



PARTicles

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

July 2010

President's Column

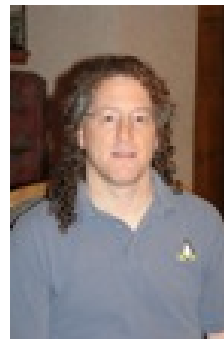
It has been a very busy month for PART. Field Day was a great success, and I'd like to thank the Field Day Committee for all of their hard work (Charles AA1VS, John W1JMA, and Steve N1BDA). I'd also like to thank Alan K1ALL for once again allowing us to use his barn for a club activity.

The 13 Colonies Special Event station, coordinated by Charlie (K1PUB) was also very successful. Each of the original 13 colonies was represented, with our club representing Massachusetts as WB1GOF/K2H (or just K2H). Several club members put in quite a few hours making QSOs as part of this growing special event. PART will be participating in this event next year. If you ever wanted to know what its like to be on the other end of the pileup, this is one way to do it.

At our next PART meeting in July, we will have a Field Day wrapup, a 13 Colonies Special Event wrapup, a variety of announcements, and a special feature, "The Jocularly of Rick Green (W1RAG)". Rick will present his humourous slide show of Field Day based on photos taken by our club

photographer Bob N1RXV. I remember that last year's slide show was quite funny, so you won't want to miss it.

Elections for club officers will be held in September. Any person can run for office as long as they are a club member. The officers are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These people, plus the Director-



at-Large, make up the 5 voting members of the club's Board of Directors. The Director-at-Large is appointed each year by the 4 elected officers. There are also several non-voting members of the Board of Directors, whose experience, expertise, and advice are

highly valued during board meetings. On the PART website, click on "About PART", and then on "Officers & Volunteers" for more information.

73 de Andy KB1OIQ

**Club Meeting – July 20th – Westford Police station – Public Meeting Room
53 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886
7:30 PM**

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

July 20, 2010

- Field Day wrap up
- 13 Colonies Special Event wrap-up

September – PART Annual Elections

Balance of 2010

- Speakers have not yet been scheduled for these dates

We have a large membership, and I'm sure each of you knows somebody who would be an excellent speaker at a future PART meeting. Perhaps YOU would like the chance to address the club. All of you can help! Please send me email with contact information for prospective speakers, including your self. I'll work out the logistics with the prospective speaker. All of you collectively know a LOT more people than I do. With your help, I'm sure that we'll continue the PART tradition of having fine speakers at our monthly meetings. Thanks, and 73 de Andy KB1OIQ.



Field Day 2010 Wrap – Up QSL Manager's Report

The antennas and filters were working well during this Field Day. In total, there were 460 QSOs made by WB1GOF. All QSOs were either SSB or CW. We did not have a digital mode station this year.



The breakdown is as follows:

238 CW:

- 80m 14 QSOs
- 40m 97 QSOs
- 20m 94 QSOs
- 15m 32 QSOs
- 10m 0 QSOs
- 6m 1 QSO

222 SSB:

- 80m 0 QSOs
- 40m 110 QSOs
- 20m 55 QSOs
- 15m 9 QSOs
- 10m 0 QSOs
- 6m 48 QSOs

Allison reports that 6m was open during Field Day. Many more QSOs were made this year than in past years on 6m.

The 460 QSOs beats our total from last year of 377 QSOs. More importantly, everybody who was operating was having a great time. It was great to see some newer operators take a turn and make a few QSOs!

73 de Andy KB1OIQ

CORRECTED

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 19-May-10 and 15-Jun-10

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	3405.90	797.01	4202.91
Income	80.00	137.00	217.00
Expenses	235.60	0.00	235.60
New Balance	3250.30	934.01	4184.31

PART 2010 Membership Demographics as of 10-May-10

	Households (New + Renew)	Individuals (New + Renew)
Full	32 (5 + 27)	32 (5 + 27)
Senior	23 (3 + 20)	23 (3 + 20)
Family	7 (0 + 7)	14 (0 + 14)
Student	0 (0 + 0)	0 (0 + 0)
Associate	1 (0 + 1)	1 (0 + 1)
Grand Total	63 (8 + 55)	70 (8 + 62)

Upcoming Events

- Flea@MIT, 3rd Sun Apr thru Oct, Cambridge (<http://w1mx.mit.edu/flea-at-mit>)
- NE Division Convention Aug. 27-29, Boxboro, MA (<http://www.boxboro.org>)
- Fall NEAR-Fest Oct. 15th & 16th Deerfield Fairgrounds, NH (<http://www.near-fest.com>)
- Every Wednesday, 6 AM, Owl Diner Lowell – Breakfast
- Every 1st Saturday, 8 AM, Regency Inn Westford – PART Monthly Breakfast

Sunday Night PART Net Trivia

Can you guess how many unique call signs do we have in the Sunday Night database as of the 7/11/2010 Net? That is, the number of regular check-ins to the Sunday Night Net. The answer may surprise you.... (look for the answer somewhere in the newsletter)

Amateur Radio News

FCC Rules that Amateurs May Participate in Non-Government-Sponsored Drills by Employers – from ARRL Letter

In a *Report and Order (R&O)* released Wednesday, July 14, the FCC stated that under new guidelines, amateurs employed by non-governmental agencies, such as hospitals, may participate and operate in drills sponsored by their employer. Specifically, the FCC will now permit Amateur Radio operators "to transmit messages, under certain limited circumstances, during either government-sponsored or non-government sponsored emergency and disaster preparedness drills, regardless of whether the operators are employees of entities participating in the drill." More information will be posted on the ARRL Web site.

First Half of 2010 Sees Upswing in New Amateur Radio Licensees

With more than 18,000 new Amateur Radio licenses issued in the first half of this year -- 18,270 to be exact -- 2010 is shaping up to be a banner year for Amateur Radio. So far, the number of new licenses issued by the FCC in 2010 is outpacing the January-June 2009 totals by almost 8.5 percent; at this time last year, the FCC had issued 16,844 new licenses. As of June 30, 2010, there are 694,346 licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US, an almost 1 percent rise over all of calendar year 2009. Broken down by license class at the end of June 2010, there were 16,299 Novices, 342,064 Technicians, 154,284 Generals, 60,059 Advanced and 121,640 Amateur Extra licensees. Read more [here](#).

NEW FCC LICENSES ISSUED 2006 THROUGH JUNE 2010					
Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Jan	1,274	1,647	1,755	1,960	1,726
Feb	1,605	2,435	2,998	2,263	2,749
Mar	2,531	3,478	2,816	3,463	3,734
Apr	1,728	2,673	3,090	3,430	3,508
May	2,283	2,607	2,582	2,717	3,136
Jun	1,967	2,281	2,402	3,011	3,417
subtotal	11,388	15,121	15,623	16,844	18,270
Jul	1,401	1,786	2,077	2,220	0
Aug	1,623	2,183	2,084	2,102	0
Sep	1,357	1,462	1,763	2,116	0
Oct	1,781	2,109	2,303	2,404	0
Nov	1,993	2,132	2,197	2,344	0
Dec	1,569	1,935	2,019	2,114	0
Totals	21,112	26,728	28,066	30,144	18,270

As of June 30, 2010, the number of new licenses issued by the FCC in 2010 is outpacing the January-June 2009 totals by almost 8.5 percent; at this time last year, the FCC had issued 16,844 new licenses. Click [here](#) for a larger image.



Ham Radio Cruise Nights

131 Gorham Street - Rt 3A - East Chelmsford, MA 01824

Every Saturday 5-8pm. Learn about the exciting hobby of Amateur Radio. Meet other area Hams
Power and HF antenna hookups available.....so bring your own Rig or GOTA box.

CORRECTED

Member Contributions

PART Participation in the 2010 13 colonies Special Event



The 2010 K2H 13 Colonies event is behind us, and it was a great success for PART. Between July 1 and July 5, PART operators made 1216 SSB, 376 CW, and 102 digital QSOs, for a total of almost 1700 QSOs. This exceeds last year's total of about 1350 by a wide margin. We should be especially proud because to the best of my knowledge every PART 13 Colonies operator was using a relatively modest station, 100 watts or less and wire antennas.

New for this year, our "sister" station, Steve, N1GKX/K2H made over 1000 additional contacts, so Massachusetts is well-represented with a total of around 2700 QSOs. The event organizer is anticipating

upwards of 30,000 total QSOs, better than double last year's 12,500. Clearly 13 Colonies is becoming a major special event and we should be pleased that we have been a part of it.

I would like to extend my thanks to the eight operators who spent so many hours over the long holiday week end: John, W1JMA; Charles, AA1VS, Andy, KB1OIQ, Bob, W1IS, Rich, AB1HD; Peter; KB1PBA; Rick, W1RAG; and the author, Charlie, K1PUB. Of special note, Peter, KB1PBA operated QRP CW with just 5 watts; and Rick, W1RAG, increased his QSO count from last year by over 13 dB!

We expect to be operating as K2H again in 2011. We plan to institute a few changes, including an on-line operator scheduling system, clarification of correct call sign use, better use of eQSL and LOTW, obtaining hard-copy QSL cards before the event, and better guidance and training for operating in what at times becomes a "contest" environment.

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.

Charlie, K1PUB
2010 13 Colonies Event Coordinator

Boxboro!
The ARRL New England Convention
at the Holiday Inn in Boxborough, Massachusetts
AUGUST 27-28-29, 2010

[See the Boxboro Program Schedule \(rev 1 as of 6/23/2010\)](#)

Visit to the Fort Devens Museum

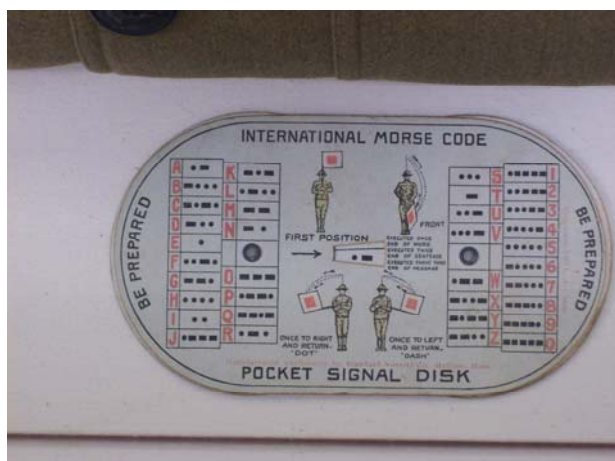
By John Salmi – KB1MGI

We visited The Fort Devens Museum today at 94 Jackson Rd Devens MA. THE MUSEUM IS ONLY OPEN ON TUESDAY & FRIDAY 10 - 2 PM. It is FREE. You could spend 45 minutes to an hour there.

This is very small one room Museum but it has a lot of old army artifacts on display as you can see in the attached photos. They are always looking for Army artifacts, photos, written stories about being a Fort Devens, etc.

I spoke with a woman there and they do not have any radios. If you know of anyone that has an Old Army Radio that needs to be on display contact the Museum. Your name and call sign would be post along with the radio.

When you open the outside door, in the photo, walk through the next door in front of you to the lobby. Go to the 3rd Floor walk all the way down the hall to suite 305 on the left.



<http://www.fortdevensmuseum.org/Museum.htm>

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Weather Pages @ WB1GOF.org

Please checkout the weather information on the PART weather website. Go to <http://weather.wb1gof.org> to see the latest weather alerts and information on seasonal weather situations. You can sign up for local weather alerts sent to your cell phone or you email account.

NVARC Slow Speed CW Net

Pete-KB1LZH reports that there is a Slow Speed CW Net being conducted by our neighbors in Pepperell. If you have some interest in learning CW and or learning how to interact in a NET, you might want to join the net on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, at 7:30 PM. The net is run by the NVARC in Pepperell. It is a good chance to develop skills in NET procedures and in developing CW capability. This net meets on 10 meters on 28.123 MHZ. The (usual) Net Control Operator is Bruce, K1BG.

Repeater Nets

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

Sunday Night PART Net – every Sunday night at 2000/8:00 PM

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.

Repeater News

442.450 WB1GOF UHF Repeater D-Star update

The D-Star settings for WB1GOF Port B D-Star system:

RX Freq: 442.450

TX Freq: 447.450

MYCALL: <your callsign>

URCALL; CQCQCQ

RPT1: WB1GOF B

RPT2: WB1GOF G (make sure this is set!)



We have seen a lot of new “faces” on the D-Star repeater. Many of these new users have indicated they’ll be joining PART and attending meetings.

We have recently started linking the port B system (i.e., the UHF frequency) to some of the D-Star nets that occur around the US (and beyond). Currently the repeater will automatically link to the New England Amateur D-Star Net on Tuesday nights at 8:00 PM local time. While this is a New England based net, there are stations and other repeaters from all over connected at various times. New to Sunday night (following the PART Net), we will be connecting to the Ozark Mountain D-Star Net. This is the “grand daddy” of nets and features Connie-KB0ZSG (look her up on QRZ) as the net control and draws participants from all over the world. This net used to start at 9 PM local time but it supposed to be moving to an earlier start time, 8 PM. No worries if this is so, there will be plenty of time to check in after the Sunday Night PART Net!

Other D-Star updates

We are continuing to move forward on adding a port C (i.e., 2 meter VHF) module to the WB1GOF D-Star system. When we have all the RF side components in our possession, we will need to take down the 146.955 repeater for awhile to merge the 2 two-meter repeaters in to the common antenna and feedline they will be sharing. Hopefully we will be able to do this within a period of days, not weeks or months. More information will be coming down the road as we get closer to a projected install date.

CORRECTED

Repeater Fund

As you probably already know, a repeater takes considerable time and money to operate and maintain. Both of the Westford WB1GOF repeaters have been in operation since the early 90's. The PART of Westford club members have been generous in the past by electing to pay the telephone line cost and it is very much appreciated. The PART dues that are collected each year are used only to support the telephone line expense and there are no other PART funding of the repeaters. Other contributions have come from raffles and flea market sales. Those proceeds are used to offset some of these costs.

Over the years we have made several major enhancements to the repeaters and have some exciting plans for future operations. We are looking at adding a D-Star VHF repeater to the existing D-Star UHF machine that was recently converted. There also plans for putting a 900 MHz repeater on the air.

If you are a regular user of any of our repeaters, we are asking you to consider donating to the repeater fund in order to allow us to maintain and improve them for your continued use. You can contribute by clicking on the PayPal Donate button found on the WB1GOF web site, <http://www.wb1gof.org>. You may also speak to our club treasurer at any of our meetings or events regarding donations. User contributions over the years have helped offset about 25% of the costs of the equipment.

Repeater Interference

The 146.955 repeater continues to see interference to existing conversations as well as at random quite times throughout the day and night. The repeater interference committee needs your help in collecting information about this interference.

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.

PART Gear

The PART Quartermaster has lots of great PART-ware for sale including hats, 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>)



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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.
- There is a Region 1 RACES meeting to be held on Saturday, March 20th at the MEMA Region 1 HQ in Tewksbury from 10:00 am to noon. Contact Hugh-N1QGE or Terry-KA8SCP for more information.

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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