes March 29 Radio Blackout, Minor Geomagnetic Storm Expected April 2](#)

April 01, 2014

NOAA’s Space Weather Prediction Center (**SWPC**) has reported that a brief radio blackout “event” occurred on March 29 at 1748 UTC, the result of an “impulsive” or short-lived R3 (strong) solar flare. Extreme ultraviolet radiation from the X-1 class event “sent waves of ionization rippling through Earth’s upper atmosphere and disturbed the normal propagation of terrestrial radio transmissions,” **Sp...**

[Lithuania’s President Relays Greetings via Amateur Radio CubeSat](#)

April 01, 2014

A greeting from Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaite was transmitted via **LituanicaSAT-1**. Grybauskaite may be the first head of state to send a message via an Amateur Radio satellite -- her country’s first. Using a handheld radio and the call sign LY5N, she transmitted through the satellite’s FM voice transponder. Her words, “Greetings to all Lithuanians around the world!” were recorded on a ...

[VK9MT Mellish Reef DXpedition Enjoying Good Propagation--the Heat, Not So Much](#)

April 01, 2014

It might be April Fool’s Day, but the **VK9MT** Mellish Reef DXpedition team is not laughing about a station pirating its call sign.

“We heard a pirate using VK9MT during a CW pileup,” the DXpedition noted in a news update. “What more can we say?”

But “Team Mellish” *is* smiling about the favorable propagation, especially on the high bands. VK9MT got on the air on Saturday, March 29. The 10 operators a...

[ARRL Will Be Represented at National Association of Broadcasters Convention](#)

March 31, 2014

The ARRL will be on hand April 5 to 10 as more than 100,000 visitors descend on Las Vegas to attend the annual National Association of Broadcasters (**NAB Convention**). Hundreds of Amateur Radio operators are expected to be among them at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

ARRL **Pacific Division** Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG, will join local ham radio volunteers in staffing the ARRL booth. Jim Bilan, W7UX...

[New QST QuickStats Poll Posted](#)

March 31, 2014

A new *QST* QuickStats poll has been posted! Check the **QuickStats page** and answer these questions . . .

How often do you upload contacts to Logbook of The World?

Have you worked any of the W1AW ARRL Centennial stations?

Do you buy parts for your homebrew projects locally or online?

Do you make your own printed circuit boards?

Visit the **QuickStats page** and be sure to bookmark it in your browser. Result...

[Voice of Russia to Go Dark After All](#)

March 31, 2014

[WRTC-2014 Receives ARRL Colvin Grant Award](#)

March 31, 2014

World Radiosport Team Championship 2014 (**WRTC-2014**) has **announced** that it is the recipient of what it called "a significant financial contribution" in the form of an ARRL **Colvin Award** grant. WRTC-2014 will take place July 8-14 in New England. The Colvin Award is funded by an endowment established by the late Lloyd D. Colvin, W6KG, and administered by the ARRL. Colvin Award grants are conferred ...

[International SW Disaster Test](#)

On June 4-5, 2014, listeners can attempt to log an international test being organized by the High Frequency Coordination Commission of the International Radio for Disaster Relief project

[YJ0 Vanuatu DXpedition 2014](#)

We are excited to announce that members of The Quake Contesters, Phil ZL3PAH (Team leader), Paul ZL4PW, Geoff ZL3GA along with Gordon G3USR will be in Vanuatu for a DXpedition from 3 Oct to 15 Oct 2014

[Wessex Contest Group - Isle of Man 2014](#)

In just over a month's time, the Wessex Contest Group will be making their way to the Isle of Man, for a week-long holiday style DXpedition

[GLONASS gone... then back](#)

In an unprecedented total disruption of a fully operational GNSS constellation, all satellites in the Russian GLONASS broadcast corrupt information for 11 hours, from just past midnight until noon Russian time (UTC+4), on April 2

[Jerry Buxton, N0JY selected as AMSAT's VP-Engineering](#)

In a special AMSAT Board of Directors meeting held via GoToMeeting on Tuesday, April 1st, the board unanimously approved the selection of Jerry Buxton, N0JY of Granbury, TX as AMSAT VP-Engineering. Jerry replaces Tony Monteiro, AA2TX who passed away on March 26th

[Channel spacing for Yaesu C4FM Digital Voice](#)

The Utah VHF Society suggests appropriate channel spacing for Yaesu C4FM amateur radio transmissions

[Register for the SARL Convention this weekend](#)

Have you registered for the South African Radio League convention, Annual General Meeting and the Awards Dinner?

[Propagation Report from Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP](#)

Hannes reports that the expected solar activity will be at low to moderate levels

[Chelmsford Narrowboat GBOCBN](#)

Saturday, April 5, saw the activation of the special event station GBOCBN, from a narrowboat in Chelmsford

[Ofcom: New Spectrum Released for Short Range Devices:](#)

by RSGB on April 6, 2014

Ofcom has published a statement on the release of spectrum in the 870 to 876MHz and 915 to 921MHz bands for Short Range Devices, which can be used for machine to machine communications. The UK will be among the first countries in Europe to make this spectrum available.

[Inside the DIY World of Mapping Caves With Radio:](#)

by gizmodo.com on April 5, 2014

Underground, where there is no GPS and certainly no Wi-Fi, mapping caves requires a different kind of technical ingenuity. Thus, there is cave radio. To learn about the DIY world of cave radio and underground exploration, Gizmodo picked the brain of Stanley Sides, tinkerer and former president of the Cave Research Foundation. In "real life," as Sides himself puts it, he is a retired oncologist from Missouri. But on weekends, holidays, and especially Thanksgiving weekend, he drives several hours east to Kentucky's Mammoth Cave, the longest known cave system in the world.

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

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on April 4, 2014

Average daily sunspot numbers declined over the past reporting week (March 27 to April 2) from 135.6 to 130.4, compared to the previous seven days. Likewise, average daily solar flux drifted lower, from 153.2 to 149.

[ARNewsline Report 1912 -- April 4 2014:](#)

by Bill Pasternak (WA6ITF) on April 4, 2014

The following is a QST. Ham radio responds after an earthquake hits northern Chile; The ARRL tells the FCC that it's time to step up amateur radio rules enforcement; a House of Representatives committee issues a white paper on certain aspects of the Communications Act; WRTC 2014 receives an assist in the form of a Colvin grant; the FCC tells Congress that it needs a computer system upgrade and Amateur Radio Newsline opens its Young Ham of the Year Award program for 2014. Find out the details are on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1912 coming your way right now.

[Sunspots 2014: March is Another Record-Breaking Month:](#)

by commdiginews.com on April 4, 2014

SALEM, Ore., April 3, 2014 -- Another new solar sunspot record peak of 73.2 was set for Cycle 24 last month. It smashed the old 68.9 record peak set the previous month. In a big surprise, the number is now over six spots higher than the first sunspot peak set in early 2012 and will probably go higher. A secondary peak above the first this much is almost unheard of. The new sunspot peak is unusual for two conflicting reasons: 1. The secondary peak is higher than the first 2. Current physics suggests the solar cycle should be weakening.

[FCC Issues Latest Round of Experimental Licenses:](#)

by tvtechnology.com on April 4, 2014

The FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology's has issued some new licenses to cover experimental operations. The most recent list shows those granted between Feb. 1, 2014 and March 1, 2014. While I didn't see

any grants that might affect broadcasters, here are a few of the more interesting licenses issued. One of these went to cover experimentation in the realm of very low frequency (VLF) propagation. License WH2XBA allows operation in the 27 to 59 kHz band for amateur radio testing, fixed and mobile, in Wayland, Mass., Penn Yan, N.Y.; Stanfield, N.C.; Palmer Alaska; Carefree, Ariz.; Flower Mound, Texas; Arlington, Va.; Woodville, Ala. and Burlington, Conn.

DX News -- ARRL DX Bulletin #14:

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on April 3, 2014

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by N2AJ, NC1L, PA3CNO, QRX DX, 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.

Just Ahead In Radiosport:

by The ARRL Letter on April 3, 2014

Just Ahead In Radiosport:

ARRL Calls for Timely, Visible FCC Amateur Radio Enforcement:

by The ARRL Letter on April 3, 2014

In comments filed in response to the FCC's February 14 Report on Process Reform (GN Docket 14-25), the ARRL has called for a more visible, responsive Amateur Radio enforcement program.

Washington Governor Visits Snohomish County EOC Radio Room:

by The ARRL Letter on April 3, 2014

Snohomish County Auxiliary Communications Service (Snohomish ACS -- formerly RACES) Radio Officer Scott Honaker, N7SS, reported that Washington Gov Jay Inslee toured the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management EOC in Everett on March 26. The EOC has been central to the ongoing relief effort following the March 22 mudslide near Oso, Washington.

Hams On Alert in Wake of Chile Earthquake:

by The ARRL Letter on April 3, 2014

A magnitude 8.2 earthquake occurred off Northern Chile on April 1, and a powerful 7.6 magnitude aftershock rocked the area on April 3. After the initial temblor, the Radio Club de Chile activated in collaboration with ONEMI, the National Emergency Office of the Ministry of Interior and Public Security.

Stormy Weather May Force Retreat of Mellish Reef VK9MT DXpedition Team:

by The ARRL Letter on April 3, 2014

Deteriorating weather and high winds could force the Mellish Reef VK9MT DXpedition team from the Pacific Atoll to the Evohe, the ship that transported them from Australia a week earlier. The operation may have to be abandoned altogether, if the poor weather persists. The DXpedition began operations on March 29 and had planned to remain on Mellish Reef until April 9.

WRTC-2014 Receives ARRL Colvin Grant Award:

by The ARRL Letter on April 3, 2014

World Radiosport Team Championship 2014 (WRTC-2014) has announced that it is the recipient of what it called "a significant financial contribution" in the form of an ARRL Colvin Award grant.

W1AW Centennial Operations In Pennsylvania, Oregon, Until April 9 (UTC):

by The ARRL Letter on April 3, 2014

The ARRL Centennial "W1AW WAS" operations taking place throughout 2014 from each of the 50 states are now in Pennsylvania (W1AW/3) and Oregon (W1AW/7). They will relocate at 0000 UTC on Wednesday, April 9 (the evening of April 8 in US time zones), to Massachusetts (W1AW/1) and Virginia (W1AW/4). During 2014 W1AW will be on the air from every state (at least twice) and most US territories, and it will be easy to work all states solely by contacting W1AW portable operations.

Lithuania's President Relays Greetings via Amateur Radio CubeSat:

by The ARRL Letter on April 3, 2014

A greeting from Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaite was transmitted via LituanicaSAT-1. Grybauskaite may be the first head of state to send a message via an Amateur Radio satellite, her country's first.

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.

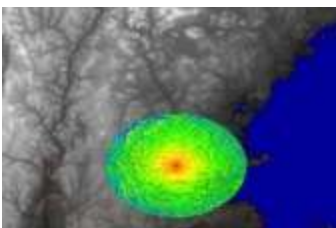
EmComm events and repeater use

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
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. 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.



PARTicles © 2013, a publication of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

This month's editor: Terry Stader – KA8SCP

PART official mailing address is:
PART, PO Box 503, Westford, MA 01886

Our website is: <http://wb1gof.org>
Our forum is: <http://wb1gof.net/forums/>
Contact us at: info@wb1gof.org
Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/wb1gof
Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wb1gof



Scan this
QR code

