



PARTicles

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

July 2011

President's Column

- *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*

I would like to thank everybody in PART! I thought Field Day was an incredible success, and that couldn't have happened without a lot of hard work from each of you. We were able to overcome a few minor obstacles and pull off an excellent event. Several local newspapers published highly positive articles related to the PART Field Day, and I will bring a copy of those articles to the next club meeting. The folks at the Concord Rod & Gun Club treated us extremely well - many thanks! We were very fortunate this year to have had an excellent site and great group participation.

We had a large assortment of technology on display, including AMSAT satellite communications, digital modes, CW (QRO and QRP), fox hunting, voice, an image from a passing weather satellite, homebrew antennas, battery powered operation, and probably more. We were visited by the ARRL Section Manager and the Affiliated Club Coordinator (Bo, did I finally get your title correct?). There were also a few members of the public who visited. I heard many people say that this was one of the best Field Days that they had attended in many years.

I am really looking forward to the July PART meeting! Please bring your Field Day stories to share with the group. Rick (W1RAG) will tell us the real Field Day story with his slide show presentation. There will be reports from the Field Day chairman, the numerous Field Day assistants, the QSL manager, the treasurer, etc.

The K2H Special Event was held over the July 4th holiday. Several operators from many radio clubs participated. Charlie (K1PUB) deserves a special "thank you" for coordinating all of the activity between all of these clubs.

The Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club (NVARC) has invited PART members to participate in their "Lantern Battery Challenge". In short, for a small fee, you get a battery pack. With that battery pack, you are expected to power a radio and make as many contacts as possible within a certain time limit of a few months. When the battery is exhausted, and when the time limit expires, the participants compare notes to see who made the most contacts. I have all of the details if you are interested. A couple of PART members have expressed a desire to participate in this event. If you are interested, please send me email: kb1oiq@arrl.net

I'm still finalizing the arrangements for our speaker for the August meeting. I'll send out an update at the appropriate time.

There is a chance that our speaker at the September PART meeting will be Dave Morris (N5UP), the founder and webmaster of eQSL.cc. Details are still somewhat in flux, but Dave is flying his Mooney airplane, N6030X, around the country visiting ham radio clubs. Cross your fingers, and everything may fall into place. Be sure to wish for good weather for flying in September.

73 de Andy KB1OIQ

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

July 19, 2011

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9 p.m. Field Day & 13 Colonies wrap-up

August 6, 2011

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

August 16, 2011

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

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury 17-May-2011 thru 20-June-2011

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	\$3,661.55	\$195.81	\$3,857.36
Income	\$16.00	\$203.01	\$219.01
Expenses	(\$40.52)	(\$0.00)	(\$40.52)
New Balance	<u>\$3,637.03</u>	<u>\$398.82</u>	<u>\$4,035.85</u>

PART Membership Demographics as of 11-July-11

	Households (New + Renew)	Individuals (New + Renew)
Full (\$25)	34 (7 + 27)	34 (7 + 27)
Senior (\$15)	22 (1 + 21)	22 (1 + 21)
Family (\$30)	7 (1 + 6)	15 (2 + 13)
Student (\$15)	0 (0 + 0)	0 (0 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	0 (0 + 0)	0 (0 + 0)
Grand Total	63 (9 + 54)	71 (10 + 61)

Latest new member: David/KG1H (Marlboro, MA)

***** Send your Dues to: h*****
PART, P.O. Box 503, Westford, MA 01886-0015
-or-
Meeting, Westford P.D., 7:30PM, Tuesday, 19-July '11

Upcoming Events

- Every Wednesday, 6 AM, Owl Diner Lowell – Breakfast
- Every 1st Saturday, 8 AM, Regency Inn Westford – PART Monthly Breakfast

Monthly PART Breakfast

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

Monthly Breakfast Update

- *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*

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

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

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

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

Summary:

continental breakfast: \$9.00 (new price)

full breakfast: \$14.00 (same price)

kids breakfast: \$8.00

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

Repeater Nets

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heard on the “net”

> ...there are a lot of people out there (even some hams) who routinely say:

>

> "I just cannot believe that anyone would use or collect old radios.

> What's the point? They've long been replaced by better technology"

Just last week I had the family at the local lake on vacation, and while sitting down chatting with some of the other parents, I turned on a small Ham HT I had brought along. I had tuned in the local NOAA WX station as T-storms were expected. One of the Moms asked my wife what's that? And was told I did Ham radio. She replied "Wow I didn't think anyone did that anymore! Shortly after that she pulled out some knitting supplies and started away on some clothing article. I couldn't resist and said with great delight "WOW, I didn't know anyone did that anymore!" It was well worth the smack in the head from my wife!

John Flood

*Next PART Meeting – July 19th 7:30 PM
– Westford Police Station
Field Day & 13 Colonies wrap up*

*In August - High Altitude
Amateur Radio Balloon Project
Bryce (KB1LQC) and Brent (KB1LQD) Salmi presenting*

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

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



Public Service Events

Chelmsford 4th of July

- *Darrell Mallory (K1EJ) Emergency Coordinator, North Middlesex ARES Group*

Hams of North Middlesex ARES Group, including many PART members, supported Chelmsford's Annual Road Race and Celebration Parade for the fifth year. APRS was successfully applied to five float locations for problem tracking in the five mile route..

The coordinator and members of NMAG extend their gratitude to the following operators for conducting an outstanding event on July 4th: John/W1JMA, Al/W1XH, Richard/N1YLX, Garret/KB1EDY, Ed/KB1HLX, Russell/KB1UKU, Jim/N1JWK, John/WB2OSZ, Kevin/KB1KTR, Bill/W1OHM, Bruce/KC1US and Kim/KB1KYS. This is always an excellent training opportunity.

Special thanks to the parade committee and Walter Hedlund, Chelmsford Emergency Management Director, for trusting us with the responsibility of showing that Amateur Radio does work in vital places.

Field Day 2011

Field Day QSO stats

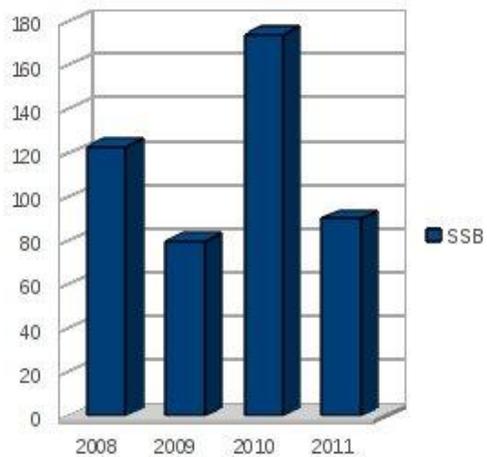
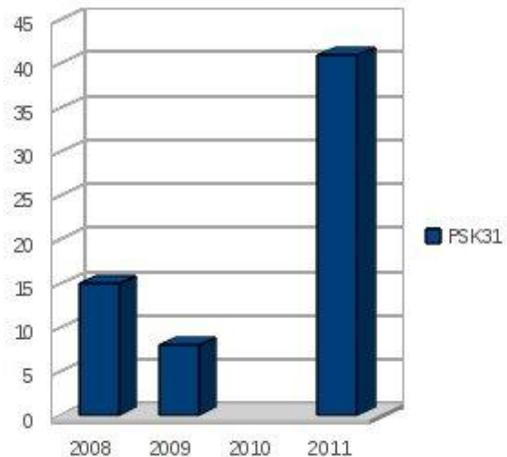
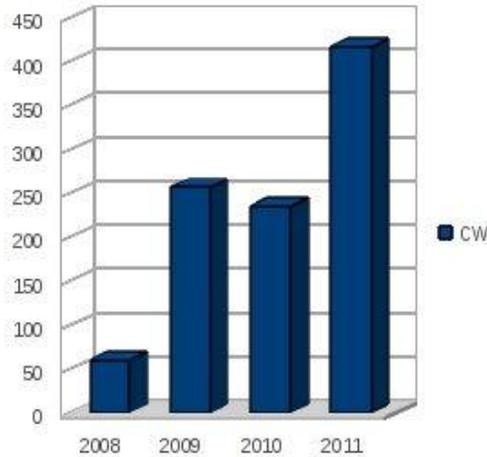
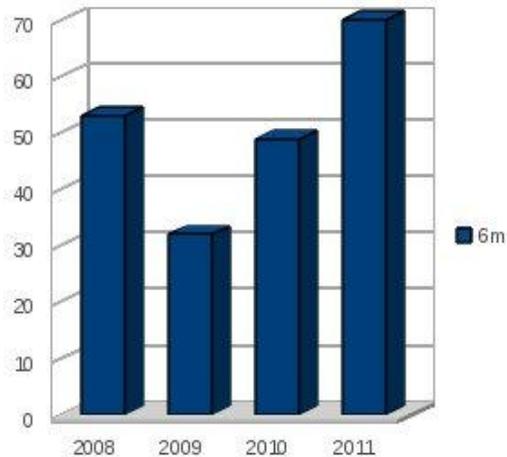
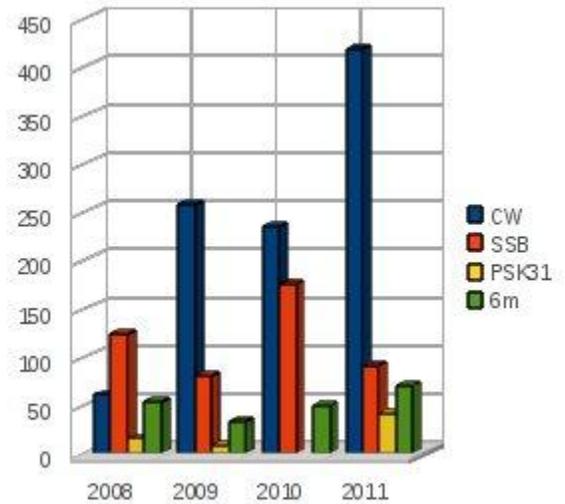
- *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*

The club operated under the W1IS callsign (thanks, Bob!).
Thanks to all of the operators!

CW: 417 QSOs
SSB: 90 QSOs
PSK31: 41 QSOs
6m SSB: 70 QSOs, 44 phone, 26 CW

Total: 618 QSOs !!!

In addition, Andy (KB1OIQ) operated his battery powered Elecraft K1 on the 40m band at 5 watts (QRP) with two homebrew antennas. He made 45 QSOs using his own callsign. All contacts were with stations within a 500 mile radius of the Field Day site.



Weather Images from Field Day

- *Charles Beanland (G3BVU)*

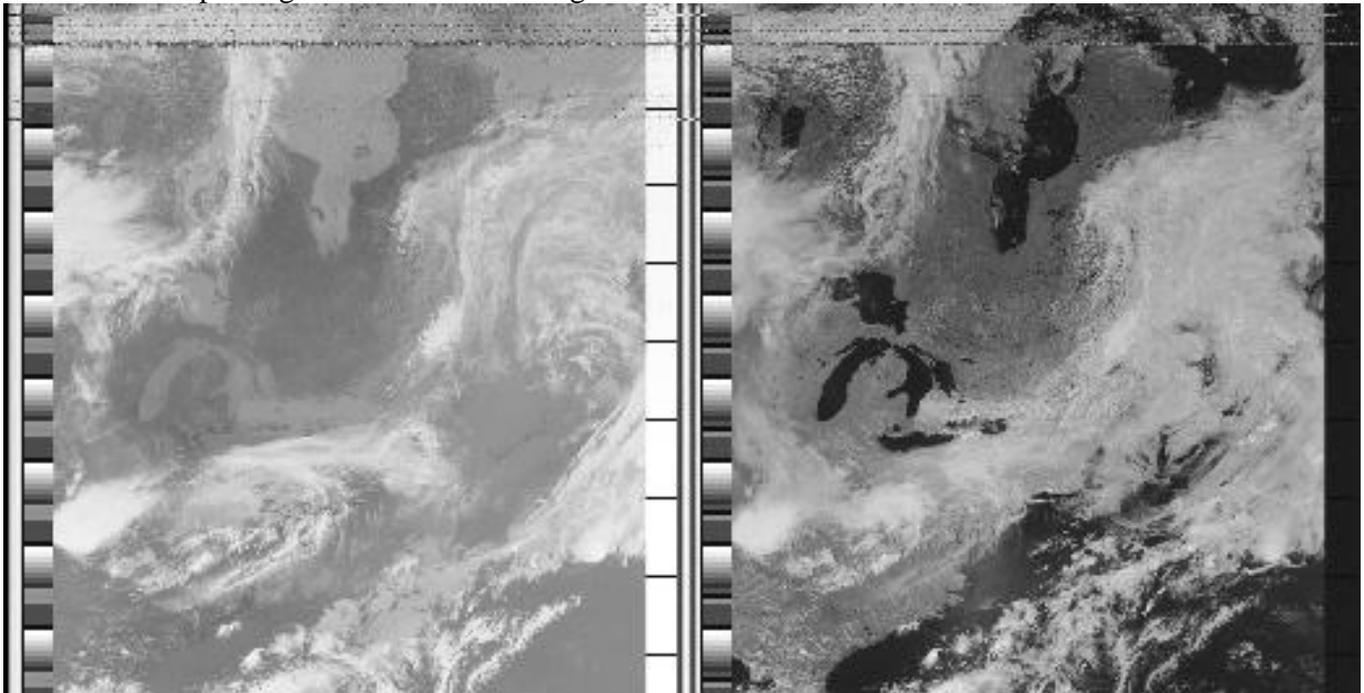
These are images that we received from NOAA-19 on Sunday afternoon, 26 June, at PART's Field Day, to this message.

There are two images in the file. The dark one, with the Great Lakes clearly shown, is the VISUAL image. The other one, with little contrast, is the IR version of the same image. When we "process" the IR image by using different colours for different temperature bands, the IR image is excellent. All satellite images, until recently, were sent to Earth as Grey Scale data. I use a TimeStep Wx Receiver, Decoder and Software, plus my Quad Helix.

The image was received on a 137 MHz Quadrifilar Helix antenna, about 10 feet above the Club House deck, feeding into the Wx Satellite Receiver and Decoder.

I had the system set up for AUTO receive, but unfortunately one of the many software switches was set wrong. It was set to synchronize at the start of reception only, instead of synchronizing on every line. Due to a signal fade we lost sync soon after receiving the signal as NOAA-19 crossed over CUBA and hence did not decode any more of the image.

After I reset the system, NOAA-19 was almost over the top of Florida. We watched the image "coming in", line by line, as NOAA-19 approached us. We followed the signal until it was lost in the noise as NOAA-19 was passing over the Northern region of Canada!



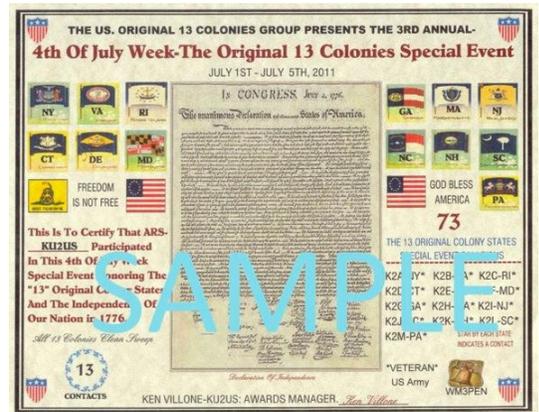
13 Colonies

PART and the 2011 13 Colonies Special Event

- *Charlie Learoyd (K1PUB)*

The 2011 K2H 13 Colonies event is behind us, and once again PART was a major player for Massachusetts. For our third year supporting the 13 Colonies Special event, PART's role changed a bit. Our "sister" station from last year, Steve, N1GKX was unable to participate this year, so Ken Villone (KU2US) the event organizer, recruited three additional clubs to support Massachusetts:

- Southeast Mass Amateur Radio Association (SEMARA), W1AEC, Dartmouth, MA
- Raymond Levesque Memorial ARC, K1ZZN, Fall river, MA
- Cape Ann Amateur Radio association (CARRA), W1GLO, Gloucester, MA



As the lead club, PART took on the responsibility to make sure all the new operators were up to speed as K2H stations, and to coordinate operating times among the four clubs. In support of this we produced a Massachusetts 13 Colonies Operators' Guide that included scripts and guidance for handling pile-ups, and instituted an on-line scheduling calendar using Google Docs. Both seemed to work pretty effectively. PART club member participation as operators was down a bit this year. We made 602 phone QSOs, 392 CW QSOs and 32 digital QSOs, for a total of 1026 (compared to 1750 last year). However, the other clubs really came through; the total QSO counts for Massachusetts are 2510 phone, 497 CW and 332 digital, for a grand total of 3339 QSOs. This put us among the top five states.

I would like to extend my thanks to the seven operators who spent many hours over the long holiday week end: John, W1JMA; Andy, KB1OIQ; Bob, W1IS; Rich, AB1HD; Peter; KB1PBA; Rick, W1RAG; and the author, Charlie, K1PUB. It's interesting that although we accounted for about 30% of the total QSO count, we made almost 80% of the CW contacts for Massachusetts.

Thanks to the PART Board for taking on K2H, and especially to the operators who dedicated so much time on a busy Holiday week end. We expect to be the lead club and operating as K2H again in 2012.

The 13 Colonies Special Event station QSL

- *Alan Martin (W1AHM)*

Normally PART club special events and contesting yield a few QSL cards in P.O. Box 503, sometimes as many as half a dozen.

For Independence Day weekend of 2011, PART members collaborated on Massachusetts support for the 13 Colonies special event. <http://www.13colonies.info>

PART 13 Colonies Chairman Charlie/K1PUB got nervous about the scope of this year's results, so he asked President Andy/KB1OIQ and VP Rich/AB1HD if any QSL cards had arrived yet. Treasurer checked the box on Monday, 11-Jul'11. Here are the results (so far). →



[The K7RA Solar Update](#)

Friday, July 15, 2011, 1:55:00 PM

The average daily sunspot numbers this week were up 57 percent over the previous seven days, rising from 41.6 to 65.6, while the average daily solar flux rose just 3 points to 89.1. There seem to be plenty of sunspots of late, but none have been large, and so the sunspot number and solar flux are not as high as in some previous months. A new sunspot appeared on July 7, then three more the next ...

[Surfin': Hill-Topping for the Golden Packet](#)

Friday, July 15, 2011, 1:25:00 PM

By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU
Contributing Editor

This week, Surfin' urges hams to climb every mountain on the East and West Coasts in the quest for the Golden Packet.

July 24 is "Golden Packet Sunday." Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, hopes to field enough Amateur Radio communications teams located on mountains in the Eastern and Western USA to communicate packets and APRS messages from one end to the other of t...

[The Republic of South Sudan Is Now a DXCC Entity](#)

Thursday, July 14, 2011, 3:09:00 PM

At 10:18 AM (EDT) on Thursday, July 14, the UN General Assembly met to vote on whether or not to **admit the Republic of South Sudan as its 193rd member state**. The Republic of South Sudan was admitted by a vote of acclamation and is **now a member of the United Nations**. Immediately following the General Assembly meeting, the flag of the Republic of South Sudan flew for the first time in front of th...

[ReconRobotics Pays \\$17,500 to End FCC Investigation of Rules Violations](#)

Thursday, July 14, 2011, 2:03:00 PM

On Wednesday, July 13, the FCC **announced** that its Enforcement Bureau and ReconRobotics have entered into a *Consent Decree*. This resolves an FCC investigation in response to a complaint filed by the ARRL. In 2010, the ARRL alleged that ReconRobotics had violated Section 302a(b) of the Communications Act of 1934 as amended and **Section 2.803** of the Commission's rules regarding the manufacturing, m...

[ARRL Executive Committee Approves Grants for Six Schools](#)

Wednesday, July 13, 2011, 5:17:00 PM

In June, the ARRL Executive Committee reviewed **grant applications** for the ARRL's Education & Technology Program (ETP), awarding equipment and resources valued at nearly \$5000 to six schools. More than **575 schools across the country** have received support from the ETP in the form of grants for equipment, curriculum and resources, as well as teacher in-service training through the **Teachers Institu...**

[Ofcom Tests 70 cm Band in Advance of 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London](#)

Wednesday, July 13, 2011, 1:20:00 PM

In April, Ofcom -- the British equivalent to the FCC -- approached the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) to help determine which sections of the 70 cm band could be used by the London Olympic Committee for a limited period before, during and after the **2012 Summer Olympic Games** and the **2012 Summer Paralympic Games**. Both events will be held in London.

“As a secondary user of the band, we as ra...

[US Recognizes World's Newest Country: The Republic of South Sudan](#)

Tuesday, July 12, 2011, 9:03:00 PM

During the second week of January 2011, the people of the autonomous region of Southern Sudan voted overwhelmingly in favor for independence. This vote was the result of the 2005 peace agreement between the north and south, with the northern portion granting the southern region “limited autonomy” to be followed by the January 2011 referendum for independence. On Saturday, July 9, the **Republic o...**

[New Section Manager Appointed in West Texas](#)

Tuesday, July 12, 2011, 1:56:00 PM

Bill Roberts, W5NPR, of Alpine, has been appointed as the Interim West Texas Section Manager as of July 8, 2011. ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, made the appointment in consultation with ARRL West Gulf Division Director David Woolweaver, K5RAV.

Roberts has served as the ARRL West Texas Section Traffic Manager since 2009. He is a past president of the Big Bend Am...

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

Monday, July 11, 2011, 6:17:00 PM

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:

- Is it becoming more difficult to find parts for your homebrew projects?
- Have your neighbors ever complained about your outdoor antennas?
- What is your favorite source for used Amateur Radio equipment?
- Are you active on 6 meter FM?

Visit the...

[Hurricane Watch Net Seeks New Members](#)

Monday, July 11, 2011, 5:47:00 PM

The various organizations that assist the National Hurricane Center (**NHC**) in Miami are gearing up for what forecasters are predicting to be a very active storm season. One organization that assists the NHC is the Hurricane Watch Net (**HWN**). One of the functions of HWN is to provide on-the-ground, real-time weather data to the forecasters at the NHC. The HWN gets this weather data from Amateur Ra...

[The K7RA Solar Update](#)

Friday, July 08, 2011, 2:05:00 PM

The average daily sunspot numbers for the past week dropped less than a point -- from 42 to 41.6 -- compared to the previous week, while the average daily solar flux was down more than 5 points to 86.2. Sunspot numbers for June 30-July 6 were 34, 51, 54, 42, 44, 30 and 36, with a mean of 41.6. The 10.7 cm flux was 89.2, 87.6, 85.6, 86.2, 85, 84.8 and 84.6, with a mean of 86.1. The estimated pla...

[Surfin': Still Fixing Our Writing](#)

Friday, July 08, 2011, 1:45:00 PM

By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU
Contributing Editor

This week, Surfin' assembles the responses to last week's attempt at fixing our diction.

In response to last week's **visit** to a website that attempts to correct our bad writing habits, some Surfin' readers sent me their pet peeves regarding the misuse of the **King's English** on the Internet.

Mike Everette, W4SDE, alerted me to a particularly annoying ham-ce...

[2011 Second Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors Set for July 15-16, Agenda Announced](#)

Thursday, July 07, 2011, 1:47:00 PM

ARRL policy is made by its Board of Directors. The 15 voting members of the Board are the Directors who are elected by the ARRL members in their respective divisions. The Board meets in January and July, usually in the Hartford area. ARRL members also elect Vice Directors who may attend the meetings. ARRL Directors and Vice Directors are volunteers who work hard to represent the ARRL in their d...

[FCC Issues Citation to Canadian Company for Marketing Unauthorized Devices in US](#)

Wednesday, July 06, 2011, 8:22:00 PM

On July 6, the FCC issued a *Citation* to **New Generation Hobbies** of Woodbridge, Ontario, Canada, for marketing unauthorized radio frequency devices in the United States that operate on restricted frequencies. This is in violation of Section 302(b) of the Communications Act and Sections **2.803** and **15.205(a)** of the FCC's rules. In the *Citation*, the FCC advised New Generation Hobbies to "take immedia...

[Another Hollywood Blockbuster Features Amateur Radio](#)

Tuesday, July 05, 2011, 5:59:00 PM

The summer of 2011 is replete with big movies, ranging from action-adventure flicks to comedies to coming-of-age dramas. And already this summer, Amateur Radio has played a part in not one, but two movies. In *Mr Popper's Penguins*, ham radio was **featured**, albeit incorrectly, on the big screen. And now *Super 8* -- a film set just outside Dayton, Ohio in 1979 -- uses Amateur Radio in a crucial scen...

Not good! :/

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

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

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

Repeater Information

Repeater Interference

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

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

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

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

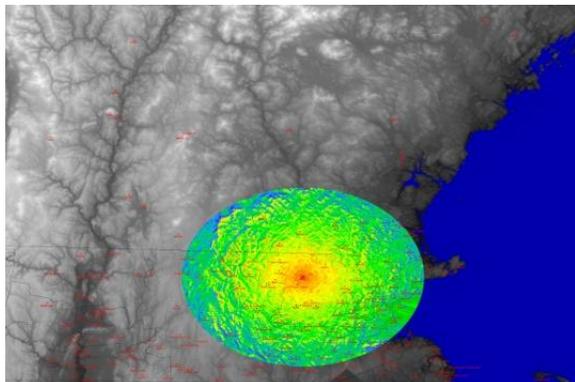
EmComm events and repeater use

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

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

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

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



New additional repeater info is now available on the PART [website](#). Check out the links to the summit information as well as coverage and plot plans maps for the WB1GOF repeaters. Also our PART/WB1GOF Forums are found at <http://wb1gof.net/forum/>

PART Gear

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

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



EmComm

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

Terry Stader – KA8SCP, MEMA Region 1 RACES Officer
Hugh Maguire – N1QGE, RACES Officer, Town of Westford
Bill Ohm – W1OHM, RACES Officer, Town of Chelmsford
- We need radio operators that can pass messages on to the local emergency management directors in several towns in northern Middlesex County.

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

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

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



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This month's editor: Terry Stader – KA8SCP

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