



# PARTicles

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

February 2012

## President's Column

- Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)



I recently went to the grocery store, wearing my KB1OIQ baseball hat. As I was waiting for the (teenaged?) girl to ring up my groceries, she was giving me rather funny looks. She then asked me, "What does your hat say?". I told her that it was my amateur radio callsign. I received a blank stare. Despite my best efforts in the next couple of sentences, I wasn't able to convey to her an understanding or appreciation for the hobby. I consider that a failure on my part. As someone who enjoys teaching, I need to come up with a way to take advantage of that 30 second "teachable moment" next time it occurs with somebody else. I am open to suggestions.

The PART kit building event was held recently, and I'd guess there were 15 - 20 people in attendance. Many people were building kits, some were elmering, and others came to sniff solder smoke and encourage the kit builders. It was encouraging to see the happy looks on people's faces when they powered up their project for the first time and saw it work successfully! Geoffrey(KB1USE) built the Tenna Dipper, his first "major" project of this type, and succeeded with the guidance of many of those around him. There were a couple of new guys in the crowd and I hope we see them at future PART meetings. A lot of people pulled together to make this a success, including: Scott (NE1RD), Rich (AB1HD), Steve (WA1KBE), Dave (WI1R), Alan (W1AHM), Allison (KB1GMX). Many thanks to all of you!

I had the privilege of addressing the FARA club at their February meeting. There were about 15 Hams showing interest in the topic "Linux in Your Hamshack". I had several

enjoyable conversations with people after the meeting. Thanks, Gordy (K1GB) for the invitation to visit the club.

The SKCC (Straight Key Century Club) held their annual K3Y CW special event during the entire month of January. Operators were contacting stations in 10 districts in the USA, and Alaska, Hawaii, some new DX stations, and QRP operation were considered icing on the cake. Operators achieving a clean sweep include Geoffrey (KB1USE), Charlie (K1PUB), Andy (KB1OIQ). Others who participated include Rich (AB1HD) and Scott (NE1RD). Charlie (KB1PUB) logged 451 (out of 989) contacts while operating as K3Y/1 (nicejob!!), while Andy (KB1OIQ) logged 76 contacts as K3Y/1.

Although it seems early, I am looking for a Field Day chairman for this year's event. If you are interested in this challenging but rewarding position, please contact me directly.

Upcoming events: Algonquin ARC Flea Market in Marlboro on Saturday, February 18th, 2012. FARA Flea Market in Framingham on Sunday, March 25, 2012. K1P Special Event Station on Patriots' Day weekend on April 14th and 15th, 2012. NearFest in Deefield, NH on Friday May 4th and Saturday, May 5th, 2012. Dayton Hamfest in Ohio on May 18th - May 20th, 2012.

If you missed the January PART meeting, you missed a great talk by Scott (NE1RD) about everything he thinks he knows about antennas. Fear not, for we have another great speaker lined up for our next meeting. The speaker for our February meeting will be Eric Falkof (K1NUN), and the topic will be "Stealth Antennas and Stealthy Hamming". I look forward to seeing you there!

Have a lot of fun, and 73 de Andy

**Next PART Meeting – February 21st 7:30 PM-  
Westford Police Station  
"Stealth Antennas and Stealthy Hamming"  
by Eric Falkof (K1NUN)**

## Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

### February 21st, 2012

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

### March 3rd, 2012

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

### March 20th, 2012

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

### April 7th, 2012

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

### April 17th, 2012

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

## **New England Area Ham/Electronic Fleas:** <http://web.mit.edu/wlgsl/Public/ne-fleas>

18 Feb Marlboro MA AARC @MidSc \$5@9 \$20/T@7 Timothy KA1OS  
 19 Feb Westford MA NEARC RadioXLIII Antique @Regency\$10@8 Bruce  
 25 Feb S Burlington VT HAM-CON @HI I89x14 \$8@8 \$15@6 Mitch W1SJ  
 4 Mar Hicksville NY LIMARC @LevitHil \$6@9+\$20/T@7 Richard K2KNB  
 10 Mar Feeding Hills MA MtTARA @TurnverneinClb Mary N1TOY  
 10 Mar N Conway NH WMARC @ComCtr Thaire W2APF  
 17 Mar Daville CT ECARA @StJoseph \$3@8 \$10/T Paul KE1LI  
 18 Mar Southington CT SARA @HS \$5@8 \$20/T@6:15 Norm W3IZ  
 18 Mar Henniker NH CVRC @ComSch Don N1ZIH  
 23-24 Mar Lewiston ME AARC ME Conv @Ramada Ivan N1OXA  
 25 Mar Framingham MA FARA @KeefeTech Bev N1LOO

## Treasurer's Report

### **PART Treasury 20-December-2011 thru 17-January-2012**

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	\$2,942.75	\$624.82	\$3,567.57
Income	\$1,445.00	\$221.02	\$1,662.02
Expenses	(\$1360.31)	(\$0.00)	(\$1360.31)
Net	\$84.69	\$221.02	\$305.71
New Balance	\$3,027.44	\$854.84	\$3,873.28

### **PART Membership Demographics as of 4-February-2012**

	Households (= New for 2012 + Renew for 2012)	Individuals (= New for 2012 + Renew for 2012)
Full (\$25)	23 (= 5 + 18)	23 (= 5 + 18)
Senior (\$15)	20 (= 1 + 19)	20 (= 1 + 19)
Family (\$30)	11 (= 0 + 11)	5 (= 0 + 5)
Student (\$15)	0 (= 0 + 0)	0 (= 0 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	0 (= 0 + 0)	0 (= 0 + 0)
Grand Total	54 (= 6 + 48)	48 (= 6 + 42)

\* To pay dues \*

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

-or-

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



## Monthly PART Events

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

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> Monday or every month (except when it is a holiday). Skywarn and ARES Nets – these nets are spontaneous when local conditions warranted.

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

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

## 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 Pricing

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.

Summary:

*Continental breakfast: \$9.00 (new price)*

*Full breakfast: \$14.00 (same price)*

*Kid's breakfast: \$8.00*



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Robert Schmeichel  
2011

## Member Contributions

### A Repeater Owner's Reflections

- Terry M. Stader (KA8SCP)



I look back when a couple of us got together and thought we'd like to experiment and try and put a repeater together, something for us in the Westford area to play with, something to challenge our technical abilities (financial too!). One of us had gotten a repeater controller for a gift (generous spouse), we knew we could get our hands on a couple of Motorola radios and tap in to some knowledgeable hams like Roger-W10J (rest in peace, Roger)!

So we assembled all the pieces and Ernie's basement became the "shop" it was assembled in. Ernie had all the tools and we "futz" around with the components and in 1991 the 442.450 repeater came alive from his home, complete with frequency coordination and official approval to put it on the air! Shortly thereafter, it was moved up to the water tower. The water tower location was a nice coup. We had a lot of correspondence and some hefty reference letters at the state and local level on our quasi-government relationship w the Westford Police and the state's emergency management.

When the 146.955 repeater (Fred's, W1FC, split site, located in Chelmsford and Carlisle) came off the [fire tower on Robbin Hill](#), I spoke to Fred about relocating it to the Westford water tower site. I got the approval from NESMC to move the frequency to the new location with a new trustee/ownership. Once again, we got the technical group together, assembled the pieces and put 955 on the air in Westford in 1992. There was already a great group of hams, loosely called the "fraternal amateur radio technical society" and often referred to ourselves as the Ye Old F##TS. We had camaraderie and loved the hobby. This was the soul of 955 back in the late 80's and the 90's.

These machines "play" exceptionally well thanks to the very clean "site" and our desire to keep this installation a "professional" amateur radio repeater site. I've been to many sites, where equipment is hanging off the cabinets, wires strewn on the floor, the tops popped on the equipment, probes hanging out the gear... looks like some people shack! This is NOT what we were about.

Over the years, we have seen our repeater draw more and more hams to using it because they had wide-area coverage and the group of hams were mostly professional in the high-tech business world and the discussions on the air we mostly technical in nature. Not to the degree that a non-techie could not join and gain some insightful knowledge about the topic at hand. We did a lot of elmering in those days, it was what we were about, the true Amateur Radio spirit.

Looking at some of the new technologies out there, we decided to convert the 442.450 to a D-Star repeater. We always considered the UHF side to be the "playground" which we played with various technologies, like linking, auto-patch, remote base, etc. The UHF side was not seeing very much activity, really only spotty groups here and there. So, we made the change. Sure there was some grumblings, quite a bit but only awhile. With our relationship with our peers at the water tower, we were able to bring up an internet-connected "premier" UHF D-Star site that saw a 20% increase in range of who could access it. We have over 60 registered users on this digital system! We recently added another 2 meter frequency pair on 145.330 and added it to the D-Star mix. The antenna for this 2 meter repeater has a little disadvantage in the siting, it is 90' below the other two antennas and shielded from the east by the water tower. We'll fix that someday.

It is wonderful to have world-wide communications with this D-Star system. I am having a blast, assisting in building other systems around New England, 5 total now that I have my hands in.

So what is next? I am not so sure what next is... like many of you, we are quite frustrated with the years of bad repeater users, the interference and the other JUNK we hear on the 955 repeater. Realistically, the poor use is only a small portion of the available time the repeater is on the air. There is lots of beneficial use at times when the noise is not there. The problem is that we focus on the bad and we want it to go away. Most of the "good" users want us (I assume us is "us repeater owners") to eliminate the bad users and interference. We do not have some magical wand which we can conjure up a spell and just "wish" it away. We have to identify and locate the source of the interference. We have to be absolutely sure of the offender before we can write a letter asking them to not use the repeater anymore. We have done that on numerous occasions. If that letter is disregarded, the owners have the option of advising the FCC of a violation of a request to stay off the repeater. The FCC states that the repeater owners have the right to determine who can use the repeater at anytime.

We have taken many steps in contacting the ARRL and the FCC as well as trying to tap in to number of volunteer hams who have helped us identify the offending station. We document EVERYTHING.

The efforts have been effective in some cases, but not all has worked and it bothers me. I cannot fathom how a licensed Amateur Radio operator would want to be "named" as a law-breaker essentially, to a federal agency! We have submitted names, call signs, street addresses, and audio recordings. We have zero tolerance of the purposeful



and willful interference and attacks on any individual. It is possible there are other federal offenses being committed and maybe even state laws being broken.

Please keep in mind the following: 1.) We record all repeater traffic; 2.) Do NOT acknowledge the interference on the air; 3.) It is a violation of Federal law to communicate with an unidentified station; 4.) If we regard a segment of a recording as proof of interference, we will not be deterred from submitting it to the FCC as evidence just because it happens to include other stations (e.g., repeater users in "good standing") violating the rules or regulations.

It seems to me, that having your name put on a "list" somewhere, that could jeopardize some future license, or association with a known federal offense, would be enough to keep the noise off the air. I guess some people think different than me. Good for them. It seems to me, all this nonsense will catch up to the offender one day!

We, the owners, regret that we have to write these letters. We know that this action will forever damage any relationship we ever had with these hams. They will spite PART and all it's members. So we as owners take these actions slowly, accurately and regrettably.

All I can ask of everyone who uses the WB1GOF repeaters is, don't get caught as possible collateral damage. Do NOT be part of the problem, even if it is only done once, if you're caught, you are caught and you are the problem.

For the general user population, thank you for all your support. We ask that you continue to assist in the general health of the repeater by monitoring and reporting any interference. When it occurs, switch over to the input frequency (146.355) and tell us if you can hear the signal from your location. Send your reports to [repeater@wb1gof.org](mailto:repeater@wb1gof.org). Make sure you tell us the time of day and your location as well as a signal reading if you can.

I would also like to thank the members of the "repeater interference team" for your long hours in working with us the owners to identify and resolve the problems.

*(Thanks to Ernie-NIAEW for his contribution to this article as well)*

### **Greater Boston Net Directory**

Daily 5:30 pm	Eastern Mass/Rhode Island Phone Net (NTS)	3.918
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 Newsline)	145.470

## ARRL News



The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is the national association for amateur radio, connecting hams around the U.S. with news, information and resources. URL: <http://www.arrl.org>

### [NASA Selects AMSAT Fox Satellite to Join Program](#)

Sat, 02/11/2012 - 14:19 **Project ELaNa**, NASA's "Educational Launch of NanoSat" managed by the Launch Services Program at the Kennedy Space Center, announced on February 10 that the AMSAT **Fox-1** CubeSat has been selected to join the program. NASA will work with AMSAT in a collaborative agreement where NASA will cover the integration and launch costs of satellites deemed to have merit in support of their strategic and educ...

## [A Summer Story](#)

Fri, 02/10/2012 - 15:31 I heard all the kids say, "Far out, look at that old car!" As my father sat down, I asked him if he still had the old ham radio in it. He looked at the car and said, "Yep and it still works too." My youngest daughter ran over and said, "Wow! Grandpa that is a big radio in the car." I asked my dad to tell us the story about how he got the radio. It was always a good story. He looked at us and as...

## [The K7RA Solar Update](#)

Fri, 02/10/2012 - 14:15 Solar activity was down again this week -- this is the third week in a row with sunspot numbers lower than the week prior. On January 20, we reported an average daily sunspot number of 116.9 for January 12-18, 98.7 the next week, followed by 62 the week of January 26-February 1, and now 40.4 during the latest period. Sunspot numbers for February 2-8 were 85, 39, 43, 37, 27, 24 and 28, with a me...

## [Surfin': Chasing Aurora \(But Don't Tell My Wife\)](#)

Fri, 02/10/2012 - 13:59 By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU Contributing Editor. *This week, Surfin' chases aurora on the air and on the tube.* Although I have lived all my life north of latitude 41 and have dabbled in amateur astronomy, I have never been an eyewitness of **aurora borealis**. I have heard the effects of aurora on 144 MHz propagation many times, and on 28 MHz one time. And I have taken advantage of that enhanced propagation...

## [World Record Balloon Attempt](#)

Thu, 02/09/2012 - 16:17 A group of Amateur Radio operators hopes to establish a world distance record for an unmanned, helium-filled balloon. The BLT-28 balloon will launch from Katy, Texas, on a journey that will take it across the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, and then on to Nanjing, China. The South Texas Balloon Launch Team plans to release the balloon at 3 PM CST (2100 UTC) Saturday, February 11. During the tran...

## [Amateur Radio Quiz: The Big Unit](#)

Thu, 02/09/2012 - 14:08 By H. Ward Silver. N0AX [n0ax@arrl.net](mailto:n0ax@arrl.net) *Amateur Radio deals with everything -- from the very, very small to the very, very large -- so it's particularly important that we know how to work with units of measurement. One of the easiest checks on a calculation is whether the units "work out" they way you expect. To do that requires a certain facility with units, constants and conversion factors -- an...*

## [Astronaut Janice Voss, KC5BTK \(SK\)](#)

Wed, 02/08/2012 - 14:56 NASA astronaut **Janice Voss, KC5BTK**, of Houston, Texas, passed away on February 7 from cancer. She was 55. One of only six women who have flown in space five times, Voss' career was highlighted by her work and dedication to scientific payloads and exploration. Voss participated in making **ham radio contacts from space** via the Space Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (**SAREX**), the precursor to the Am...

## [The 2012 ARRL International DX CW Contest Takes to the Air Next Weekend](#)

Wed, 02/08/2012 - 13:24 CW DXing and contesting take center stage the weekend of February 18-19, as the **2012 ARRL International DX CW Contest** takes to the airwaves. "After years of lackluster conditions on 15 and 10 meters, 2011 finally saw the propagation gods giving us a break," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. "Since September 2011, the high bands have been in excellent shape, with worldwide open..."

## [Former ITU-R Director Dick Kirby, W0LCT/HB9BOA \(SK\)](#)

Tue, 02/07/2012 - 17:53 Richard "Dick" Kirby, W0LCT/HB9BOA, passed away on January 26. He was 89. In 1974, Kirby -- an ARRL Life Member -- was elected Director of the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) International Radio Consultative Committee; he served as Director until his retirement in 1995. In 1992, under Kirby's tenure as Director, the Committee became the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R). One o...

## [Agenda Item 1.23 Passes Committee, Moves to Plenary](#)

Tue, 02/07/2012 - 14:41 On the afternoon of Tuesday, February 7 (Geneva time), Committee 4 of the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (**WRC-12**) approved **Option 1** to satisfy Agenda Item 1.23, with minor editorial amendments to the text received from Working Group 4C. Option 1 calls for a worldwide secondary allocation to the Amateur Service at 472-479 kHz, with a power limit of 1 W EIRP, with a provision for admini...

## [Nobel Laureate Joe Taylor, K1JT, Addresses Plenary Session at WRC-12, Receives ITU Gold Medal](#)

Mon, 02/06/2012 - 19:41 On Friday, February 3, delegates and attendees at the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (**WRC-12**) had the pleasure of listening to Joe Taylor, K1JT, share his vision of the future of radiocommunication. Taylor -- an ARRL Member -- won the **Nobel Prize in physics in 1993** for the discovery of a binary pulsar, a discovery which has opened up new possibilities for the study of gravitation. Aft...

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

Mon, 02/06/2012 - 17:05 Four new poll questions have just been published on the **QuickStats** page on the ARRL website. Let your voice be heard! Questions in this month's QuickStats poll:

- How many radials have you installed at the base of your HF vertical antenna?
- Do you have antennas installed in your attic?
- What kind of ac power supply do you use at your home station?
- Do you check the activity on a DX Cluster before gett...

## [Be a Star! Deadline for Second Annual ARRL Video Contest is February 29](#)

Mon, 02/06/2012 - 16:26 If you've ever wanted a way to show the world how exciting Amateur Radio can be, here's your chance: The ARRL is sponsoring its **Second Annual Video Contest!** Here's a chance to put that video camera to use: Shoot a ham radio-related video and send it our way. All videos must be postmarked by February 29, 2012. Burn your video to a CD or DVD using the appropriate software and mail it to ARRL Vide...

## [Proposed Maritime Mobile Allocation Gets First Reading at WRC-12 Plenary Session](#)

Fri, 02/03/2012 - 16:32 At the February 3 Plenary Session of the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (**WRC-12**), delegates heard the first reading and approved a worldwide exclusive allocation to Maritime Mobile of 495-505 kHz. There will need to be a second reading to finalize the allocation. According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, discussion of this allocation to Maritime Mobile "has been in...

## [The K7RA Solar Update](#)

Fri, 02/03/2012 - 16:21 Here are some yearly averages that we have neglected at the beginning of the year. These are the average daily sunspot numbers for whole calendar years, from 1994-2011: 48.1, 28.7, 13.2, 30.7, 88.7, 136.3, 173, 170.3, 176.7, 109.2, 68.6, 48.9, 26.1, 12.8, 4.7, 5.1, 25.5 and 29.9. You can see from these numbers that the minimum between Solar Cycles 22-23 -- centered around 1996 -- was over quic...

## [WRC Update: How Are Agenda Items Processed at a WRC?](#)

Fri, 02/03/2012 - 15:26 By Rod Stafford, W6ROD, IARU Secretary. The procedures used by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) before and during a World Radiocommunication Conference (**WRC**) seem complicated. They are somewhat complicated, but they are understandable with a bit of background. Each Agenda Item that will be decided at a WRC has been studied for at least three or four years leading up to a WRC. ITU Work...

## [Amateur Allocation at 472 kHz Moves a Step Closer to Acceptance](#)

Fri, 02/03/2012 - 14:23 While two hurdles still remain to be cleared, the effort to gain a new amateur medium frequency (MF) allocation reached a major milestone on Thursday, February 2 at the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (**WRC-12**) in Geneva, Switzerland. According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, a Sub Working Group dealing with Agenda Item 1.23: "To consider an allocation of about 15 kHz...

## [New Rules for 5 MHz \(60 Meters\) To Go Into Effect March 5](#)

Fri, 02/03/2012 - 14:04 On November 18, the FCC **released** a *Report and Order (R&O)*, defining new rules for the 60 meter (5 MHz) band. These rules are in response to a *Petition for Rulemaking (PRM)* filed by the ARRL more than five years ago and a June 2010 *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)*. In the **February 3 edition of the Federal Register**, the FCC **announced** that these new rules will go into effect at 12:01 AM (EST) ...

## [Surfin': Wikipedia vs CIA](#)

Fri, 02/03/2012 - 14:01 By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU, Contributing Editor - *This week, Surfin' tries to determine the best place to just get the facts (Ma'am) about new countries.* Before **Wikipedia**, there was the Central Intelligence Agency. A decade ago, if I wanted to look up information about the new country I just worked on 10 meters, I would consult the online edition of the CIA's **The World Factbook**. During the past 10 year...

## 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.*

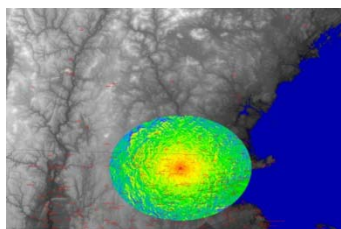
### EmComm events and repeater use

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.



## 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.



PARTicles © 2012, a publication of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

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