



# *PARTicles*

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

*June 2010*

## President's Column

This is a busy time of year at PART. There are many upcoming activities that I hope you will enjoy.

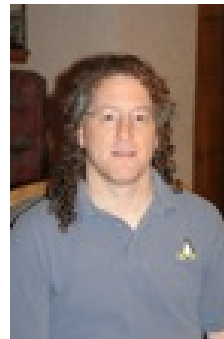
Field Day is coming soon! Set aside the last weekend in June 2010 for a great deal of fun. The details will be announced at the next club meeting on Tuesday, June 15th, 2010. This is a great opportunity to socialize, operate, elmer, and learn from others. Everybody can play a role, as there are a lot of things to be done to make this event a success.

This year, your club dues will be used to fund the entire Field Day event. As I see it, this is one of the benefits of belonging to a larger club like PART. For those of you bringing guests or feeling generous, donations will also be accepted.

In July, PART will be sponsoring the 13 Colonies Special Event for Massachusetts. Each of the 13 colonies will be represented by a special event callsign, and for Massachusetts, it is K2H. Charlie (K1PUB) can be contacted for more details. Several operators are needed. The main mode of operation is SSB phone but other modes can also be used. For additional information, take a look at <http://13colonies.info/MA13Col.htm>.

Finally, the ARRL New England Convention will be held in Boxboro on

August 27 - 29, 2010. PART will be selling items at the flea market in the parking lot for the benefit of the repeater fund, and volunteers are needed to help with that effort. Contact Hugh (N1QGE), Terry (KA8SCP), or Ernie (N1AEW) if you have clean, sellable items that you'd like to donate.



We can also use a few people to help promote the club. If you think this is a great club, now is your chance to tell lots of other people about PART.

Finally, there is also a great list of speakers, and PART is well represented. Yours truly will be giving a talk about "Linux in the Ham Shack", Bryce (KB1LQC) will be giving a talk about "College Ham Radio", and Scott (NE1RD) will be giving a talk about the "100 Lb DXpedition". Take a look at <http://www.boxboro.org> for more information.

Our monthly meetings will continue each month throughout the summer. I look forward to seeing you there!

73 de Andy KB1OIQ

**Club Meeting – June 15<sup>th</sup> – Westford Police station – Public Meeting Room  
53 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886  
7:30 PM**

## Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

**June 15, 2010**

- Field Day preparation

**July - November 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

Please come to the WB1GOF Field Day June 26 & 27, 2010 at K1ALL's barn. It is a chance to socialize, have some food, talk radio, learn, and have a great time. For the apartment and condo dwellers out there, this is a great chance to operate and get on the air with HF. Bring a friend who is interested or



not active to see what amateur radio is about. We start setting up around 9AM on Saturday June 26 morning and finish Sunday June 27 around 3PM.

Between all the stations there are over 100 opportunities to operate with a variety of equipment. This year we will be running 3D. This means we will be running three stations on mains power. There will be two dedicated HF station and one combination VHF/UHF/HF station that will server as the Get On The Air/Novice Station. The club is also setting up a bunch of antennas. HF will have wire beams and G5RV's for operating. All bands and all station will

be CW and SSB capable.

The VHF station will have beams. We expect a variety of rigs as well. This is a chance to try out rigs you have heard talked about. Signup sheets are on the [wb1gof.org](http://wb1gof.org) website showing the shifts. Email [aa1vs@arrl.net](mailto:aa1vs@arrl.net) to reserve your shift(s).

Come early to help setup. Part of Field Day is setting up the station and getting ideas and inspiration for other stations you might setup. We will be wrestling up the wire beams. Setting up the stations, we will be wiring them all together.

New this year, we are trying filters to mitigate interference between all the stations. These are more common in multi operator contesting situations than at home user stations. There will be brief training on using these at the meeting.

The site is again, K1ALL's barn at 282 E Riding Dr. Carlisle, MA 01741. This weekend is Old Home Weekend in Carlisle so going through town might be tough especially Saturday morning. Google Maps puts the house a little far south.

If you are wondering what to bring, bring a chair, bring some headphones for operating and bring some bug spray. The Carlisle bird is out in force this year. Mosquito's that is.

We still need folks to help with food, setup, and take down. We are also looking for someone to take on coordinating the Toolbox Talks. Please e-mail [aa1vs@arrl.net](mailto:aa1vs@arrl.net) if you think you can help.

## Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 21-Apr-10 and 18-May-10

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	3368.48	345.50	3714.08
Income	71.00	451.51	522.51
Expenses	33.68	\$0.00	33.68
New Balance	3405.90	797.01	4202.91

PART 2010 Membership Demographics as of 10-May-10

	Households (New + Renew)	Individuals (New + Renew)
Full	30 (4 + 26)	30 (4 + 26)
Senior	22 (2 + 20)	22 (2 + 20)
Family	7 (0 + 7)	14 (0 + 14)
Student	0 (0 + 0)	0 (0 + 0)
Associate	1 (0 + 1)	1 (0 + 1)
Grand Total	60 (6 + 54)	67 (6 + 61)

## PART Board

### PART Board Meeting – May 10, 2010

There was an extended PART Board of Director's meeting held May 10, 2010. In attendance were: Bo-WA1QYM, Andy-KB1OIQ, Steve-WA1KBE, Terry-KA8SCP, Rich-AB1HD, Hugh-N1QGE, Alan-W1AHM, Dave-W1IR, Rick-W1RAG and Charles-AA1VS.

Summary of items discussed:

- Field Day budget- approved expenses for food and equipment in the amount of \$900
- Quartermaster, responsible for inventory of club assets, Treasurer has responsibility
- Membership Chairman discussion, seeking new club member
- Repeater Interference
- Treasurer's Report to be provided monthly in PARTicles

## Upcoming Events

- Flea@MIT, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun Apr thru Oct, Cambridge (<http://w1mx.mit.edu/flea-at-mit>)
- Field Day June 26-27
- NE Division Convention Aug. 27-29, Boxboro, MA (<http://www.boxboro.org>)
- Fall NEAR-Fest Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Deerfield Fairgrounds, NH (<http://www.near-fest.com>)
- Every Wednesday, 6 AM, Owl Diner Lowell – Breakfast
- Every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, 8 AM, Regency Inn Westford – PART Monthly Breakfast

## Repeater Nets

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

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

Sector 1C RACES Net – this net occurs the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday or every month (except when it is a holiday).

Skywarn and ARES Nets – these nets are spontaneous when local conditions warranted.



## 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.

### Member Contributions

#### Skywarn Training

I recently attended the Skywarn training session that was offered in Concord, MA. My 8 year old daughter Erin attended as well. Skywarn is a group of trained civilian spotters who report weather events to the National Weather Service. These events include rain and snowfall amounts, hail, strong winds, flooding, and tornado sightings. One need not be a licensed ham to be a Skywarn spotter.

The training included descriptions of the types of weather events that are reportable, and the proper way to report these events. It is important to share a common language in order to convey information accurately. For example, describing hail as "marble sized" is discouraged since marbles come in many different sizes. Describing the hail as "dime sized" or "golf ball sized" is preferred.

The training also included many pictures of weather related damage. For example, from the air, the damage caused by a tornado is distinctly different than that caused by a microburst. Road flooding and a washout are compared and contrasted via pictures and videos.

I enjoyed the training and would encourage anybody with an interest in the weather and in public service to consider taking the Skywarn training. It only takes 2-3 hours of training to learn how you can help the National Weather Service.

From time to time, one will hear the Skywarn network in action on the WB1GOF repeater. Rob (KD1CY) can often be heard soliciting information about the weather. You may also hear him use the WX1BOX callsign. (Editor's note: Hugh-N1QGE and Terry-KA8SCP are often local Skywarn net control stations, they will already know in most cases what particular information is needed when an event is in progress) Please note that an active net such as this has priority over other uses of the repeater. If you have nothing to report, just listen and learn. Not all weather events are considered reportable.

When we got home, my daughter Erin asked her older brother Geoffrey, "Do you know the difference between a funnel cloud and a tornado?". Geoffrey didn't know, and Erin correctly explained it to him. I guess she was paying attention. If you take the class, you'll learn a few things and have fun as well.

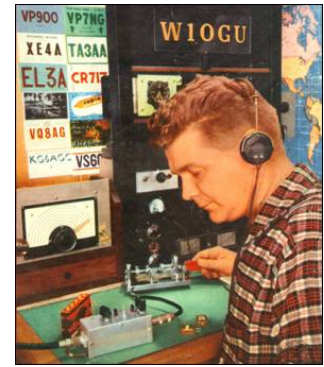
For more information, go to <http://www.skywarn.org>

73 de Andy KB1OIQ

## **PART member featured in Transistor Museum**

In a featured article on the Transistor Museum website, <http://semiconductormuseum.com>, one of our long time PART members, Gus Fallgren-W1OG is featured in an article titled "The First 'Transistor Powered' Trans-Atlantic Amateur Radio Contact".

From the opening paragraph: "Late in the evening of September 18, 1956, a clear sweet-toned continuous wave radio transmission was generated by a midget-sized homemade amateur radio transmitter operated by Gus Fallgren, W1OGU, in Chelmsford Massachusetts. Almost instantaneously, this transmission was received and acknowledged by Bo Brondum-Nielsen, OZ7BO, a Danish radio operator located in Copenhagen." (Excerpt COPYRIGHT © 2010 by Jack Ward)



Gus Fallgren in 1956 with Transistor Transmitter  
Photo Copyright © 1957 by Radio & TV News

There is a series of interviews found in the article with all 3 of the original developers. It is a great historical read and quite an accomplishment for these three in the years leading up to the culminating effort!

Well done Gus and your co-workers!

## **My First 6m Opening**

There are several people in the club who have a lot of fun on 6m, and I suspect none more than Allison (KB1GMX). Her enthusiasm over the band is infectious. I've listened to many stories about band openings, but having never experienced one, I couldn't quite appreciate why this was such a big deal. Now, I can.

I had just erected my homebrew 6m Moxon rectangle at a height of 15 feet with a rotator. It turns out that this was just in time to experience the upcoming band opening.

Simply put (perhaps overly simplistic), a band opening is a time when the ionosphere conditions are such that communication is possible between two locations, where normally it would not be possible, on a particular frequency range (in this case, the 6m band).

On 31-may-2010 between 0100 - 0500 UTC, I experienced my first 6m opening. I took a look at <http://www.vhfdx.net> and saw a map which plotted the people who had recently had QSOs on 6m. The opening stretched from New England to Wisconsin to Washington state. We were right in the thick of it.

I aimed my antenna at 290 degrees and found pileups on 6m(!). Normally, when I listen to 6m, it is either dead or has sparse activity, but not this time. I made about 15 QSOs using 100W to people in Winnipeg, Washington, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the furthest was 2500 miles to Oregon. These people were coming in loud and clear with true 599 signals. The QSOs were typically quick contest style QSOs, exchanging name, grid, and a signal report.

The next day, the band was still open, but to different areas, and I had a QSO with a guy in Kentucky. The map at the VHFDX website indicated that people in New England were making QSOs with folks "across the pond", but unfortunately, I didn't hear any of those stations.

After a few hours, and without much warning, the band opening disappeared. It'll be back one of these days.

## **Weather Pages @ WB1GOF.org**

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. Their net meets on 10 meters; 28.123 MHZ. The (usual) Net Control Operator is Bruce, K1BG.

## **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.

### **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>)



## EmComm

**RACES** – The WB1GOF 146.955 repeater is used on the first of every month (except federal/state holidays) for RACES at 1930 local time. If you are interested in being part of the 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 lose power in the region, an ht with a supply of batteries will reconnect you to other local hams.



**Field Day  
June 26-27 2010**



Monday  
starting  
local  
to

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This month's editor: Terry Stader – KA8SCP

PART official mailing address is:  
PART, PO Box 503, Westford, MA 01886

Our website is: <http://wb1gof.org>  
Contact us at: [info@wb1gof.org](mailto:info@wb1gof.org)

