

DECEMBER *PARTicles*



The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

Celebrating 40 years of public service 1975-2015

President's Column

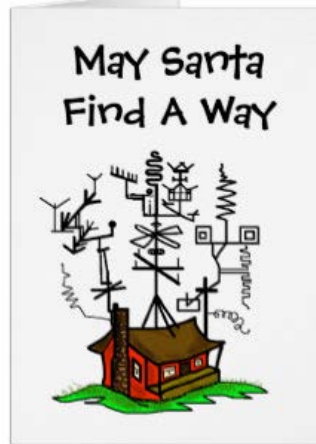
- Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)

I am very much looking forward to our Christmas/Holiday party on Tuesday, December 19th, 2017. This party takes place instead of the monthly meeting. I hope to see all of you there!

From my perspective, club activities have been relatively quiet as of late, with the exception of the fine work that Hugh (N1QGE) has been doing to plan the club holiday party. Hugh could use some help on the evening of the party. We need an EMCEE to run the Yankee Swap (otherwise you might be stuck listening to me for the entire evening!). If interested, please contact Hugh directly.

A small handful of us attended the club breakfast in early December, at the new location in Boxboro. Unfortunately, the feedback that I received was not universally positive. It is my hope that many more people will attend in early January so I can get more feedback.

For the kit builders out there, there have been a couple of good kits out there recently. Check out the BITX40 and the new uBITX, available from Ashhar Farhan



(VU2ESE) at his website: <http://www.hfsigs.com>. Also, be sure to check out the QCX QRP CW transceiver from QRP Labs: <http://shop.qrp-labs.com/qcx>.

I am looking for a RigExpert ZOOM antenna analyzer to borrow for Linux software development. I am testing the AA-230 ZOOM, so any other ZOOM model would be very useful to me. If you have one, and are willing to let me borrow it, please send me email directly: kb1oiq@arrl.net.

DXers will be interested to know (or probably already know) about the big DXpedition to Bouvet Island at the end of January. For more information, go to their website: <http://www.bouvetdx.org>.

The next meeting of PART will be held at the Cameron Senior Center on Tuesday, January 16th, 2018. Our speakers are listed here: <http://www.wb1gof.org>. Philip (N1DQ) will talk to us about the PSK Reporter website and the effects of the new FT8 digital mode.

Have a lot of fun, and 73!

Andy

No PART meeting this month!

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 19-Sep'17 and 16-Oct'17

(As of 17-Oct'17)

	General Fund	+	Repeater Fund	=	Checking Total
Old Balance	=\$3627.78		+ \$5176.30		= \$8804.08
+++++					
Income	+\$ 115.00		+ \$ 24.26		= +\$ 139.26

Expenses	-\$ 128.78		+ -\$ 0.00		= -\$ 128.78
=====					
Net	-\$ 13.78		+ \$ 24.26		= +\$ 10.48
=====					
New Balance	=\$3614.00		+ \$5200.56		= \$8814.56
+++++					
Acc. Receivable	+\$ 0.00		+ \$ 0.00		= +\$ 0.00

Acc. Payable	-\$ 57.68		+ -\$ 0.00		= -\$ 57.68
=====					
Net Credit	-\$ 57.68		+ \$ 0.00		= -\$ 57.68
=====					
Net Worth	=\$3556.32		+ \$5200.56		= \$8756.88

PART Treasury between 17-Oct'17 and 20-Nov'17

(As of 21-Nov'17)

	General Fund	+	Repeater Fund	=	Checking Total
Old Balance	=\$3614.00		+ \$5200.56		= \$8814.56
+++++					
Income	+\$ 237.52		+ \$ 63.26		= +\$ 300.78

Expenses	-\$ 57.68		+ -\$ 0.00		= -\$ 57.68
=====					
Net	+\$ 179.84		+ \$ 63.26		= +\$ 243.10
=====					
New Balance	=\$3793.84		+ \$5263.82		= \$9057.66
+++++					
Acc. Receivable	+\$ 0.00		+ \$ 0.00		= +\$ 0.00

Acc. Payable	-\$ 57.98		+ -\$ 0.00		= -\$ 57.98
=====					
Net Credit	-\$ 57.98		+ \$ 0.00		= -\$ 57.98
=====					
Net Worth	=\$3535.86		+ \$5263.82		= \$8999.68

[Note: Positive GF net, positive RF net, positive overall net; negative GF net credit, positive RF net credit, negative overall net credit/AHM]

No PART meeting this month!

PART 2017 Membership as of 13-Dec'17

	Individuals (= New for 2017 + Renew for 2017)	Households (= New for 2017 + Renew for 2017)
Full (\$25)*	39 (= 3 + 36)	[39 (= 3 + 36)]
Senior (\$15)*	46 (= 3 + 43)	[46 (= 3 + 43)]
Family (\$30)	22 (= 3 + 19)	10 (= 0 + 10)
Student (\$15)	1 (= 1 + 0)	[1 (= 1 + 0)]
Associate (\$10)	0 (= 0 + 0)	0 (= 0 + 0)
Grand Total*	108 (= 10 + 98)	96 (= 7 + 89)

ARRL members:* 96
(Including ARRL Life members: 15)
* Starred lines changed since 12-Oct'17.

New Members:

Bill/KC1FGI (Chelmsford)
Rob/KE8UW (Westford)
Richard/KC1GJJ (Westford)

New call sign:
Mikayla/KC1IGH -> N1BKR

##To pay dues##

-or-

PART, P.O. Box 503, Westford, MA 01886-0015 Club Meeting, Cameron Senior Ctr., 7:30PM, 3rd Tuesday

Renew online by PayPal at: http://www.wb1gof.org/F_join/part_dues.html

PART's official mailing address is:

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

PART Officers:

President: Andy (KB1OIQ) Stewart
Vice President: Rich (AB1HD) Crisafulli
Secretary: Rick (W1RAG) Green
Treasurer: Alan (W1AHM) Martin
Director-At-Large: Steve (W1KBE) Rimsa

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

December 19th 2017

- PART Holiday Dinner – NO PART Meeting. Details Soon!

January 6th 2018

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$19/\$9; kids: \$9 – see note below)

January 16th 2018

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9:00 p.m. LOCATION: Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant St., Westford MA

February 3rd 2018

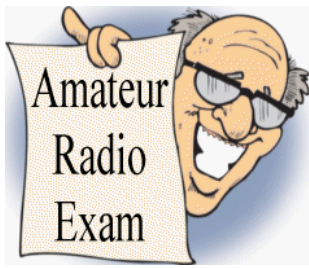
- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$19/\$9; kids: \$9 – see note below)

February 20th 2018

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9:00 p.m. LOCATION: Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant St., Westford MA

Monthly PART Meetings and Social Events

- Every Sunday, 8 PM – PART Net on 146.955 repeater, Echolink Node 380799
- Every 3rd Tuesday, NEW TIME - 7:30 PM – PART Meetings at Cameron Senior Center
- Every 1st Saturday, 8 AM, Regency Inn Westford – PART Monthly Breakfast
- Every Wednesday, 6 AM, Owl Diner Lowell – Breakfast



The Billerica BARS VE team conducts VE Sessions on 2nd Thursday of every month. They are held in the church hall of The Chelmsford Bible Church, 128 Gorham St, East Chelmsford at 7pm. New license and upgrade tests. Walk-Ins, not a problem. No Reservations needed.

For more information, contact:

Gary W1GFF at 978-453-1100 [Email Gary W1GFF](mailto:Gary.W1GFF@arrl.org).



This is your pre-meeting reminder to add something to your weekly shopping to bring to the next meeting. Watch your e-mail for specific needs this month.

PART member donations have been greatly appreciated in the past and we hope to continue this great community service at every meeting.

Monthly PART Breakfast

Monthly Breakfast Pricing

Full buffet breakfast: \$17.00

Don't forget the monthly PART breakfast the 1st Saturday of each month NOW at the Boxboro Regency at 8 AM. The full hot & cold buffet breakfast costs about \$17 (includes tip) per person, a cheaper, lighter fare might be available for adults and children.



The PART monthly meetings are held at the Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant Street in Westford. **NOW STARTING AT 7:30 PM**

Click [here](#) for the address and

Ham Fleas/Events

Links to Massachusetts hamfest websites (partial)

Cambridge MA Flea at MIT <http://www.swapfest.us>
Boxborough MA NE ARRL Conv <http://www.boxboro.org>
Adams MA N BerkshireARC <http://www.nobarc.org/hamfest.htm>
Dartmouth MA SEMARA <http://www.semara.org/flea.htm>
Falmouth MA FARA <http://www.falara.org>
Feeding Hills MA MTARA <http://www.mtara.org>
Framingham MA FARA <http://www.fara.org> & <http://www.n1em.org>
Marlboro MA AARC <http://www.gsl.net/n1em>
Newton MA Waltham ARA Auction <http://www.wara64.org/auction>
Rockport MA CAARA <http://www.caara.net>
S Dartmouth MA SEMARA <http://www.semara.org>
Wakefield MA Photographica <http://www.phsne.org>
Westford MA NEAntiqueRC <http://www.nearc.net>
Whately MA FranklinCARC <http://www.fcarc.org/news.htm>
Worcester MA WPI ACM <http://acm.wpi.edu/swapmeet/>



New England Area Ham/Electronic Fleas:

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

2018

20 Jan Whitman MA WARC @KoC Rt18 \$5@9AM \$15/T Chris 781 523 5010 F+
3 Feb Springfield VT CVFMA @VFW @8 B/Free \$5/T@7 Dave K1ZS 603 446 7312
17 Feb Marlboro MA AARC @MidSch \$5@9 \$20/T@6:30 Tim KA1OS 508 919 6136 F+
24 Feb S Burlington VT RAoNV @HI 189x14 \$9@8 \$15@6 Mitch W1SJ 802 879 6589 +
25 Feb Hicksville NY LIMARC @LevitHall\$6@9+\$22/T@7 Richard K2KNB 516-694-4937 W+
4 Mar Nashua NH NEARC RadioXLIX @CrtYdMarriott antique \$10@8 603 772 7516 F+
10 Mar Chicopee MA MtTomARA @Castle \$5@8:30 S@6:30 Brian KC1BDF 860 478 6790
18 Mar Southington CT SARA @HS \$5@8 \$20/T@6:15 John WA1JKR 860 621 8791 +
30,31 Mar Lewiston ME AARC ME Conv @Ramada @8 Ivan N1OXA 207 784 0350
7 Ap Hampton NH PCARC @Masonic \$5@8 \$10/T@7 Mark K1RX 603 231 8965
14 Ap Newton MA PHSNE Photographica Sat Only @AmLegion @9A John 781 592 2553
4-5 May Deerfield NH NEARfest XXIII @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 +
11 Aug St Albans VT STARC @VFW Arn N1ARN 802 309 0666 +
9 Sept Ballston Spa NY SCRACES @FG \$6@7 Jim KG2H 518 703-9558 +
12-13 Oct Deerfield NH NEARfest XXIV @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 +
27 Oct Gales Ferry CT TCARC @FireCo auction Tom WA2RYV 860 464 6555 +

2019

3-4 May Deerfield NH NEARfest XXV @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 +

Near-term local fleas

Whitman ARC WinterFest 2018

Saturday, 20-Jan'18

K of C Hall, 1195 Bedford St. (Rt. 18), Whitman, MA Buyers \$5.00, 9:00AM-1:00PM

<<http://www.walnpo.org/pics/WinterFestFlyer2018.pdf>>

Drive time from I-495 exit 32: 55-75 minutes.

Algonquin ARC Flea Market

Saturday, 17-Feb'18

Buyers \$5.00, 9:00AM-1:00PM

(<<http://gsl.net/nlem/2018flier.pdf>>)

Marlboro 1st Lt. Charles W. Whitcomb (ex-Middle) School

25 Union St. (Thresher Dr.)

<<http://goo.gl/maps/kfLd9>>

Special Event Stations in New England

02/16/2018 | ChathamRadio/WCC Transmitter Site 70th Anniversary Celebration

Feb 16-Feb 18, 1200Z-2100Z, WA1WCC, Chatham, MA. WCC Amateur Radio Association. 14.262 14.042 7.042 3.532. QSL. WCC ARA, P.O. Box 1528, West Chatham, MA 02669. www.wccara.com

04/28/2018 | Honoring the Birthday of the Boy Scouts of America

Apr 28, 1000Z-1500Z, W1BSA, Fall River, MA. USNR NE1PL. 7,259. QSL. USNR c/o Rick Emord, 135 Wareham St, Middleboro, MA 02346. This will be our fourth year transmitting in honor of the birthday of the Boy Scouts Of America from the ward room of the USS Massachusetts. Scouts camp over night on the ship and we try to involve as many as we can.

08/17/2018 | 151st Annual Marshfield Fair

Aug 17-Aug 26, 1600Z-0059Z, NN1MF, Marshfield, MA. Whitman Amateur Radio Club. 18.160 14.260 7.260 3.860; EchoLink: WA1NPO-R, IRLP: 8691. Certificate & QSL. Whitman ARC, PO Box 48, Whitman, MA 02382. Times are daily. www.walnpo.org

Amateur Radio News



D-Star One is a [3U CubeSat](#) designed and built by German Orbital Systems as a technology demonstration for their planned CubeSat communications constellation.

The satellite is equipped with two D-Star communication modules onboard. These modules will be fully dedicated to the amateur radio community. Subsequent satellites will have enhanced capabilities and address larger potential customer groups.

The satellite was launched on 28 November 2017 as a copassenger on a [Soyuz-2-1b Fregat-M](#) rocket, but was lost due to an upper stage problem.



From eHam.net News:

[Team Proposes New Space-Weather Forecasting Method:](#)

by phys.org on December 19, 2017

Scientists from Skoltech, the University of Graz and the Royal Observatory of Belgium have developed a method to forecast the strength of the 11-year solar activity cycle. The results of this study may shed light

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into the process by which magnetic fields are generated on the sun. This is key, as these magnetic fields affect health and the operability of various earthbound devices. Following the invention of the telescope, astronomers Galileo Galileo, Thomas Harriot, Christoph Scheiner and Jan Fabricius discovered spots on the sun's disk. But it would be another 250 years before it was understood that the sun's behavior is subject to 11-year cycles. The 11-year periodicity of solar activity was accidentally discovered in the 19th century by German chemist Henry Schwabe. He was fond of astronomy, and with the help of an amateur telescope, sought to find a hypothetical small planet inside the orbit of Mercury. He never found the planet, but thanks to systematic observations he discovered the cycles of solar activity. At present, such sunspots observations are carried out twice a day throughout the year by observatories around the world and the prediction of the 11-year solar cycle is very important in many areas of human activity in space and on Earth.

Illegal Radio Operator to Know Fate in February:

by newsday.co.tt on December 19, 2017

Two Court of Appeal judges are to decide on the punishment of a ham radio operator who operated a radio transmitting equipment without a licence in 2007. A magistrate's order in 2011, which led to Desi-Lee Bonterre being discharged of the two offences has been overturned by Justices of Appeal Alice Yorke-Soo Hon and Mark Mohammed. They have substituted a guilty verdict and will consider the appropriate punishment for Bonterre in February. Bonterre was charged by Harrinath Sawh of the Telecommunications Authority (TATT) on September 12, 2007, for operating radio transmitting equipment without a licence at his home at King Street, Point Cumana in Carenage.

West Bengal Radio Club Bats for Better Warning During Calamities:

by millenniumpost.in on December 18, 2017

Kolkata: The West Bengal Radio Club (amateur club) that works in close coordination with the state government during natural calamities has sent a proposal to the state Disaster Management department to build up the infrastructure for linking the amateur radio repeater with internet for uninterrupted connectivity during a natural disaster. "In areas struck by a natural disaster, the entire communication system goes in disarray. An amateur radio repeater is an electronic device that receives a weak or low-level amateur radio signal and retransmits it at a higher level or higher power, so that the signal can cover longer distances without degradation. If this repeater can be linked with uninterrupted internet at the nearest place of the affected area where it is available then communication will be at the very best," Ambarish Nag Biswas, founder secretary of Amateur Radio Club said. The Radio club accessed the repeater of Amateur Radio Club based in California and conducted a mock drill on tsunami in three coastal areas of Bengal-North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas and East Midnapore in presence of the district administration on November 24. An interface device was made and internet was linked with ham radio. The mobile towers were deactivated at seven points in the coastal areas of these three districts and it was illustrated that how this technology can be used for uninterrupted connectivity. A number of state government departments like Irrigation, Power, Health etc took active part in the mock drill that was organised with the initiative of state Disaster Management department.

Neural Network Learns SDR Ham Radio:

by hackaday.com on December 18, 2017

Identifying ham radio signals used to be easy. Beeps were Morse code, voice was AM unless it sounded like Donald Duck in which case it was sideband. But there are dozens of modes in common use now including TV, digital data, digital voice, FM, and more coming on line every day. [Randaller] used CUDA to build a neural network that could interface with an RTL-SDR dongle and can classify the signals it hears. Since it is a neural network, it isn't so much programmed to do it as it is trained. The

proof of concept has training to distinguish FM, SECAM, and tetra. However, you can train it to recognize other modulation schemes if you want to invest the time into it.

[RSGB: Measuring Spectrum Pollution Video:](#)

by RSGB on December 17, 2017

The RSGB has released the video of the RSGB Convention lecture by Alwyn Seeds, G8DOH, Measuring Spectrum Pollution at VHF and UHF.

[Belgium Ends 19th-Century Telegram Service:](#)

by bbc.com on December 17, 2017

One hundred and seventy-one years after the first electronic message was transmitted down a line running alongside the railway between Brussels and Antwerp the final dispatch will be sent and received on 29 December. The fact that this 19th-Century technology is still up and running in the age of Instagram and Snapchat may seem rather odd -- especially when you consider that the UK, which invented the telegram in the 1830s, abandoned it as long ago as 1982. The United States followed suit in 2006 and even India, which had been by far the world's biggest market for the telegram, finally closed its system down in 2013. Before the invention of the telephone, the telegram was the first system that allowed the more-or-less instant transmission of electronic messages over long distances. The electronic impulses from the sender's machine - Morse code became the commonest system -- were translated into text at the receiving end, first by human operator and then eventually by machine.

[Patients at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital Talk to Santa Over Ham Radio:](#)

by prnewswire.com on December 16, 2017

TAMPA, Fla., Dec. 15, 2017 -- Patients at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital in Tampa had a direct link from their hospital room to Mr. and Mrs. Claus in the North Pole on Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017, thanks to Santa's helpers from the Bay Area Emergency Amateur Radio Service (BEARS) and the hospital's Child Life team. For the past nine years, volunteers with BEARS along with St. Joseph's Hospitals Facility Technician and BEARS Coordinator Christopher Perry have turned their amateur radio station housed in the hospital's emergency communications center into the "Santa Net Control Center." When not being used to connect patients to the North Pole, BEARS operates as a community based emergency response station under the call sign W4TCH. "You just can't help but smile when you hear the pure joy these kids have in talking to Santa," said Perry. "They're usually surprised that he's thinking of them while they're in the hospital and reassured that he knows where to leave their presents on Christmas Eve."

[The 43rd Annual Tampa Bay Hamfest, a Gathering of Ham Radio Enthusiasts:](#)

by plantcityobserver.com on December 16, 2017

Dozens of men and women in customized ball caps and insulating flannels rummaged through bins full of wires and rotor cables early Saturday morning. From a table in the corner a soft voice rang out, beckoning patrons to examine her wares. Anna Montesano, 15, picked up a walkie-talkie and excitedly radioed her soon-to-be stepdad, informing him when people stopped at their booth. Despite the gloomy day, Montesano was all smiles as she chatted about getting her radio license and discussed her passion for the art of amateur radio. She was a ham through and through. By the end of the two-day event, hundreds had walked through the Strawberry Festival Ground's Expo Hall for the 43rd annual Tampa Bay Hamfest, a gathering of amateur radio enthusiasts, otherwise known as "hams." Amateur radio uses radio frequency spectrums to exchange messages. Though it can be traced back to the late 19th century, the craft is receiving a resuscitation as more and more people apply for radio licenses. According to the National Association for Amateur Radio, the number of licensees in the United States has steadily inclined since 2008. Then there were 663,564 licensees. In 2015, there were 735,405.

[Santa to Talk to Local Kids via Radio Dec. 16:](#)

by herald-dispatch.com on December 15, 2017

HUNTINGTON -- Santa Claus has agreed to talk with children - and the young at heart - on amateur radio from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at the Museum of Radio and Technology, located at 1640 Florence Ave., Huntington, according to a news release from the museum. "One of the little-known facts about Santa Claus is that to communicate with all of his helpers and elves and high-level managers, Santa uses amateur radio," Mark Killen, president of Tri-State Amateur Radio Association and treasurer of the Museum of Radio and Technology said in the release. "Amateur radio (ham radio) is a popular service that brings people, electronics and communication together. ... Santa has found that radio is much more reliable than emails, Twitter, Snapchat or even cellphones," he said in the release.

[Antietam Elementary Students Flying High After Radio Chat with ISS:](#)

by potomaclocal.com on December 15, 2017

It took over a year planning and preparation, but then on Monday, December 11, 2017, their ship -- the International Space Station -- came in. Students at Antietam Elementary School in Lake Ridge used a Ham Radio to speak with Astronaut Mark Vande Hei. The window to speak to the station was short -- about 10 minutes. And the timing had to be just right, too. As the ISS made its approach over Virginia, flying in space at 17,500 mph over the U.S. from west to east, the students put out a call. "NA1SS, this is KM4TAY for our scheduled contact," said one student. After about three tries, the space station came in loud and clear and the audio was piped over a loudspeaker for the more than 600 students that packed the school's cafeteria to listen. Selected students lined up to ask questions about what life in space is like, about the food astronauts eat, about working in zero gravity, sleeping on a wall, and if an asteroid has ever stricken the station.

[Students Chat with Italian Astronaut Aboard Space Station:](#)

by valleybreeze.com on December 15, 2017

Northern Rhode Island students recently made history when they spoke with Italian astronaut Paolo Nespoli, who is aboard the International Space Station. This was the first "space chat" from the Space Station with a Rhode Island high school. St. Mary Academy -- Bay View sophomore Justice A'Vant, of Lincoln, and Bishop Hendricken High School junior Matthew Smaldone, of Foster, were chosen to ask the astronaut the questions. They spoke with Nespoli at precisely 12:02 p.m. on Nov. 30 from the Dr. Daniel S. Harrop Theater at Bishop Hendricken. The space chat was arranged through



the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station Program (ARISS), which promotes STEM learning opportunities for students. The program accepted Hendricken's proposal to become a space chat host school and through an "Ask the Astronaut" contest, A'Vant and Smaldone were chosen to ask the astronaut's questions. There were 200 questions entered into the contest, and 16 of the questions were chosen, including theirs. Students chosen from Bay View traveled to Bishop Hendricken during the school day for the space chat.

[City's Radio Shack One of the Last Still in Business:](#)

by derbyinformer.com on December 15, 2017

At one time, there were more than 7,300 Radio Shack stores nationwide and in four foreign countries. That number has steadily dropped as the business model changed and stores were closed. Now, there are less than 600 stores -- with one of those few standing in Derby at 707 N. Baltimore. It's a franchise store, meaning owners Mark Brecheisen and Sean Hadipour have paid Radio Shack a fee to use the name and order a minimum amount of merchandise each year. In addition to the independent dealers, there are some corporate-owned stores left, but only about 70 -- just a shell of the multi-billion dollar company that was founded in 1921 and could once claim that 95 percent of households lived within three miles of an outlet.

[Ham Volunteers Support Evacuation Shelters in Fire that Refuses to Die:](#)

by The ARRL Letter on December 14, 2017

Since its start on December 4, the massive and only partially contained Thomas Fire in southern California by mid-week had consumed nearly 240,000 acres, destroyed more than 700 single-family residences and threatens thousands more, and caused residents in fire-threatened areas to evacuate. Amateur Radio volunteers have been supporting communication for American Red Cross shelter sites in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, passing traffic between evacuation centers. One of several fires that have broken out across Southern California, the Thomas Fire is far and away the largest. The Ventura County Auxiliary Communication Service (ACS)/Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Net activated on December 5, "as smoke filled the air, and the fire grew to catastrophic proportions," said Ray Smith, KI6VED, who volunteered with his wife Jade, KI6VFQ. Their home was included in an evacuation order.



ARRL News

[Logbook of the World to Add Support for CQ WAZ Award](#)

December 14, 2017 - Participants in CQ magazine's Worked All Zones (WAZ) award program will soon be able to use the Logbook of the World (LoTW) system of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio, to apply for the WAZ award and its endorsements, both ARRL and CQ announced on December 14. Amateur Radio operators will be able to use LoTW logs to generate lists of confirmed contacts to be submitted for WAZ cred...

[The Doctor Will See You Now!](#)

December 14, 2017 - "Listener Mailbag" is the topic of the current (December 7) episode of the "ARRL The Doctor is In" podcast. Listen...and learn! More than a half-million downloads since its debut in April 2016 attest to the podcast's popularity. Sponsored by DX Engineering, "ARRL The Doctor is In" is an informative discussion of all things technical. Listen on your computer, tablet, or smartphone -- whenever and...

[FCC Proposes \\$25,000 Fine for Breaking Now-Voluntary Labeling Rules](#)

December 13, 2017 - The FCC has proposed fining Acuity Brands Inc. of Atlanta, Georgia, \$25,000 for apparently marketing radio frequency devices that were not labeled in accordance with Commission Part 18 rules at the time. The FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL) on November 21. Compliance with the particular rule at issue now is voluntary. "Specifically, Acuity marketed three models of consumer-grade e...

[ARRL Foundation Announces Ozaukee Radio Club, W9CQO, Scholarship:](#)

Wednesday, December 13, 2017 - The ARRL Foundation has announced a new, annual scholarship that is funded through the generosity of the Ozaukee Radio Club in Cedarburg, Wisconsin. The Ozaukee Radio Club, W9CQO, Scholarship, is intended to help support the post-secondary educational expenses of a current Amateur Radio licensee. Applicants must be US citizens, residents of Wisconsin, and under 26 years old, and be performing a...

[Radio Anniversaries Abound in December](#)

December 12, 2017 - December is the month in which three notable events in radio history occurred.

[South African Radio League to Host 2018 YOTA Camp](#)

December 12, 2017 - The South African Radio League (SARL) will host the 2018 Youngsters on the Air (YOTA) Summer Camp.

[Goldfarb Scholarship Winner Accepts "Amazing Opportunity" to Intern for NASA](#)

December 12, 2017 - The 2015 recipient of the prestigious William R. Goldfarb Memorial Scholarship, Jacob Nunez-Kearney, KF7DSY, of Mesa, Arizona, will interrupt his matriculation at Purdue University to accept an internship this spring at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. "This is an amazing opportunity that has been many years in the making that I have decided to accept," Nunez-Kearney told ARRL. He will re...

[Amateur Radio Volunteers Active in Latest Round of California Wildfires](#)

December 11, 2017 - The massive and barely contained Thomas Fire in Southern California has consumed more than 230,500 acres, and the emergency has caused residents in fire-threatened areas to evacuate. Amateur Radio volunteers remain active supporting communication for American Red Cross shelters in Ventura County. More evacuations are likely, although the need for Amateur Radio assistance remains dynamic. Cal Fi...

[January 2018 QST Debuts Fresh, New Design](#)

December 08, 2017 - QST -- ARRL's monthly member journal -- is more than a century old, and with the major exception of color printing throughout the magazine starting in December 2000, it's remained mostly unchanged for the past couple of decades. Starting with the January 2018 issue of QST, now available to members in digital form, several noticeable changes are being made to the journal's format, design, and si...

[The January Edition of Digital QST is Now Available!](#)

December 08, 2017 - Start reading the January issue today!

[Arizona Repeater Association Joins Maxim Society with Latest Donation](#)

December 07, 2017 - At the December 2 Superstition Hamfest in Mesa, Arizona, the Arizona Repeater Association (ARA) presented its annual donation of \$2,500 to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund. This marks the fourth consecutive year that the club has contributed. "ARRL is deeply appreciative to all the members of the Arizona Repeater Association for their ongoing support to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund," said ARRL D...

[Pearl Harbor Commemorative Special Events on the Air](#)

December 07, 2017 - Special event stations are on the air to commemorate the 76th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. The Azalea Coast Amateur Radio club (NI4BK) is sponsoring a special event to commemorate Pearl Harbor Day from the Battleship North Carolina (BB-45) Memorial in Wilmington, North Carolina. Two stations will be on the air on voice, digital, and CW modes (SSB on or about 14.227 MHz; CW ...



- 2017-12-05 [ARLB025](#) FCC Seeks Comments on Technological Advisory Council Recommendations
- 2017-12-01 [ARLB024](#) W1AW to begin scheduled transmissions on 6 meters starting January 2, 2018
- 2017-11-20 [ARLB022](#) Michigan Section Manager Appointment Begins on January 1
- 2017-11-20 [ARLB023](#) Ballots Counted in 2017 Director, Vice Director Elections
- 2017-11-14 [ARLB021](#) Section Managers to Begin New Terms of Office on January 1
- 2017-11-08 [ARLX011](#) ARI President Mario Ambrosi, I2MQP (SK)
- 2017-11-06 [ARLB020](#) W1AW 2017/2018 Winter Operating Schedule
- 2017-10-24 [ARLB019](#) Communications Interoperability Training with Amateur Radio Community Set
- 2017-10-23 [ARLX010](#) QRZ DX and The DX Magazine Publisher Carl Smith, N4AA (SK)
- 2017-09-26 [ARLX009](#) Past QCWA General Manager, Former ARRL Staffer Jim LaPorta, N1CC (SK)
- 2017-09-15 [ARLB018](#) FCC Opens 630- and 2200-Meter Bands; Stations Must Notify UTC Before Operating
- 2017-09-08 [ARLB017](#) Operating Procedures During Hurricane Irma
- 2017-08-18 [ARLB016](#) Revised NCVEC Form 605 Must Be Used at Exam Sessions Starting on August 21
- 2017-08-15 [ARLX008](#) Solar Eclipse QSO Party Signup So Far Has Attracted More Than 250 Eclipse Enthusiasts
- 2017-06-22 [ARLX006](#) ARRL Sacramento Valley Section Official Observer Coordinator Norm Lucas, WB6RVR (SK)
- 2017-06-19 [ARLX005](#) 2017 W1AW Field Day Bulletin Schedule
- 2017-05-24 [ARLB015](#) Spring Section Manager Election Results Announced
- 2017-05-20 [ARLB014](#) Ned Stearns, AA7A, Elected as Southwestern Division Vice Director
- 2017-05-05 [ARLB013](#) Important Notice - New MF and LF Bands are Not Yet Available to Use!
- 2017-04-27 [ARLX004](#) Armed Forces Day Crossband Military/Amateur Radio Communications Test is May 13
- 2017-04-06 [ARLB012](#) Revised Memorandum of Understanding between ARRL and FCC Still a Work in Progress
- 2017-04-05 [ARLX002](#) 30th International Marconi Day Event Set for April 22
- 2017-04-05 [ARLX003](#) Former Kansas Section Manager Orlan Cook, W0OYH, and Former Sacramento Valley Section Manager Ron Murdock, W6KJ (SK)
- 2017-03-13 [ARLB011](#) W1AW 2017 Spring/Summer Operating Schedule
- 2017-02-27 [ARLX001](#) Past ARRL Midwest Division Director Lew Gordon, K4VX (SK)
- 2017-02-24 [ARLB010](#) New Section Manager Appointed in West Virginia
- 2017-02-22 [ARLB009](#) Winter Cycle Section Manager Election Results Announced
- 2017-02-21 [ARLB007](#) FCC Invites Comments on ARRL Petition to Allocate New 5 MHz Band
- 2017-02-21 [ARLB008](#) New Section Manager Appointed in Illinois
- 2017-01-26 [ARLB006](#) Amateur Radio Parity Act Speeds to U.S. House Passage, Heads to U.S. Senate
- 2017-01-17 [ARLB005](#) New "Amateur Radio Parity Act" Bill Introduced in US House of Representatives
- 2017-01-13 [ARLB004](#) ARRL Asks FCC to Allocate New 5 MHz Band, Retain Channels and Current Power Limit
- 2017-01-12 [ARLB003](#) Illegal Drone Transmitters Could Interfere with Air Traffic Control, ARRL Complaint Asserts
- 2017-01-06 [ARLB002](#) FCC Dismisses Two Petitions from Radio Amateurs
- 2017-01-03 [ARLB001](#) W1AW 2017 Winter Operating Schedule

Southgate Amateur Radio News



Three new crew members on voyage to International Space Station

Three crew members representing the United States, Russia and Japan are on their way to the International Space Station after launching from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 2:21 a.m. EST Sunday (1:21 p.m. Baikonur time)



Ham radio link to Santa

Patients at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital in Tampa were able to talk to Santa Claus in the North Pole over amateur radio



RAC Canada 150 Award

The **RAC Canada 150 Award** is a celebration of Canada's 150th birthday since Confederation in 1867. The Award is issued for contacting the RAC stations between July 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017. We are now in the final few weeks of the Canada 150 Award



Next Advanced distance learning course starts January

Steve Hartley GOFUW reports there are just 10 places left on the distance learning course for the amateur radio Advanced exam



VK6ARN NewsWest

In the news this week it's NEW HAMS. Bob talks digital modes and band plans. Andrew gives us a Ham College wrap-up for 2017 and takes time to provide intent behind the recently-formed RASA. Onno brings us what's happening in amateur radio across Western Australia in the present time, and I'll help celebrate new and upgraded licenses here in VK6



Now is the time for Sporadic-E openings on 50 Mhz

The SARL report that recently, the first Sporadic E contact during this season was made from Rio de Janeiro over 2 000 km to the northern part of Brazil



Distracted Driving: Ontario temporary exemption extended

Distracted driving regulations continue to be an area of interest for many Canadian Radio Amateurs. These regulations are made and enforced by provincial governments and can vary considerably from province to province and over time



Marathon Man on Ham Radio Now

Rob Orr K9RST joins the Ham Radio Now team to talk about the amateur radio involvement in the USA's second largest marathon



Foundations of Amateur Radio

How does Single Side Band work?

A little while ago I spent some time discussing how to test if your radio was on frequency. It generated lots of comment and email with various suggestions on other ways to do this test, but it also caused one listener to ask the question, what's this Upper Side Band and Lower Side Band thing you're talking about?



ZT1T until 12th Night

We will be operating **ZT1T** over Xmas once again. The unique prefix/special call sign will be used to celebrate our 7th Xmas on terra firma after being rescued mid-South Atlantic



The Sun is dimming as solar minimum approaches

At the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, SpaceX launched a new sensor to the International Space Station named 'TSIS-1'

Ham radio contest calendar

- [ARRL Contest Calendar](#) ★★★★★ - Comprehensive ARRL contest calendar, includes rules sopbox web reports and QST results. Contest Corral include non-ARRL contests schedule for coming months.
- [DL2NBY Contest Calendar](#) ★★★★★ - This site provides dates and rules of nearly 400 Amateur Radio HF contests. Based on google calendar system, offer the possibilty to integrate calendar events in your google calendar too.
- [HB9DHG Contest calendar](#) - Yearly contest calendar with links to rules and contest results. Contest information is validated and checked.
- [HF Digital Contest Calendar](#) - Monthly Digital Contest Calendar, this site offer a list of scheduled ham radio digital modes contests.
- [Monthly QRP contest calendar](#) - QRP Contest Calendar All contest have QRP Categories by N3EPA but no more updated since 2011.
- [RTTY Contests](#) ★★★★★ - An RTTY only contest calendar, which includes scores and rules and records of recent and upcoming RTTY contests.
- [SM3CER Contest Calendar](#) ★★★★★ - SM3CER Contest Service is one of the most up-to-date and complete contest calendar available online since the early internet era, it offers monthly constest calendar with rules links and results
- [VHF UHF Contest Calendar](#) - European VHF UHF Contest calendar by G4ZTR
- [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) ★★★★★ ^{pop} - Complete listing of upcoming ham radio contests, including rule summaries of this week's contests. You can even subscribe to his email service or subscribe to rss feeds.

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>

Not sure if you are aware that there is a W. Middlesex ARES group that has been on for a few years. The station has two VHF/UHF rigs and antennas which is located at the new Stow Fire Station. It is a simplex net on the second Tuesday of the month on 147.435 MHz, 110.9 Hz tone.

Repeater Information

Repeater Interference

The 146.955 repeater periodically has had interference to in-progress 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.

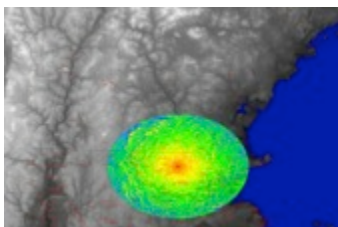
EmComm events and repeater use

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.



Repeater propagation info is 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 (the first one is FREE to new members). We use The Sign Man of Baton Rouge as our official supplier, and you can browse the club's design at:

<<http://thesignman.com/clubs/part.html>>. However, please place your order via the PART Membership Chairman, Hugh Maguire-N1QGE, hulin127@verizon.net so that we may benefit from bulk pricing.



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:
PART, PO Box 503, Westford, MA 01886

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