



PARTicles

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

August 2011

President's Column

- *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*

There has been a lot of activity surrounding K2H lately, even though more than a month has passed since the special event. We have received around 300 QSL cards and I have been very busy filling out cards and mailing them to our fellow hams. I'd like to thank John (W1JMA), Alan (W1AHM), Rich (AB1HD), and Rick (W1RAG) for their help with this effort! We sat down over pizza one evening and filled out well over 100 QSL cards. Many thanks to Charlie (K1PUB) for his efforts as the leader of the K2H effort in Massachusetts. The response from the ham community has been overwhelming - we even ran out of QSL cards! I wouldn't be surprised if this event grew in the future.



Regarding the NVARC Lantern Battery Challenge, I spoke briefly to Stan (KD1LE), the NVARC President. I found him on the Monday evening NVARC net on the Pepperell 70cm repeater. I thanked him for inviting PART to participate in this event, and let him know that there were a few PART members who were interested in participating. From that, I obtained the email address of Bob (W1XP) who is the NVARC coordinator of this event. Stay tuned for more news about this fun event.

The August 2011 PART meeting will be featuring a presentation by Bryce (KB1LQC)

and Brent (KB1LQD) regarding their high altitude balloon project. This promises to be an excellent meeting that you won't want to miss! For that matter, why would you ever want to miss a PART meeting? :-)

PART elections are coming soon! During the September PART meeting, we will hold elections for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Nominations will NOT be taken from the floor. If you are interested in running for office, please contact Alan (K1ALL), who is running this election. Nominations will close a short time prior to the election. Stay tuned for more details in an upcoming email. The PART Board of Directors will be meeting very soon to choose the Director-at-Large for next year.

On a personal note, I was very excited to make two excellent DX contacts on CW. The first was with VK4TJ and the other was ZL2BLQ. Both of these contacts were made within two weeks of each other, on 20m, around midnight local time. These are my very first CW contacts with Australia and New Zealand! My antenna is a 135 foot wire doublet, up 50 feet, fed with 450 ohm window line, and tuned with a homebrew tuner that I bought at a hamfest. I was running 100W and received a 579 signal report. This is fun stuff!

73 de Andy KB1OIQ



Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

August 16, 2011

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9 p.m. High Altitude Amateur Radio Balloon Project

September 3, 2011

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

September 20, 2011

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

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury 21-June-2011 thru 18-July-2011

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	\$3,637.03	\$398.92	\$4,035.85
Income	\$183.00	\$58.00	\$241.00
Expenses	(\$610.45)	(\$0.00)	(\$610.45)
New Balance	<u>\$3,209.58</u>	<u>\$456.82</u>	<u>\$3,666.40</u>

PART Membership Demographics as of 11-July-11

	Households (New + Renew)	Individuals (New + Renew)
Full (\$25)	36 (9 + 27)	36 (9 + 27)
Senior (\$15)	23 (2 + 21)	23 (2 + 21)
Family (\$30)	8 (1 + 7)	18 (2 + 16)
Student (\$15)	0 (0 + 0)	0 (0 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	0 (0 + 0)	0 (0 + 0)
Grand Total	67 (12 + 55)	77 (13 + 64)

Latest new members:

Richard/N1YLY (Methuen)

Bill/WC1I (Hollis, NH)

George/KB1VXH (Ashby)

***** Send your Dues to: h*****

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

-or-

The next PART meeting, Westford P.D., 7:30PM, Tuesday, 16-August '11

Upcoming Events

- Every Sunday, 8 PM – PART Net on 146.955 repeater
- Every 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 PM – PART Meetings at Westford Police station
- Every Wednesday, 6 AM, Owl Diner Lowell – Breakfast
- Every 1st Saturday, 8 AM, Regency Inn Westford – PART Monthly Breakfast
- Flea at MIT: Sunday, 21-Aug; Sunday, 18-Sep
Buyers \$5.00, 9:00AM-2:00PM (\$1.00 discount with flyer: <http://web.mit.edu/w1mx/www/swapfest/swapfest-2010.04.pdf>), Parking Lot/Garage on Albany St. Cambridge, at Portland St.
- HRO-Salem Manufacturers Day, Saturday, 27 August, 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM
<http://www.hamradio.com/locations.cfm?storeid=9>

Monthly PART Breakfast

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

Monthly Breakfast Update

- *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*

It turns out that I miscalculated the price of the a-la-carte breakfast. The hotel charges us \$6.95, and I forgot to add the 18% gratuity and the 6.25% tax. Therefore, I will need to collect \$9.00 (rounded up slightly) for the a-la-carte breakfast, instead of the \$7.00 that I had been collecting previously.

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

I never noticed the problem until last month when I came up \$3.00 short on the collection. I think 5 or 6 people had ordered the a-la-carte breakfast, which is more than any previous month.

I apologize if the correction of my mistake causes any inconvenience.

Summary:

continental breakfast: \$9.00 (new price)

full breakfast: \$14.00 (same price)

kids breakfast: \$8.00

I look forward to seeing you at the next PART monthly breakfast, coming soon.

*Next PART Meeting – August 16th 7:30 PM
– Westford Police Station
High Altitude Amateur Radio
Balloon Project
Bryce (KB1LQC) and Brent (KB1LQD) Salmi presenting*

The speakers at the August 16th PART meeting will be Bryce (KB1LQC) and Brent (KB1LQD) Salmi. Their presentation will be an overview of their high altitude amateur radio balloon project. Topics that will be discussed include:

- a) what is an amateur radio high altitude balloon?
- b) what were the design goals and approach?
- c) an overview of the hardware/electronics/software systems that were designed to achieve these goals



Repeater Nets

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

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

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

<http://www.radioreference.com/apps/audio/?feedId=6253>

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

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

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

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

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

Not good! :/

We recently understand that some hams have been having conversations using the “input” frequency of the 146.955 repeater (146.355), without transmitting a PL. Some of these conversations are attempts to goad the interferer’s to respond.

PLEASE do NOT do this. This effort inhibits our ability to track down the legitimate interference sources.

Those that are identified as using this method to communicate in one-way communications are in violation of the conditions of their license and could be subjected to FCC action as well as being banned from the WB1GOF repeaters.

Greater Boston Net Directory

Daily 5:30 pm	Eastern Mass/Rhode Island Phone Net (NTS)	3.915
Daily 7 and 10 pm	Eastern Mass/Rhode Island CW Net (NTS)	3.658
Daily 8 pm	Eastern Mass 2M Traffic Net (NTS)	145.230 (PL 88.5)
Daily 8 pm	Slow Speed CW Net	28.160
Daily 10:00 pm	Heavy Hitters Traffic Net (NTS)	MMRA-linked repeaters: 146.610, 146.670, 146.715, 146.820, and all 222 and 440 repeaters
First Mon 8:30 pm	EMA Section ARES Net	146.610 and all MMRA links
Mon 9 pm	BARC Club Net	145.230 (PL 88.5)
Tue 8 pm	MMRA Club Net	146.610 and all MMRA links
Wed 8 pm	Wellesley Amateur Radio Society Net	147.030; 444.600 (PL 88.5)
Wed 9 pm	HHTN Swap Net	146.640
Thu 8:30 pm	AMSAT Net	146.640
Sat 9 am	Northeast SATERN Net	7.265
Sun 9:30 am	Yankee SSB Net	50.275
Sun 8 pm	Algonquin Amateur Radio Club Net	446.675 (PL 88.5)
Sun 8 pm	Westford PART Net	146.955 (PL 74.4)
Sun 8:30 pm	NSRA Net (with Newslines)	145.470

What's With ARES® Versus RACES -- ARES E-Letter, June 15, 2011

Q: Tell me about the similarities and differences between the ARES® groups and the RACES groups. I am part of an ARES group, but I really don't know why ARRL has two organizations that seem to be doing the same thing.

A: After World War II, it became evident that the international situation was destined to be tense and the need for some civil-defense measures became apparent. Successive government agencies designated to head up such a program called on amateur representatives to participate.

In the discussions that followed, amateurs were interested in getting two points across: First, that Amateur Radio had a potential for and capability of playing a major role in this program; and second, that our participation should be in our own name, as an Amateur Radio Service, even if and after war should break out. These principles were included into the planning by the formulation of regulations creating a new branch of the amateur service, the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, RACES.

RACES is administered by local, county and state emergency management agencies, and supported by FEMA. It is a part of the Amateur Radio Service that provides radio communications for civil-preparedness purposes only, during periods of local, regional or national civil emergencies. These emergencies are not limited to war-related activities, but can include natural disasters such as fires, floods and earthquakes.

RACES operation is authorized by emergency management officials only, and this operation is strictly limited to official civil-preparedness activity in the event of an emergency communications situation.

Operating Procedure

Amateurs operating in a local RACES organization must be officially enrolled in the local civil-preparedness agency having jurisdiction. RACES operation is conducted by amateurs using their own primary station licenses and by existing RACES stations.

The FCC no longer issues new RACES (WC prefix) station call signs. Operator privileges in RACES are dependent upon, and identical to, those for the class of license held in the Amateur Radio Service. All of the authorized frequencies and emissions allocated to the Amateur Radio Service are also available to RACES on a shared basis. While RACES was originally based on potential use for wartime, it has evolved over the years, as has the meaning of civil defense (which is also called civil preparedness), to encompass all types of emergencies.

While operating in a RACES capacity, RACES stations and amateurs registered in the local RACES organization may not communicate with amateurs not operating in a RACES capacity. Such restrictions do not apply when such stations are operating in a non-RACES - such as ARES - amateur capacity. Only civil-preparedness communications can be transmitted.

Test and drills are permitted only for a maximum of one hour per week. All test and drill messages must be clearly so identified. With the approval of the chief officer for emergency planning and applicable state, Commonwealth, district or territory, however, such tests and drills may be conducted for a period not to exceed 72 hours no more than twice in any calendar year.

ARES and RACES

Although RACES and ARES are separate entities, the ARRL advocates dual membership and cooperative efforts between both groups whenever possible for an ARES group whose members are all enrolled in and certified by RACES to operate in an emergency with great flexibility. Using the same operators and the same frequencies, an ARES group also enrolled as RACES can "switch hats" from ARES to RACES and RACES to ARES to meet the requirements of the situation as it develops. For example, during a "nondeclared emergency," ARES can operate



under ARES, but when an emergency or disaster is officially declared by a state or federal authority, the operation can become RACES with no change in personnel or frequencies.

This situation is still not well understood and accepted throughout the United States; both ARES and RACES still exist, separately, in many areas.

Where there is currently no RACES, it would be a simple matter for an ARES group to enroll in that capacity, after a presentation to the civil-preparedness authorities. In cases where both ARES and RACES exist, it is possible to join both or to be involved in either. As time progresses, the goal would be the merger into one strong organization, with coordination between ARES and RACES officials using the same groups of amateurs. In some sections of the U.S. today, the ARES structure has also been accepted as the RACES structure.

Repeater Failover to Simplex

- Steve Telsey (N1BDA)



During this year's hurricane drill August 8, repeater failure was simulated towards the end of the drill. Most hams know that in cases of repeater failure you should use the repeater output in simplex mode. Several questions arose and it is worth reviewing the recommended procedure.

First, although many rigs have a switch to invert transmission, this is not necessarily simplex. You may end up transmitting on the output and listening on the input. Program a separate channel with the output of the repeater in simplex. One suggestion is to put repeater outputs in a separate bank if your rig is so equipped.

Second, disable receive tones on your simplex channel. There are two reasons. Folks transmitting simplex on the output may not be using a transmit tone and you will miss their transmissions. Even if they do include a transmit tone, it may not match your receive tone in the cases where the repeater uses different transmit and receive tones and some users have programmed the repeater input tone rather than the output tone. I know that you may get more interference than usual (from Dennis for example), but I believe interference is preferable to communications failure.

Third, disable transmit tones. Even if you program the correct tone, it is possible that other stations have programmed the incorrect receive tone and communications will fail.

Added bonus: Repeater output simplex operation is a natural for an old mobile or handheld without tones. Add an amplifier to the HT, an extended range antenna, and extra battery power and you have a great emergency package.

To sum up for Westford 2m: Program 146.955 into a separate channel. Do NOT add a 600 kHz offset. Disable transmit and receive tones.

Ham Radio Cruise Night - Saturday, August 20, 2011

- Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)

You (and family members) are invited to an afternoon of fun at Gary's (W1GFF), from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. This event will be similar to the Ham Radio Cruise Night event from a couple of years ago.

The grounds, grill, and pool will be available for your enjoyment. Feel free to bring yourself and some radio gear if you wish. A tent and an antenna connection for 20m and 40m will be available.

The grill will be available for those who wish to bring their own food for grilling. At the ice cream stand, there are also soft drinks, Hot Dogs, Grilled Cheese, Spicy Sloppy Joe Sandwiches (made with chili), and 2 sizes of homemade 4-alarm chili (no beans - all meat & veggies). Don't forget dessert! Thank you, Gary, for your hospitality!

Gary's address: 105 Carlisle St, Chelmsford, MA 01824



[ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology Opens Horizon of Learning Opportunities](#)

Saturday, August 13, 2011, 2:26:00 PM

This summer, the ARRL offered five sessions of the Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology (TI). Veteran instructors Miguel Enriquez, KD7RPP, and Nathan McCray, K9CPO -- along with new initiates Tommy Gober, N5DUX, and Matt Severin, N8MS -- led the instruction. A total of 55 educators from 24 states, ranging from elementary teachers to university PhDs, took part in the 2011 TIs.

[QSL Card Exhibit in Maryland through September 15](#)

Saturday, August 13, 2011, 3 hours ago

HPE 2 WRK U AGN SN: Ephemeral Communiqué 1920-1980, a design exhibit of more than 550 QSL cards, will be on view until September 15, 2011 at the Chesapeake Gallery on the campus of Harford Community College in Bel Air, Maryland. It is curated by Harford CC Professor of Art and Design Kenneth Jones. Jones will present a talk at the closing reception September 14 from 6-8 PM.

[The K7RA Solar Update](#)

Friday, August 12, 2011, 1:48:00 PM

The average daily sunspot numbers declined more than 24 points to 75.1 this week, while the average daily solar flux was down more than 12 points to 104.3. We saw solar flares recently, with a substantial geomagnetic upset on Friday and Saturday -- August 5-6 -- when the planetary A index was 49 and 31. The **largest solar flare of the current sunspot cycle**, an X7 flare, occurred at 0805 UTC on A...

[Surfin': Beyond Digital Voice](#)

Friday, August 12, 2011, 1:13:00 PM

By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU
Contributing Editor

This week, Surfin' visits the diverse website of an old friend of the old contributing editor.

I know people.

I received an e-mail asking me how to get started in digital voice. That is one mode I have not yet explored, so I have no hands-on information to relay to my correspondent; however, I know someone who has lots of expertise in digital voice...

[Second Century Campaign Committee Meets in Newington](#)

Thursday, August 11, 2011, 5:49:00 PM

The year 2014 marks the end of the first century of the ARRL. In these 100 years, amateurs have seen spark gap give way to CW, FM and AM, SSB and the numerous digital modes, with the ARRL leading the way. In celebration of the beginning of a second century of Amateur Radio, the ARRL has formed the Second Century Campaign Committee. This group -- led by David W. Brandenburg, K5RQ, of Osprey, Flo...

[Vanity Call Sign Fee to Go Up in September](#)

Wednesday, August 10, 2011, 2:31:00 PM

On August 10, the FCC announced via a *Final Rule* in the *Federal Register* that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 90 cents, from to \$13.30 to \$14.20. The new fees take effect 30 days after publication, making September 9, 2011, the first day the new fee is in effect. Earlier this year, the FCC **released** a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM)*, seeking to raise th...

[Solar Explosions Could Impact Earth](#)

Tuesday, August 09, 2011, 6:40:00 PM

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is keeping an eye on a set of solar storms and explosions that could disrupt satellite, telecommunications and electric equipment here on Earth in the next few days. While activity had reportedly returned to somewhat normal levels when solar winds calmed the morning of Monday, August 8, another explosion at 0805 UTC on Tuesday, August 9...

[Go High for the 2011 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest](#)

Tuesday, August 09, 2011, 6:32:00 PM

If you enjoy the being on the cutting edge of Amateur Radio's technical side, take a look at the microwave bands. The **2011 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest** gives you the perfect chance to explore this portion of the radio spectrum.

This contest boasts two weekends of activity: August 20-21 and again on September 17-18. The contest period for both weekends starts at 6 AM (local time) on Saturday and ru...

[ARRL VEC Team Attends National VEC Conference](#)

Tuesday, August 09, 2011, 1:06:00 PM

Representatives of 12 of the nation's 14 Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) -- either in person or via proxy -- met July 29 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania for the 26th Annual National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Conference.

NCVEC Chairman Larry Pollock, NB5X presided over the gathering that offered an opportunity for representatives of the VECs to discuss issues facing...

[Attention RTTY Rookies: The 2011 RTTY Rookie Roundup Is Here!](#)

Monday, August 08, 2011, 8:13:00 PM

For the first time since the **Rookie Roundup** came into being last year, the digital modes will get their day in the Sun: On August 21, the Rookie Roundup meets RTTY! "Created to give the budding operator a place to learn about contesting at an

easier pace, the Rookie Roundup is a six hour contest open to all amateurs who have been licensed for three years or fewer,” explained ARRL Contest Branch...

[RTTY DXCC Award Now Known as Digital DXCC Award](#)

Monday, August 08, 2011, 7:57:00 PM

At the **2011 Second Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors**, the Board voted to change the name of the RTTY DXCC Award to the Digital DXCC Award. In changing the name, the Board took into account that Amateur Radio technology has advanced to include many variations of digital communications. On July 25, the word “Digital” began replacing “RTTY” on these DXCC certificates.

[Former “World Above 50 MHz” Conductor Receives CSVHFS’s President’s Award](#)

Monday, August 08, 2011, 5:47:00 PM

At the recent Central States VHF Society (CSVHFS) Convention -- held July 29-30 in Irving, Texas -- CSVHFS President Chuck Clark, AF8Z, presented the President’s Award to **Gene Zimmerman W3ZZ**. “I truly appreciate this award,” Zimmerman told the ARRL. “Central States is one of the best known VHF organizations in the United States, and as a former CSVHFS Director, I know what an honor all CSVHFS a...

[General Class Q&A Now Available for Kindle](#)

Monday, August 08, 2011, 5:07:00 PM

The fourth edition of *ARRL’s General Q&A* is now available from Amazon.com for the Kindle. This e-book is your authoritative guide to the General (Element 3) question pool -- everything you need to pass your General class license exam. When you use ARRL’s *General Q&A*, you can be sure that you are using the best way to review for the 35 question exam. The e-book includes every question -- and answer...

[30th Annual ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference](#)

Sunday, August 07, 2011, 3:35:00 PM

[Malpelo DXpedition to Get Underway in January 2012](#)

Friday, August 05, 2011, 5:11:00 PM

The **HK0NA DXpedition to Malpelo** -- an island located approximately 235 miles from Colombia’s Pacific coast -- is scheduled for January 22-February 6, 2012. Organized by the DX Radio Amateur Club (**DXARC**) out of Colombia, the DXpedition boasts an international team of 16 operators from eight countries. Malpelo is currently #12 on *DX Magazine’s 100 Most Needed Countries Survey*.

Repeater Information

Repeater Interference

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



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

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

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

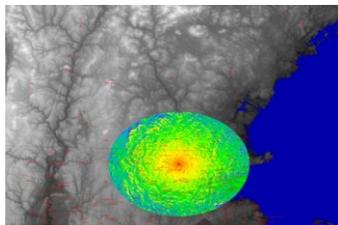
EmComm events and repeater use

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

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

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

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



New additional repeater info is now available on the PART [website](#). Check out the links to the summit information as well as coverage and plot plans maps for the WB1GOF repeaters.

Also our PART/WB1GOF Forums are found at <http://wb1gof.net/forum/>

PART Gear

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

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



EmComm

RACES – The WB1GOF 146.955 repeater is used on the first Monday of every month (except federal/state holidays) for RACES starting at 1930 local time. If you are interested in being part of the local emergency communications team in your community, feel free to contact any of the following folks:

Terry Stader – KA8SCP, MEMA Region 1 RACES Officer
Hugh Maguire – N1QGE, RACES Officer, Town of Westford
Bill Ohm – W1OHM, RACES Officer, Town of Chelmsford

- We need radio operators that can pass messages on to the local emergency management directors in several towns in northern Middlesex County.

Skywarn - The WB1GOF 146.955 repeater is also used for reporting significant weather events to the National Weather Service from our local spotters. We expect to have a local Skywarn training class in 2010, more information as it becomes available. You can provide valuable information even if you have not attended one of the training sessions. Listen to the Skywarn Net Control Station for reporting criteria, when you have information that qualifies, please advise him with your report.

Situational Awareness – Recently, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency has asked the Amateur Radio community to provide situational awareness and disaster intelligence information within your local community via RACES, ARES and/or Skywarn stations. Significant events such as widespread power outages can be reported and by agencies such as MEMA to evaluate the scope of a blackout for example. Initially, you should try and contact RACES or ARES operators on the Westford 146.955 repeater to pass this information. More on this new program will be forthcoming.

PART Sunday Night Net – The PART Net each Sunday night is an IMPORTANT part of our regional EmComm function. With each station that checks in from the surrounding communities, we test our ability to communicate vital information to the ham radio community. Sure we announce club info but we can also communicate regional disaster news and serve as a “hub” for news of situations in our communities. The repeater is on a generator, so even if we loose power in the region, an HT with a supply of batteries will reconnect you to other local hams.



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This month's editor: Terry Stader – KA8SCP

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Contact us at: info@wb1gof.org

