

February **PARTicles**



The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

Celebrating 40 years of public service 1975-2015

President's Column

- Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)

During two recent snowstorms, I heard quite a bit of Skywarn activity on the WB1GOF 955 repeater. Many people reported snowfall amounts, temperatures, and other local weather conditions. This information gets forwarded to the National Weather Service. There are local training classes offered in the fall, and they are a very informative and well worth the time. Many thanks to the hams that are net controller operators for Skywarn, and to those that take a few minutes to gather the information and call it in. For more information, please go to: <http://skywarn.org>

Lately, I've been on a bit of a kit building binge. These kits may be of interest to you, and all are very inexpensive. The simplest is the Easy Receiver by QRPkits, which is a direct conversion 40m CW receiver that I built into a small lunchbox. QRPkits also offers an easy transmitter, bandpass filter, T/R switch, and other accessories for building a simple but complete QRP station. These kits involve soldering components to the board, and fabricating an enclosure.

<http://www.qrpkits.com/ezseries.html>

The next kit is the ZZRX-40 by the Four State QRP Group, which is also a direct conversion 40m CW receiver. This kit has a well machined enclosure made out of circuit board material. The operator can select one of two VFOs via jumpers.

<http://www.4sgrp.com/zzrx40.php>

I'm currently working on the BITX40 by HF Signals, which is a QRP SSB transceiver for the 40m band. The BITX40 is the latest creation of Ashar (VU2ESE) Farhan, who also created the more familiar BITX20.

The BITX40 circuit boards are already fabricated, and the external connectors are supplied, so one

only needs to create an enclosure and wire the boards to the external connectors. The fairly unique feature of the BITX40, and the feature that got my attention, is that the software is Free Software involving Aurdino programming. I'm looking forward to hacking that software!

<http://www.hfsigs.com>

Terry (KA8SCP) is our PARTicles editor, and he is always looking for articles to publish in this newsletter. The deadline for submission is usually about a week before the monthly PART meeting. Please email your submissions directly to Terry at ka8scp@wb1gof.org.

Club activities have been relatively quiet, but in the spring, several public service opportunities will present themselves. Preliminary discussions about Field Day in June are taking place.

At our next PART meeting, to be held on Tuesday, February 21st, our speaker will be George (K1IG). He will talk about Astron power supplies, how they work, and how to repair them. Also, PART supports the Westford Food Pantry which operates out of the Cameron Senior Center. Donations of canned food items are accepted, and appreciated, at the PART meeting.

It is not too early to plan your outdoor spring antenna projects! Do you need to fix any winter damage? Perhaps you'd like to erect a new antenna? Putting wire antennas into the trees is much more easily done before the leaves appear. Putting antennas on the roof, or a tower, is much easier before the heat of summer.

Have a lot of fun, and 73!

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 1-January '16 & 31-December '16 (As of 7-February '17)

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Repeater Fund</u>	<u>Checking Total</u>
Old Balance	\$ 3,087.74	\$ 3,891.95	\$ 6,979.69
Income	\$ 2,568.84	\$ 775.49	\$ 3,344.33
Expenses	\$(2,302.12)	\$ 0.00	\$(2,302.12)
Net	\$ 266.72	\$ 775.49	\$ 1,042.21
New Balance	\$ 3,354.46	\$ 4,667.44	\$ 8,021.90

PART Treasury between 15-November '16 & 19-December '16 (As of 20-December '16)

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Repeater Fund</u>	<u>Checking Total</u>
Old Balance	\$ 3,299.72	\$ 4,584.21	\$ 7,883.93
Income	\$ 74.42	\$ 68.97	\$ 3,344.33
Expenses	\$ (153.39)	\$ 0.00	\$ (153.39)
Net	\$ (78.97)	\$ 68.97	\$ (10.00)
New Balance	\$ 3,220.75	\$ 4,653.18	\$ 7,873.93

PART Treasury between 20-December '16 & 17-January '17 (As of 17-January '17)

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Repeater Fund</u>	<u>Checking Total</u>
Old Balance	\$ 3,220.75	\$ 4,653.18	\$ 7,873.93
Income	\$ 426.00	\$ 53.97	\$ 479.97
Expenses	\$ (82.29)	\$ 0.00	\$ (82.29)
Net	\$ 343.97	\$ 53.97	\$ 397.68
New Balance	\$ 3,564.46	\$ 4,707.15	\$ 8,271.61

PART 2016 Membership as of 7-February '17

	Individuals		Households	
	(= New for 2016 + Renew for 2016)		(= New for 2016 + Renew for 2016)	
Full (\$25)**	48	(=10 + 38)	48	(=10 + 38)
Senior (\$15)*	46	(=5 + 41)	46	(= 5 + 41)
Family (\$30)*	21	(=2 + 19)	9	(= 0 + 9)
Student (\$15)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(= 0 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(= 0 + 0)
Grand Total	115	(= 17 + 98)	103	(= 15 + 88)

ARRL members: 106 / 92%

(Including ARRL Life members: 16)

NOTE: Starred lines changed since 1-Dec'16.

Doubly starred lines changed because of a correction of new vs. renewal subtotals.

PART 2017 Membership as of 17-February '17

	Individuals (= New for 2017 + Renew for 2017)		Households (= New for 2017 + Renew for 2017)	
Full (\$25)	21	(=1 + 20)	21	(=1 + 20)
Senior (\$15)	19	(=0 + 19)	19	(=0 + 19)
Family (\$30)	11	(=1 + 10)	5	(= 0 + 5)
Student (\$15)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(= 0 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(= 0 + 0)
Grand Total	51	(=2 + 49)	45	(=1 + 44)

ARRL members: 46 / 90%
(Including ARRL Life members: 11)

##To pay dues##

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

-or-

Club Meeting, Cameron Senior Ctr., 7:00PM, 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

Feb 4th 2017

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

Feb 21st 2017

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

Mar 4th 2017

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

Mar 21st 2017

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

Apr 1st 2017

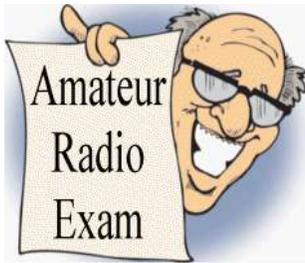
- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$15/\$9; kids: \$8 – see note below)

Apr 18th 2017

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

Monthly PART Meetings and Social Events

- Every Sunday, 8 PM – PART Net on 146.955 repeater, Echolink Node 380799
- Every 3rd Tuesday, NEW TIME - 7:00 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, EXCLUDING January 2017. 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: Bruce WILUS at 978-851-2886 [Email Bruce WILUS](mailto:Bruce.WILUS@bills.org) or Gary WIGFF at 978-453-1100 [Email Gary WIGFF](mailto:Gary.WIGFF@bills.org).

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>

2017

25 Feb Chocorua NH WMARC @Runnels Hall Greg KB1EZJ 603 759 6671 A+
 25 Feb S Burlington VT RAoNV @HI I89x14 \$8@8 \$15@6 Mitch W1SJ 802 879 6589 W+
 25 Feb Augusta ME AARA @Club Calumet Bill K1NIT 207 512 0312 A+
 26 Feb Hicksville NY LIMARC @LevitHall Richard 516 694 4937 A+
 5 Mar Nashua NH NEARC RadioXLVIII antique \$10@8@ Marriott 603 772 7516 F+
 11 Mar Chicopee MA MtTomARA @Castle \$5@8:30 S@6:30 Brian KC1BDF 860 478 6790 F+
 19 Mar Southington CT SARA @HS \$5@8 \$20/T@6:15 John WA1JKR 860 621 8791 W+
 19 Mar Henniker NH CVRC @CommSch Jeffrey KB1WTI 603 831 9352 +
 31 Mar Lewiston ME AARC ME Conv @Ramada @8 Ivan N1OXA 207 784 0350 W
 8 Ap Newton MA PHSNE Photographica Sat Only @AmLegion @9A John 781 592 2553
 8 Ap Hampton NH PCARC @Masonic \$5@8 \$10/T@7 Mark K1RX 603 775 0220 F
 8 Apr LaSalle PQ MARC @RC Legion \$5@9 \$10/T@8:15 Jim VE2VE 514-990-1965 R
 8 Apr Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518 +
 15 April S Portland ME PAWA @AmLegion Bryce K1GAX 207 415 0498 A+
 16 Apr Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
 Third Sunday April thru October
 22 April Gales Ferry CT RASON @FireCo auction Darryl WA1DD 860 443 7799 +
 23 April Framingham MA FARA @KeefeTS Andy KC1DMM 508 310 5913 A+
 30 April Middletown NY OARC @CommCtr Bruce K2ULZ 845 562 4226 A+
 5-6 May Deerfield NH NEARFest XXI @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 W+
 13 May E Greenbush NY EGARA @FireCo Tom KC2FCP 518 272 1494 A+
 20 May Goshen CT SoBARC \$5@8 @FG Stan W2VID 518 398 7003 W+
 21 May Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+



3 June Brookline NH NEARC Antique@EvtCr \$10@7:30 \$5@8:30 Bruce 603 772 7516 W+
 4 June Fishkill MtBARC @DwnStCorr Adam KC2DAA 845-849-3666 A+
 10 June Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outside John 860 673 0518 +
 18 June Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
 16 July Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
 20 Aug Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
 27 Aug Adams MA NoBARC @BoweFld 6:30sell 7:30buy Eric KA1SUN 413 743 9975
 17 Sept Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
 8,10 Sept Boxboro MA FEMARA NE Conv Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235
 13-14 Oct Deerfield NH NEARFest XXII @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 W+
 15 Oct Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
 21 Oct Brookline NH NEARC Antique@EvtCr \$10@7:30 \$5@8:30 Bruce 603 772 7516 W+
 29 Oct Hicksville NY LIMARC @LeviitHall Richard K2KNB 516 694 4937 A+
 11 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/S@7 ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422
 2 Dec Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518 +

Near-term local fleas

NEARC Greater Boston Antique Radio Show XLVIII Sunday, 5-Mar'17 Buyers \$10.00/family, 8:00AM-1:00PM
 (<<http://www.nearc.net/swapmeetinfo.htm>>)

Courtyard by Marriott
 2200 Southwood Dr., Nashua, NH
 <<https://goo.gl/maps/AMjdeqz9Zwm>>

Contoocook Valley Radio Club Flea Market Sunday, 19-Mar'16 Buyers \$3.00 (2/\$5!), 8:00AM-1:30PM
 (<<http://138.68.27.108/sitel/event/2017-cvrc-flea-market/>>)

Henniker Community School
 51 Western Av., Henniker, NH
 <<https://goo.gl/maps/GAj7TpHjDHm>>

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.



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

Click [here](#) for the address and information.

Rescue at Sea

- *Alan Lewis-K1ALL, Intercontinental Amateur Radio Traffic Net Controller*

On 23 January 2017, I was acting as net control for the opening hour of the Intercontinental Amateur Traffic Net on 14.300 Mhz. As is normal at this time of year and in this sunspot cycle, propagation was pretty bad and, by 0730 local time, I had no check-ins on the net. And then I heard a weak call from a maritime mobile stating that he was aground and taking on water in the Bahamas. I quickly checked the weather there and it was blowing 35+knots from the west with 15 foot seas. I declared an emergency to alert other ham operators to keep the frequency clear and started what turned out to be a seven hour QSO with the stricken vessel, Orion, which had gone aground on Great Sale Cay just north of Grand Bahama Island. There were two persons on board the 46 foot power yacht, a 77 year old skipper and his 78 year old wife.

Under quite poor reception conditions, I recorded their position (latitude and longitude) and learned that they did not have an amateur radio call sign or a marine radio call sign. They did have a VHF marine radio but could not contact anyone. They had no phone service.

I then called by phone the U.S. Coast Guard Miami Operations Center to report the incident and was very professionally debriefed. The Coast Guard in turn contacted the [Royal Bahamas Defense Force](#) and the [Bahama Air-Sea Rescue Association \(BASRA\)](#), a volunteer group which maintains both air and surface rescue capability. The weather was sufficiently poor to permit air operations and I was requested to try to maintain communications with MV Orion while preparations for a surface rescue were begun. I maintained a 30 minute schedule with Orion to ensure they were in no immediate danger and to provide additional data to the Bahamas and USCG authorities. I received multiple phone calls from the Coast Guard, BASRA, and the Royal Bahamas Defense Force during the next few hours to pass information from and to the stricken vessel. In addition, ham operators from both the InterConNet and the Maritime Mobile Service Net, each of which operates on 14.300 MHz, attempted to make contact with Orion, but I was the only station that was able to maintain reliable contact.

With bad weather continuing and air operations impossible, I was informed by Bahama Salvage that a surface operation was not possible for at least several hours. The nearest surface vessel assistance was in Freeport, a significant distance from Great Sale Cay. The weather was predicted to continue to deteriorate for at least the next several hours.

Regular communications were maintained with Orion for several hours, during which the skipper confirmed that he had equalized the water ingress and that they were not in immediate danger of sinking as long as the pumps remained operational.

At about 1400 hours EST, BASRA Nassau reported via a Florida ham that the vessel had been washed onto the beach and that the crew had abandoned ship and was safe ashore. This was still unknown to the rescue folks in Freeport.

At about 1720 EST, I received an email from BASRA Freeport that they were launching an aircraft to check on the state of Orion. At 2200 EST that evening I was told by Gary Simmons of Ocean Rescue and Recovery of Freeport, Bahamas that the boat was still aground and that the crew had not gone ashore but was still on board and safe. He also stated that, depending on the weather, he would try to reach Orion on Tuesday (1/24) by surface craft and attempt to assist.

I did not receive additional information until Thursday morning when I received an email from Gary Simmons telling me the boat was now safely moored in Freeport and the crew was safe.

On the morning of the 25th (Thursday), I received a message from the Orion's skipper thanking me and the other InterConNet and Maritime Mobile Net controllers for our assistance in the successful refloating and move to safety of his vessel.

This was a textbook case of when unlicensed operations on the ham bands is permitted and even encouraged. Orion's captain told me that, many years prior, he had himself responded to a MAYDAY that resulted in another vessel and crew being rescued. It is not uncommon for cruising boats to carry HF capable radios which can be operated on both marine and ham frequencies (the ICOM 801 is a favorite) just for such emergencies.

While such rescues are not common, the nets that operate on 14.300 MHz are called for assistance by vessels in distress 6-10 times a year. Considering that the frequency is monitored continuously from 0700 EST to 2100 EST, a lot of hours are invested for a few rescues. None-the-less, the dedicated volunteer net controllers consider this service to be worth their time and a day like January 23rd makes it so.

Amateur Radio News



From eHam.net News:

[NewsWest for Sunday, February 19, 2017:](#)

by WA Amateur Radio News on February 19, 2017

NewsWest, has an interesting variety for you this week:

[Amateur Radio Society Upgrading Smokey Repeater:](#)

by wtribune.com on February 19, 2017

The Smokey amateur radio repeater site located 15 kilometers north of Williams Lake is receiving some much-needed upgrades, said Cariboo Chilcotin Amateur Radio Society president Dr. Mike Smialowski. "As soon as you drive west out of Williams Lake and go over the hill and underneath the telephone lines you have no cell service," Smialowski said. "Last summer a person got lost south of Charlotte Lake and the only repeater that would get into the area was our amateur radio repeater."

[Louie the Cat Can Operate a Ham Radio, Seriously:](#)

by daily-journal.com on February 19, 2017

My people and place of residence: Don and Billie Kerouac, of rural Kankakee. A little bit about me: I was rescued from a local shelter when I was about 12 weeks old. I enjoy bird watching from my house in the country. Since I was 9, I have needed to take medicine every eight hours. It's sometimes necessary to remind my humans ... they think I have a built-in kitty clock! Of course, I require a treat afterward! Favorite toy: Anything with catnip in it! Favorite treat: Twinkies and tuna. Tricks I can do: I can send Morse code on my human's ham radio. My mom was a teacher and she taught me to shake hands (paws), bow, sit up and give kisses on command (as long as there is a treat involved).

[Youth Take Up Amateur Radio from Inside Central Victorian Bus in the Bush:](#)

by abc.net.au on February 18, 2017

Castlemaine student Kezia Hamilton is a product of radio communications, so to speak -- her parents met while talking on CB radio as teenagers. "They had this certain station where they would meet people and would go on a separate frequency to chat," Kezia said. "They decided they would like to meet outside my mum's house, kind of like the equivalent of Facebook in those days." The 17-year-old is part of a group of eight Castlemaine Venturers learning amateur radio in a converted bus located on a bush block on the outskirts of town. "It's pretty cool talking to other people! We once had someone from France and we talked to a couple of people in New Zealand," Kezia said. But it is not just the fun factor of amateur radio that appeals to Kezia. "I think it could be very useful in emergencies and stuff because sometimes the phone towers break down," she said. In the digital age of mobile phones, instant messaging and social media, many swear by amateur radio's resilience.

Group Puts Skills to Test at Winter Field Day:

by gastongazette.com on February 18, 2017

The Gaston County Amateur Radio Society hosted a Winter Field Day event at the home of George Poteat (NC0G) Jan. 28-29. Ten club members and two guests made more than 180 national and international radio contacts, using a variety of modes of radio communications. Winter Field Day is an event with the purpose of encouraging amateur radio emergency preparedness under extreme weather conditions. "Since emergencies and disasters are unpredictable by nature, the goal is to enhance radio communication skills in a less than favorable weather scenario," said Tom Agerton, a member of the group. "Being prepared is the key to a timely response during any emergency event and this is what is expected of amateur radio operators by local authorities and the general community."

Radio-Heads Give Bhubaneswar a Peep into Airwaves from the Past:

by timesofindia.indiatimes.com on February 18, 2017

Spread over three days from February 12, the exhibition was held to mark the World Radio Day on February 13. The centre of attraction was a radio of the General Electric Company make dating back to 1906. Sanjeev Manna, the proud owner of the radio, said he had bought it from a man in Madras (now Chennai). It was touted as the oldest radio at the fair. A self-proclaimed radio activist, Subrat Kumar Pati, also the organizer, said: "The fair brought ham radio, old and new radio sets and broadcasting equipment under one roof." He added that his romance with the radio started early on in life. His fascination for the equipment saw him working with every aspect of it over the years. A valve radio, the predecessor of transistor, was also a top draw. Its owner Akshay Patnaik said, "I collected it from one of my friends at Manikagada in Khurda." A radio collector, Patnaik is credited with having over 350 radio sets. His set, one of the oldest at the exhibition, dates back to the 1920s, said Pati. "Who says the popularity of the radio is on the decline?" asked Pati with an online radio station making its debut at the fair. People bought as many as 2,000 new sets from the fair, which points to the growing popularity of the radio, added Pati. The 'Outreach International Radio Fair', as the exhibition was called, lived up to its name with the participation of three international broadcasters.

The Social Media of 1939:

by reason.com on February 18, 2017

In the first two decades of the 20th century, a new subculture embraced a new technology. Ham radio operators built their own transmitters, traded and modified each other's designs, negotiated complicated covenants that let them share the unregulated ether, and formed groups to enforce the rules. They battled the military (figuratively speaking) for the right to use the airwaves, and they invented broadcasting at a time when virtually everyone assumed that radio would be used only for point-to-point communication. They were often young, often anonymous, and often prone to pranks. They were the social media of a century ago, and you can draw whatever parallels you'd like between their subculture and the subcultures of today. Before long the government would be regulating the airwaves, broadcasting would be professionalized, and the ham operators would be confined to their own segment of the spectrum, where the rules they followed became more strict. But on that reservation they kept their kind of social media alive. Here is an artifact from that middle period of amateur radio, after the anarchic early era but before it stopped seeming unusual to hear live voices from another side of the world: a 1939 "Pete Smith specialty" called Radio Hams.

Ham Radio for Dummies Books Available:

by athensreview.com on February 18, 2017

With the explosive growth in amateur or ham radio, the Cedar Creek Amateur Radio Club decided to spread the word about the over 100-year-old hobby. There are now more licensed hams than at any time in history. And no wonder. You don't need the Internet or Wifi or cell plans. Just a simple walkie talkie that now costs as low as \$30 can connect you to repeater systems that will send your voice across the world. So how are new people exposed to the hobby? Through a book called "Ham Radio for Dummies" by Ward Silver. It is part of the "Dummies" series that explains topics and things in simple terms. And now that the ham license no longer requires a code test, anybody from age 5 to 95 can easily join in. The Radio club, financed in part by a grant from LDG Electronics of St. Leonard, MD, set out to put a copy of that book in most every school and public library in the tri-county area. The task of being the "Johnny Appleseed" of ham radio fell to Glenn Hughes, a club member and former teacher. Glenn visited with librarians, superintendents and key administrators as he delivered the books. Here are a few of their comments. "I delivered the books to the Junior High and High school libraries and visited with the Lead Librarian. She was very excited about sharing something new with the students," said Brad Koskelin, Asst. Supt. of Mabank ISD.

[Foundations of Amateur Radio -- #89:](#)

by Onno VK6FLAB on February 17, 2017

Ask anyone who "knows" and they'll tell you that this is a hobby on Death's door with an ancient membership who are dying and taking our hobby with them. "Amateur Radio is irrelevant in this age of the Internet" and we just have to learn to make do with the shrinking population we communicate with. In this week's episode we discover that as Mark Twain put it, "the report of my death was an exaggeration" to say the least. Our community attracts new entrants at an increasing rate, but our retention lets us down. What can we do to make new Amateurs keep coming back?

[Amateur Radio Newsline Report 2050 for Friday, February 10, 2017:](#)

by James Pastorfield (KB7TBT) on February 17, 2017

The following is a QST. Hams test drive an experimental band in the U.S. Young amateurs prepare for School Club Roundup -- and we hear from the winner of the Dave Kalter Youth DX Adventure's essay competition. All this and more as Amateur Radio Newsline Report 2050 comes your way right now.

[MacLoggerDX Version 6.08 Released:](#)

by Don Agro (VE3VRW) on February 17, 2017

Dog Park Software is pleased to announce that version 6.08 of MacLoggerDX has been released.

[Longlea School Powers Back Up as Bendigo Amateur Radio Club Moves In:](#)

by bendigoadvertiser.com on February 17, 2017

A 130-year-old Longlea school building has burst into the 21st century thanks to a local electronics and amateur radio club. The one-room Longlea School No. 1921 once educated up to 60 students at a time but has sat mostly empty since the mid-1990s. The Bendigo Amateur Radio and Electronics Club has moved in and begun filling blackboards with diagrams and mathematical equations. Club president Kevin Crockett said the new headquarters would be perfect for the club. "Overall it marks the end of a good 14-year period of trying to get good club rooms for us," he said. Mr Crockett said the new headquarters had opened at a time when the club was working to get more people hooked on hobbies like electronics and amateur radio. The group had introduced a number of new programs. "(For example,) I started what in the club we call the Pedal Radio Group a few years ago," he said. There's a few of us who have two-way radios on our bikes and we go out riding, talking to each other and to those around the world. "It gave us a form of communication that then allowed us to provide assistance for the O'Keefe Marathon last year."

[57th Ham Radio and Computer Festival Set for Fairgrounds on Feb. 19:](#)

by richlandsource.com on February 17, 2017

MANSFIELD -- The Ham Radio and Computer Festival has been around since the 1960's, but Danny Bailey, an amateur radio connoisseur, still knows its value. The festival, Bailey said, is a great place to start for beginners. The event will run at the Richland County Fairgrounds Sunday, Feb. 19, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

[Seeing Spots: NASA Video Shows 7 Years of Solar Activity:](#)

by space.com on February 17, 2017

Watch the sun break out in spots over and over again in a new NASA video of the sun showing seven years of sunspot footage, collected by the agency's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO). The SDO launched in December 2009 and has been in space long enough to see most of an 11-year solar cycle, which is characterized by a peak in activity, such as the appearance of sunspots and explosions of material from the surface. The mission is intended to help scientists learn more about the sun's influence on the Earth by studying the sun's atmosphere. In 2013, the SDO and other observatories observed the most muted solar peak in 100 years, which is captured in the video. Data in the video is represented up to January 2017. The larger, orange sun on the left side of the screen represents visible light captured by the HMI (Helioseismic and Magnetic Imager). The black dots are sunspots, which are concentrations of magnetic fields that appear darker than the surroundings. Simply put, larger and more frequent sunspots tend to correlate with more solar activity.



ARRL News

[HAARP Experiments to Get Under Way on February 20 UTC, Reports Invited](#)

February 18, 2017 On February 20 (UTC), Alaska's High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (**HAARP**) will launch its first scientific research campaign since the facility was taken over by the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Geophysical Institute 18 months ago. UAF Space Physics Group Assistant Research Professor Chris Fallen, KL3WX, reports that he will be ready to go starting Monday, February 20, at 03...

[The K7RA Solar Update](#)

February 17, 2017 In the last reporting week (February 9-15) average daily sunspot numbers declined from 21.3 to 17.6, and average daily solar flux rose from 73.5 to 75.1. Average planetary A index dropped from 12.9 to 4.7, and mid-latitude A index from 9.9 to 2.9.

Predicted solar flux is 74 on February 17-19, then 77, 80, 83, 85 and 80 on February 20-24, 78 on February 25-26, 76 on February 27-28, 75 on March 1-...

[ARRL Website, Store to be Offline](#)

February 17, 2017 The ARRL website, the ARRL Store, and other functions will be offline during maintenance on Sunday, February 19, within the period from approximately 2 AM until 4 AM EST (0700 to 0900 UTC). We apologize for any inconvenience.

[K5LN Wins the February QST Cover Plaque Award](#)

February 17, 2017 The winning article for the February *QST* Cover Plaque Award is "A Resonant Speaker for CW" by Bill Sepulveda, K5LN.

The *QST* Cover Plaque Award -- given to the author or authors of the most popular article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the *QST* Cover Plaque Poll web page. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the March issue today.

[FCC Invites Comments on ARRL Petition to Allocate New 5 MHz Band](#)

February 16, 2017

[New Section Manager Appointed in Illinois](#)

February 16 Ron Morgan, AD9I, of East Peoria, Illinois, has been appointed ARRL Illinois Section Manager, effective February 16. He succeeds Tom Ciciora, KA9QPN, of Sandwich, who stepped down for personal reasons. ARRL expressed its thanks to Ciciora, who has served at the helm of the Illinois Field Organization for more than 10 years, since July 2006.

ARRL Field Services Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, appointe...

[Field Day 2017 Packet is Now Available](#)

February 16, 2017

[Campus Ham Radio Clubs Encouraged to Boost Vitality through Innovation](#)

February 16, 2017 ARRL Public Relations Committee Chairman Scott Westerman, W9WSW, believes collegiate Amateur Radio clubs need to blow away the dust and cobwebs and modernize, in order to attract new members. He urges college and university ham radio clubs to seek common technological ground with younger generations, in order to attract new Amateur Radio licensees.

“We really need to be thinking in terms of...stat...

[ARRL Headquarters to be Closed on Presidents' Day](#)

February 16, 2017 ARRL Headquarters will be closed on Monday, February 20, for the Presidents' Day holiday. Headquarters will reopen at 8 AM EST on Tuesday, February 21. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday!

[Amateur Radio Emergency Service Posts its 2016 Annual Report](#)

February 15, 2017 The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) has posted its 2016 annual report. The **2016 ARES Annual Report** focuses on documenting the value that ARES provides to the nation, states, and localities in collaboration with partners at all levels. The report features basic data drawn from Section Emergency Coordinators' reports, a breakdown of ARES figures by state and FEMA region, and a challenge fo...

[Contest University \(CTU\) Posts Course Outline, Faculty, for Dayton Classes](#)

February 15, 2017 The **course outline** has been posted for the **Contest University 2017** sessions, Thursday, May 18, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dayton, reports Tim Duffy, K3LR, CTU Chairman (and ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager). Faculty for the Dayton classes, held in conjunction with Hamvention 2017 this May, includes several returning professors as well as some newcomers: Frank Donovan, W3LPL; Ed Muns,...

[White Mountain Amateur Radio Club to Conduct Third Annual Mount Washington Test Session](#)

February 14, 2017 The White Mountain Amateur Radio Club will conduct its third annual “**Backcountry VE Session**” on February 18 at Harvard Cabin on Mount Washington, New Hampshire. The cabin is at an altitude of 3,250 feet above sea level. Special event station W1M will be on the air from the cabin, built and maintained by the Harvard Mountaineering Club. Examiners are planning to administer tests between 12 and 1...

[Alaska's HAARP Facility Once Again Open for Business](#)

February 14, 2017 The High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (**HAARP**) in Gakona, Alaska, will soon undertake its first scientific research campaigns since the facility was taken over by the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Geophysical Institute 18 months ago. Among the investigators is UAF Researcher Chris Fallen, KL3WX, who will be working under a National Science Foundation **grant**, “RAPID: Spatiotemp...

[ARES Volunteers Support Evacuation, Shelters, in Wake of Oroville Dam Crisis](#)

February 14, 2017 [**UPDATE: 2017-02-14 @ 2312**: Authorities have now lifted a mandatory evacuation order issued over the weekend to residents who could have been affected by catastrophic flooding from failure of the Oroville Dam emergency spillway. Residents may now return to their homes but have been advised to remain vigilant, should the situation again become critical. The Red Cross shelter in Chico will remain...

Foghorn” is Chinese Over-the-Horizon Burst Radar

February 13, 2017



ARRL Bulletins

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



Latest Amateur Radio News from around the world

URL: <http://www.southgatearc.org>

19 February	TX Factor GB2RS News Podcast
	Radio Amateur News Magazine
	Propagation Report from Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP
	SDR-4++ dual diversity SDR receiver
	RadFXSat-2 frequencies announced
	Ham radio satellite activation of Berry Islands
	EURAO Newsletter February 2017
18 February	DXCC Country/Entity Report
	IOTA News from OPDX
	Youth take up amateur radio
	Foundations of Amateur Radio - Episode 89
	Detailed ISS Tour
	Propagation de K7RA
	HamRadioNow: ARRL SE Division Director Recall Petition
	Expect more from Amateur Youth Space Program
	VK6WIA - NewsWest for Sunday, February 19, 2017

17 February	Cadet Radio Exercise BLUE HAM 2
	ITU: Characteristics of Amateur Services
	Linc Smart Walkie Talkie MotoMod
	The unauthorized history of HAARP
	Campus ham radio clubs encouraged to innovate
	Great STEM lesson idea
	Ham Radio for Dummies books given to schools and libraries
	IOTA news from the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club
	DX News from the ARRL
	Deputy Director – Atlantic Region
16 February	Darwin residents no warning of WWII bombing raids
	Nayif-1 launched
	HAARP request reports from radio hams
	CQ to introduce MF/LF column
	Entire family works ARRL HQ station W1AW
	Launch of next space station resupply mission
	Niger DXpedition
	Contest University Dayton 2017 - classes posted
	International Ham Stores Group (IHSG) announce the award of Acom Amplifier agency
	Turks and Caicos Islands
15 February	Tony's 10 Metre Band Report
	HamRadioNow: All SDR, All the Time
	Radio hams ready to help
	Oroville Dam: ARES volunteers support evacuation
	The Great Atlantic Challenge
	Amazing display of colorful clouds in the arctic stratosphere
14 February	Powerpole Polarity Tester
	Loving radio in the internet age
	AmateurLogic 101: Android RTL, BitX40 and lots more
	Ham radio: Around the world and into space
	2017 Scientific Valentine's Day Cards
	Radio released from shackles
	ARRL Collegiate Ham Radio Initiative Forum
	National VOA Museum to celebrate 75th anniversary of Voice of America
13 February	Radio Emma Toc celebrates 95th anniv 2MT
	IOTA News from OPDX
	DXCC Country/Entity Report
	Essex Skills Night February 20
	Baofeng handy talkie meets GNU radio
	Wyong Field Day
	SOTA Summit to Summit VK-EU event
	Scout ham radio around-the-world APRS balloon
	ARISS contact planned for School in Komotini, Greece
Sun 12 February	TX Factor GB2RS News Podcast

	Propagation Report from Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP SARL Youth Sprint
	SARL discusses draft frequency plan at public hearing 75th anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin
	ARISS contact planned for School in Chatelaillon, France Terahertz Wireless
	FCC: Spectrum Fees for Government Agencies ACMA reverses decision on CB sets
	2E0RMI interviewed about Radio Emma Toc
11 February	Propagation de K7RA DX News from the ARRL
	Local radio club has global reach VK6WIA - NewsWest, 12 February 2017
	Foundations of Amateur Radio - Episode 88 BITX40 Resources video
	Ofcom putting UK Government's Industrial Strategy at risk
10 February	PowerGenius XL – FlexRadio 1500W Solid State Amplifier IARUMS: 'Mysterious foghorn' in Ham Radio bands
	South African ATV transmissions ClubLog's DXCC Most Wanted List
	A new Ham on Christmas Island Nevada Radio announces immediate availability of Apache Labs SDR transceivers
	Friday Night Fun Net RFI: Clean up your shack
	RSGB Examination announcements
9 February	Emma KC9YGJ interviewed on Phasing Line NOSintro book now a free download
	Special event station for 'Tambov Pushkin Library - 80 years' Tony's 10 Metre Band Report
	University CubeSat opportunity New Entry Level License for USA?
	Ofcom: Planned spectrum bands for 5G services Nayif-1 CubeSat launch announced
	IOTA news from the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club Lunar eclipse this Friday night
8 February	The VHF/UHF DX Book, 2017 Replica Edition - is now available for free download New on-line Foundation Course from Wythall RC
	Receive pictures from space – ISS SSTV HamRadioNow: Radio ham helps with Inauguration comms
	Ivory Coast op - it's now official 7P8, Lesotho
7 February	Radio ham's 2MT replica transmitter IARU Region 3 Newsletter
	Green comet approaches Earth

	Ham Radio Workshop in Sheffield
	CQ CQ CQ Aeronautical Mobile Field Day at Wyong
6 February	IOTA News from OPDX
	DXCC Country/Entity Report
	EP2C Iran News
	Visalia International DX Convention Top Band Dinner
	ICQPODCAST - Squares, Locators and Zones released
	Ofcom: Ham radio special event station NoV
	Ham Radio - How does the Digital Voice Access Point work?
	Contact with school in Danbury USA
	KC4, Antarctica
Sun 5 February	Propagation Report from Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP
	SARL National Field Day
	AOxWRD: World Radio Day 2017
	HamRadioNow: New Frontiers in Wireless
	Got a Raspberry Pi and an RTL-SDR dongle? Here's a very simple way to make an APRS RX iGate
	Ham radio declining in Australia
	BATC Portsdown Digital ATV Project
	VOA celebrates 75 years on the air
	AMSAT Events
4 February	FCC aims to increase rulemaking transparency
	TX Factor GB2RS News Podcast
	Foundations of Amateur Radio - Episode 87
	Propagation de K7RA
	Consultation on the RSGB's future direction
3 February	BITX-40 On The Air
	DX News from the ARRL
	Tancredo-1 TubeSat video
	RSGB President on BBC Local Radio
	Chelmsford Talk: Diplomatic Wireless Service
	Artificial Intelligence to Control Spectrum Usage?
	Licensing decision relating to ARY Network Limited
	International Radio Day in Holland
2 February	Tony's 10 Metre Band Report
	IOTA news from the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club
	Radio Australia - The Last Two Minutes
	QB50 Mission - downlink frequency details
	Another outstanding year for Amateur Radio licensing!
	95 Years - A celebration of radio station 2MT
	Radio hams help unite family
	2016 JOTA-JOTI Report published
	Petition to RSGB to make VHF/UHF Contests better for everyone

	Diploma Carnaval de Loule 2017
1 February	Hamnet signs Memorandum of Understanding
	South African contests
	Project Horus High Altitude Balloon launch
	NZ Draft Five Year Spectrum Outlook
	Ofcom add Verify button
	RSM staff retirements
	Ham Radio, an unusual stealth aerial only feet above the ground

2017 ARRL Field Day is June 24-25



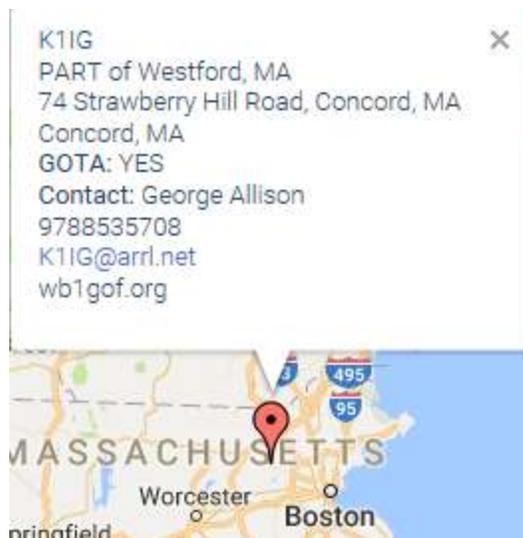
Field Day on Social Media!

Follow Field Day on Facebook and Twitter! ARRL has created a [Field Day event on Facebook](#), and you can also join the conversation by using the hash tag #ARRLFD. Share your plans, tips and tricks to a successful Field Day!

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>

Objective-

To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries.



Repeater Nets

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

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

NOTE: You can LISTEN ONLY to this repeater audio by linking to this URL:
<http://www.radioreference.com/apps/audio/?feedId=10933> (effective 2/2012)

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

- Sunday 8:00 PM [Ozark Mtn D-STAR Net](#) – Reflector 001C
- Tuesday 8:00 PM [New England Amateur D-STAR Net](#) – Reflector 010C
- Friday 8:00 PM CanNet D-Star Net – XRF021B

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

Monthly PART Breakfast

Don't forget the monthly PART breakfast the 1st Saturday of each month at the Westford Regency Inn at 8 AM. The full hot & cold buffet breakfast costs about \$15 (includes tip) per person, a cheaper, lighter fare is available for adults and children. **NOTE: PLEASE let the folks who are settling the bill with the staff know whether you had a full or continental breakfast!**

Monthly Breakfast Pricing

The adult full breakfast is $\$11.95 + 18\% + 6.25\% = \15.00 (rounded up slightly). This price has recently changed. Here is the math for completeness and full disclosure.

Continental breakfast: \$9.00 (same price)

Full breakfast: \$15.00 (new price)

Kid's breakfast: \$9.00 (new price effective March 2015)



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Robert Schmeichel
2011



Copyright WB1GOF,
Robert Schmeichel
2013

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.

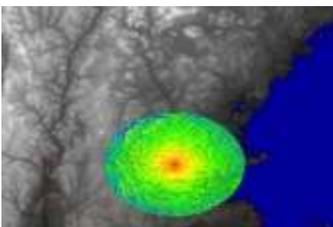
EmComm events and repeater use

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

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Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wb1gof



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