



PARTicles

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

June 2013

President's Column

- *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*

I've been spending a lot of time with Geoffrey (KB1USE), watching the Boston Bruins as they head toward the Stanley Cup Playoffs. Other than repeater chats during my short commute, I haven't had any chance to get on HF in the last few days. I hope to change that this weekend.

We recently held a Field Day planning meeting with the committee leads. We toured the grounds of the Concord Rod and Gun Club, deciding on the locations for the various antennas. I'm not sure exactly what will be on the menu, but I've recently spoken with Rick (W1RAG) and Charlie (W1ADL), who are eagerly making meal plans. In general, people with whom I've recently spoken are getting excited about Field Day. We're looking for a lot of people who want to operate, and there will be an opportunity to operate overnight for those desiring it.

There are several licensed hams in the Linux club who said they plan to visit the site, as well as some people who are curious about the hobby.

Our upcoming PART meeting, to be held on June 18th (3rd Tuesday) currently has a very full agenda. Field Day chairman Bob (W1IS) will talk to us about Field Day. Charlie (K1PUB) will be talking about this year's 13 Colonies special event, to take place over the Independence Day holiday.

Bryce (KB1LQC) and Brent (KB1LQD) have recently graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology. They will be our speakers for the June PART meeting, talking about their senior year project. They have invited their other project partners who may be joining us. Their project involved the design and prototype creation of a device which is used to maximize the power obtained from a solar panel by forcing the cells to operate at their most efficient voltage regardless of the voltage required by the payload. This device will be part of the FOX-2 satellite sponsored by AMSAT. I recently sent an email to the club

containing many more details about the project, and several websites with more detailed information.

On Sunday, June 9th, a few hams from the club will be volunteering at the Concord kids PMC ride to benefit Dana Farber. I will be volunteering for the first time at this event. More will be reported after the event.

Sometime, when the weather clears and I find a few minutes, I'd like to test a recent addition to an existing project of mine. Some of you might remember the satellite antenna rotator that I brought to a Show 'n Tell meeting a few months back. At that time, the project was not particularly refined. Well, that project has been tamed and I'm pretty sure that it properly points at a passing satellite when given commands by the computer.

I recently purchased a PengPod tablet computer, which was created from a crowd funding project on the Indiegogo website. The project's goal was to create a tablet capable of running 100% Free Software Linux. I loaded the ham radio programs from my Linux Ham Radio DVD onto this tablet, including the GPredict satellite tracking software used to control my antenna rotator.

My goal is to operate someplace in the clear, perhaps at a local park or soccer field, with the tablet computer controlling the antenna rotator. I plan to make a YouTube video of the whole setup in operation during a satellite pass. I haven't yet decided if I'll go after SO-50 or one of the NOAA weather satellites. Stay tuned.

If you are working on any ham radio related projects, why not write a few paragraphs for PARTicles? I'm sure the membership would enjoy reading about your experience.

Field Day - June 22 and June 23, 2013, at the Concord Rod and Gun Club. Save the dates!

73 de Andy KB1OIQ

Next PART meeting: Tuesday June 18th

@1930 – Westford Police station

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

June 18th, 2013

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

June 21st -22nd, 2013

- PART Field Day – Concord Rod & Gun Club (see announcement)

July 6th, 2013

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

July 16th, 2013

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

August 3rd, 2013

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

August 20th, 2013

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

September 7th, 2013

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

September 17th, 2013

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

Monthly PART Events

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

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 16-April '13 & 20-May '13 (As of 21- May '13)

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	\$3603.58	\$2195.82	\$5799.40
Income	\$120.00	\$50.00	\$170.00
Expenses	(\$74.39)	(\$0.00)	(\$74.39)
Net	<u>\$45.61</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>	<u>\$95.61</u>
New Balance	<u>\$3649.19</u>	<u>\$2245.82</u>	<u>\$5895.01</u>

PART 2012 Membership as of 3-June '13

	Individuals (= New for 2013 + Renew for 2013)	Households (= New for 2013 + Renew for 2013)
Full (\$25)	29 (= 4 + 25)	29 (= 4 + 25)
Senior (\$15)*	33 (= 1 + 33)	33 (= 1 + 32)
Family (\$30)	17 (= 0 + 17)	8 (= 0 + 8)
Student (\$15)	0 (= 0 + 0)	0 (= 0 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	0 (= 0 + 0)	0 (= 0 + 0)
Grand Total*	79 (= 5 + 74)	70 (= 5 + 65)
ARRL members*:	71	
ARRL Life members*:	7	

NOTE: * Starred lines changed since 12-May'13

##To pay dues##

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

-or-

Club Meeting, Westford P.D., 7:30PM, 3rd Tuesday

Latest new PART members:

none

New England Area Ham/Electronic Fleas:

<http://web.mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>

2013

15 June Newington CT NARL @StMarySch \$5@8 \$15/T Vinnie W1VJA 203 987 2108 +
16 June Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F+
30 June Queens NY HOSARC \$5@9 +\$10S@7:30 Stephen WB2KDG 718 898 5599 W+
21 July Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F+
3 Aug St Romuald PQ ARESdQ @9 @Arena X318 Rt20 France VE2AFC W+
10 Aug Milo ME PARC @AmLegion George WA1JMM 207 441 6112 A+
18 Aug Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F+
25 Aug N Adams MA NoBARC @BoweFld \$5@9 \$10TG@8 Tim KE3HT 413 822 7075 F
7 Sept Ballston Spa NY SCRACES @FG @7 Darlene N2XQG 518 587 2385 +
7 Sept Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518 +
7 Sept Windsor ME AARA @FG Bill K1NIT 207 512 0312 A+
8 Sept Newtown CT CARA @TownHall \$5@8:30 \$10/TG \$15/T Joe AB1DO 203 938 4880 +
15 Sept Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F+
21 Sept Forestdale RI RIAFMRS @VFW \$5/Sp@8 Rick K1KYI 401 864 9611 +
21 Sept Manchester CT PVRA @MarcusComm George AB1GL 860 716 3367 A+
21 Sept Alexander ME StCVAR @ElSch Roger W1LH 207 454 2174 A+
28 Sept Brookline NH NEARC Antique \$10@7:30 \$4@8:30 Bruce 603 772 7516 F
6 Oct Queens NY HoSARC Stephen WB2KDG 718 898 5599 A+
11,12 Oct Deerfield NH NEARFest XIV @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 T+
13 Oct Meriden CT Nutmeg @Sheraton was Wallingford John N1GNV 203 440 4973 +
19,20 Oct Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553
19 Oct Longueuil PQ CRAR-S \$7@9 \$10/T@6 Martin VE2DNF 450 466 2810 R+
20 Oct Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F+
26 Oct Gales Ferry CT TCARC Auction @FireCo @10 Darryl WA1DD 860 443 7799 +
27 Oct Hicksville NY LIMARC @LevitHall Richard K2KNB 516 694 4937 +
2 Nov Londonderry NH IRS \$3@8 \$15/T Chris KB1QVM 603 434 6137 F+
9 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/S@7 Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422 +
30 Nov Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518 +

Near-term local fleas

Also from <http://web.mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>

Flea at MIT

Sunday, 21-July '13

Buyers \$5.00, 9:00AM-2:00PM (\$1.00 discount with flyer:

<http://web.mit.edu/w1mx/www/swapfest/swapfest-2013.04.pdf>

Parking Lot/Garage on Albany St. Cambridge, at Portland St.

<http://goo.gl/maps/KpTQO>



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

NOTE: The Port B node (442.450) is connected to [REF010C](#) Mon – Fri from 10:00 am until 3:30 pm. **CHANGE!!** - The Port C node (145.330) is connected to [XRF038A](#) Mon – Fri from 07:00 am until 11:00 pm. Users can LISTEN ONLY to D-Star Reflector 10C by linking to this URL: <http://www.radioreference.com/apps/audio/?feedId=5031>

Monthly PART Breakfast

Don't forget the monthly PART breakfast the 1st Saturday of each month at the Westford Regency Inn at 8 AM. The full hot & cold buffet breakfast costs about \$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 ****CHANGED****

The 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: \$8.00



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Special Notice

The WRTC 2014 organization will be holding a test of about 30 sites during the IARU HF Championship 2013, to be held July 13-14. The objective of the test is to determine the suitability of the operating sites and make sure they are as even as possible for the WRTC 2014 competition to be hosted here in the Boston area. Last year about 12 sites were operated and lessons learned will be applied at this year's test.



Volunteers are needed for site set up, antenna building and contest operation. For more information about the WRTC 2014 competition, visit <http://www.wrtc2014.org/>. There is a sign up link on the page. Also send a note to Brian McCaffrey, W1BP, at w1bp@arrl.net so he can coordinate the PART volunteers to the WRTC 2014 organization.

Upcoming Event

ARRL Field Day

June 22-23, 2013

Amateur Radio's most popular
on-air operating event!

▶ [More info and Official
2013 Field Day Gear](#)



*Get on the Air
with K2BSA at the
National Scout
Jamboree*

Powered by 



Click on an
image for more
information.



D-STAR QSO PARTY 2013

Mark your calendar! **SEPTEMBER 20 (Fri.) ▶ 22 (Sun.)**

Member Contribution

KJ1H-9 Motorcycle Mobile

- Justin Hughes - KJ1H

If you monitor APRS, or look at the map at aprs.fi or a similar web site, you may have seen KJ1H-9 cruising around the area. You may also have noticed that the symbol for KJ1H-9 is not a car or a truck, but a motorcycle. That's no mistake – that's me. I've installed an APRS station on my 1998 Honda Pacific Coast 800. I usually have it on whenever I'm cruising around, whether it's a quick hop around town, a day trip, or a longer trip than that.



My APRS station has evolved through trial and error into its current form.

Ironically, although I started playing with APRS because it utilized a lot of equipment I already had, it now only uses a couple of parts of the original setup. Yet it's still not a dedicated APRS station. I can still plug in a microphone and chat with people by voice, or remove the radio from the bike entirely if I need it elsewhere.

I first set up APRS on my previous motorcycle, a 1982 Honda Silverwing GL500. Originally I used a Radio Shack HTX-202 HT. I powered it from the switched power lead for the stereo my Silverwing didn't have, which let it put out 5-6 watts on high power. The antenna is a 1/2 wave for the two meter band. I used this instead of the more traditional 1/4 or 5/8 wave antennas because those require a flat metal groundplane for the best operation, and a motorcycle provides a very poor groundplane. The 1/2 wave does not require a groundplane at all. I attached it to the chrome bars for the bike's trunk with a clamp mount intended for a big rig's mirror. It worked great.

At first I set all this up for voice operation using a headset in my helmet and a push-to-talk button on the handlebars. After going through the trouble, I realized that I preferred to just kick back and enjoy the ride instead of chat on the air, but since I already had the rig and antenna on the bike I decided to try APRS instead. I picked up a TinyTrak3+ and the wiring harness to connect it to my HTX-202 from Byonics. I had some problems getting it to work at first, and Byon was a great help in eventually figuring out that I had a bad wiring harness, which he promptly replaced. It was easy to program, and I was soon on the air.



Sort of. I used it extensively during my local rides as well as my Vermont trip of 2012, but I would often go for hours without a single position report being heard. It rather defeated the purpose of having the system in the first place, so I didn't use it for a long time. I thought about picking up a mobile radio with higher power output, but the difficulty of mounting it in a removable trunk or saddlebag steered me away from that idea.

Then I picked up my PC800. It has a lot more cargo space than the Silverwing, which meant it was easier to spare the room a mobile radio would take up. Its "saddlebags" are actually a large trunk area integrated into the back of the bike, which meant that all of the wiring could be run internally. I'd bought a Kenwood TM-

281A two meter mobile radio for a number of purposes. After moving, I found that I could hit all of the local repeaters I wanted to (particularly 146.955) with my HT and didn't need to use the more powerful mobile radio at my home, so I decided it was time to revisit the motorcycle APRS idea.

The logical place to install the radio was in the forward portion of the right side of the trunk. The battery is just in front of this area, so it was a short and easy run. I screwed the factory bracket for the radio into the side of the trunk, then bolted the radio in. It's solid. Then I used some "Superlock Fasteners" from Radio Shack (it's the same sort of Velcro type stuff an EZ Pass mounts to your windshield with) to stick the TinyTrak3+ to the side of the trunk near the radio. I bought two additional wiring harnesses from Byonics. One of them lets me plug the TinyTrak3+ into a Kenwood mobile rig. The wires aren't too long, but they're just long enough for me to plug them into the microphone and earphone jacks, and I can still see the lights to verify that it's working correctly. The other wiring harness I picked up plugs in between the power cord to the battery and the power lead from the radio itself, and adds a PowerPole connector. This is how I power the TinyTrak3+ rather than the cigarette lighter adapter, which is all the way at the other end of the bike. Everything is mounted securely and powered adequately. I also had to make a minor modification to the TinyTrak3+ by cutting a resistor (R8) so that it will work with a mobile radio rather than an HT. This easy mod is clearly described in the documentation and was no trouble at all.



I still had to figure out how to install the antenna. The PC800 didn't have anywhere I could clamp my existing mount onto that wouldn't get in the way. After searching for a mount that would work, I ended up making my own. I replaced one of the bolts for my Givi top trunk rack with one that is identical except longer, and then bolted a metal bar onto it with a 90 degree bend. A Hustler NMO mount bolts through a 3/8" hole in the bracket. I made it long enough to ensure that it stuck out far enough for the antenna to clear the top trunk, and this provided enough room to stick the GPS antenna to the same bracket. This was also useful because of the antenna's magnetic base, since the entire outside of the bike is plastic. The bracket vibrates a bit as I ride down the road, and I may reinforce it at some point, but it's perfectly

adequate for now. The zip ties are there to keep the wires in place, not the antennas themselves. The wires run under the passenger seat attached to the top of the trunk lid, along the supporting frame, and directly down to the radio and TinyTrak3+.

The Kenwood TM-281A transmits 65 watts on the high power setting, over 10 times as much power as the HTX-202. This seems to be what I needed to get my signal out to local APRS stations adequately. Some have noted that Kenwood warns against using the high power setting very much due to overheating concerns. Additionally, the bike trunk is a fairly small, enclosed space, and when I go on longer trips I will be packing stuff all around the radio, further reducing ventilation. However, the nature of an APRS station is to transmit a brief packet burst once every few minutes. The radio doesn't use much power when it's receiving, and it's transmitting for too short a time to generate any significant heat. I don't expect this to be a problem. However, when I plug in a microphone to make voice contacts while parked, I will make sure to switch to the lower 25 watt power setting.

Southgate Amateur Radio News

- 11 June [Possible Meteor Shower on June 11](#)
[BBC World Service resumes MW broadcasts to Israel](#)
[Amateur Radio World Castles Award](#)
[Fox-1 receives IARU Frequency Coordination letter](#)
[AMSAT Online Satellite Pass Predictions webpage restored](#)
[C82DX Mozambique DXpedition](#)
[Video – Amateur Radio FUNcube satellites](#)
[Val ZL2FO wins WARO ham radio competition](#)
[Canadian arctic IOTAs to be activated](#)
[DXCC News](#)
- 10 June [Irish Amateur Station Licence Examination](#)
[IARU Monitoring System Newsletter](#)
[EI75GP - Cork Grand Prix special event](#)
[Contesting explained](#)
[Better outlook for Amateur Radio in Ghana](#)
[Sunspots predicted!](#)
[New QSL Manager for Tim, 5R8Z](#)
[Ivory Coast](#)
[Amateur radio ops heading for Tutuila Island](#)
[St. Lucia](#)
[ISWL callsigns for June](#)
[Extra CW op for Sable Island DXpedition](#)
[End-to-end interstellar communication system design for power efficiency](#)
[IOTA news from OPDX](#)
[DXCC Country/Entity Report](#)
[History This Week](#)
- 9 June [Propagation Report from Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP](#)
[First RTA heads to Port Elizabeth](#)
[6 Metre DXpedition to Anegada island](#)
[1613 - The End of the Time of Troubles](#)
[Dutch ham radio trio on Jersey](#)
[Ham Radio CubeSat Fox-1 update video](#)
[Ham Radio at 1940s event](#)
[VHF Radio Hams missing](#)
[ARDF event in Mongolia](#)
- 8 June [Who will be the ILLW 300th?](#)
[North American QRP CW Club \(NAQCC\) Sprint Tuesday night!](#)
[Northern Lights in the USA](#)
[Awareness of audio description increases](#)
[Digital text via Radio Australia this weekend](#)
[Propagation de K7RA](#)
[5.8 GHz CubeSat Politech.1](#)

- 7 June [Dave Raycroft's ICPO Bulletin](#)
[Fridge knocks out cell-phone network](#)
[Radio Amateurs of Cuba - Emergency network activated](#)
[Digital tests from International Broadcaster](#)
[Norfolk Amateur Radio Club holds annual 'Radio Active' weekend](#)
[DX News from the ARRL](#)
[UK Radio Hams to launch 434 MHz balloons this weekend](#)
[Spanish ham radio team in Nicaragua](#)
[Paraguay Special Event](#)
[IARU HF World Championship](#)
- 6 June [Tony's 10 Metre Band Report](#)
[Upcoming ARISS contact with Astronomy Camp, Tucson, AZ](#)
[Aurora - Magnetometers for schools](#)
[IOTA news from the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club](#)
[Using ham radio to network from home](#)
[Kids Day - suggested ham radio frequencies](#)
[San Andres Island](#)
[Field Day on TSPN TV](#)
[GB1NUF celebrates first Morris car](#)
[WWFF activities](#)
[DXpedition to Republic of Congo](#)
[The Mountains of Kazakhstan](#)
- 5 June [Fox-1 Ham Radio CubeSat frequencies announced](#)
[FCC sets deadlines for RF Exposure Reassessment comments](#)
[SOTA at Thames Amateur Radio Group](#)
[AAUSAT3 CubeSat - The First 100 Days](#)
[VP8DOH on 28.444 MHz from the Falkland Islands](#)
[Amateur Radio on Egyptian TV](#)
[AMSAT Field Day 2013](#)
[IARU position on agenda items](#)
[Possible Guyana IOTA Op](#)
- 4 June [Introducing the Shortwave Radio Audio Archive](#)
[Awareness drive to revive ham radio](#)
[Misunderstanding creates a frenzy](#)
[77.5 GHz Ham Radio Moonbounce video](#)
[Ham Radio satellite SO-50 on FM handheld](#)
[ZS4 Sprint](#)
[Borneo TV features Ham Radio](#)
[Isle of Skye on 7.175 MHz tonight](#)
[LY44WFF WFF/VHF Expedition to Klaipeda](#)
[Ham Radio in Ghana](#)
[UHF Radiomicrophones consultation](#)
[Mozambique DXpedition](#)

- 3 June [IOTA news from OPDX](#)
[DXCC Country/Entity Report](#)
[Series Six Episode Eleven of the ICQ Podcast - SlowScan TV has been released](#)
[ITU meetings in Geneva](#)
[Amateur Radio World Castles Award](#)
[Ham Radio IMS event on TV news](#)
[Kilrea Royal Observer Corps bunker activation](#)
[Amateur Radio is not just Cool it's Sub-Zero](#)
[Radio amateur among 3 veteran storm chasers killed by Oklahoma tornado](#)
[NASA TV coverage set for Space Station cargo ship moves](#)
[History This Week](#)
- 2 June [Propagation Report from Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP](#)
[SARL@HOME on Saturday 15 June looks at contesting](#)
[102 new South African radio amateurs](#)
[Charlie Tango Radio Group 4th Birthday Competitions](#)
[Aurora Surprise: Northern Lights in the USA](#)
[Radio Sri Lanka stops using 7190 kHz](#)
[North East Ontario Regional Directors Report for June 2013](#)
[Scratchable DX Maps!](#)
[PS2013CCB, Special Event Call](#)
[BC-Yukon Section Manager re-elected](#)
- 1 June [Atlantic Hurricane Season 2013](#)
[ARRL comments on proposed expansion of 5 GHz unlicensed broadband](#)
[Ham Radio Field Day media coverage](#)
[Amateur Radio World Castles Award](#)
[ANTELSAT a Ham Radio SSTV CubeSat from Uruguay](#)
[Propagation de K7RA](#)
[Geomagnetic Storm on May 31-June 1](#)
[Essex CW Club Newsletter](#)
[Steve 'Woz' Wozniak WA6BND in Londonderry](#)
[A 10m mast that fits in a suitcase!](#)
[GB100RXY activation](#)

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS (various sources)

Val, ZL2FO Proves Top of the Airwaves:

by wanganuichronicle.co.nz on June 11, 2013

Val Hawtree reckons amateur radio operators were the forerunners of Skype and Facebook and it was a good way to communicate with people around the world. Mrs Hawtree has been talking to people for 20 years through her call sign ZL2FO, and has just won the Thelma Souper Memorial women's amateur radio (WARO) competition for members in New Zealand and Australia. Mrs Souper was an early amateur radio operator in New Zealand. The competition was for the highest number of contacts over two hours on April 27-28 - Mrs Hawtree spoke to 140 people in that time. She was presented with her award last night by the New Zealand Amateur Radio Society. Her husband, Graham, was already an amateur radio operator and it was through him she became interested. She sat exams and got her licence to operate and then bought the hardware. The cost of the equipment depended on what you bought, and from where, or whether you built your own. Mr Hawtree spoke to the King of Jordan through his call sign ZL2HR, and was in contact with actor and singer the late Burl Ives. He also spoke to the international space station. Mrs Hawtree said their hobby would be a way to communicate if there was a sun spot explosion that wiped out all communication because the members could still communicate through morse code, which was one of the exams the members sat when they applied for a licence.

Ham Radio Field Day Planned; Offers Opportunity to See Ham Radio in Action:

by lakeconews.com on June 11, 2013

LAKE COUNTY, Calif. -- Along with more than 35,000 radio amateurs in the United States and Canada, ham radio operators in Lake County will participate in ARRL Field Day, an annual event that showcases the hobby. From 11 a.m. Saturday, June 22, until 11 a.m. Sunday, June 23, local hams will gather in the parking lot of the Lake County Chamber of Commerce Visitor's Center at George Hoberg's Vista Point in Lakeport. Members of the public are invited to stop by for demonstrations of radio communications and learn about what ham radio does for Lake County. Local ham radio operator Jim Plank, also a Red Cross volunteer, encourages anyone interested to "Come find out how to communicate without a cell phone or the Internet." Knowledgeable local radio operators will be available to talk about and demonstrate various aspects of amateur radio including Morse code, use of local radio repeaters, long-distance communications using high frequency (HF) radios and newer options that combine radio and internet technologies. ARRL Field Day is organized by the American Radio Relay League, a national organization comprised of more than 150,000 amateur radio operators. This annual event is an opportunity for amateur radio operators to socialize, participate in contests to make as many over-the-air contacts as they can, and to share their hobby with others. Amateur radio, often called "ham radio," has been in existence for a century. On a day-to-day basis, it serves as an enjoyable hobby that combines technical skills with social networking. Those skills are put to work on a regular basis to support bike races, walk-a-thons and other public events. Following disasters, ham radio communications play a critical role in emergency response.

Ham Radio is Focus of 24-Hour Public Event:

by news-herald.com on June 11, 2013

The Lake County Amateur Radio Association will be participating in the annual "Field Day" exercise June 22-23. Amateur radio clubs and individuals across the country will set up emergency communication stations in parks, malls, schools and backyards, to prove the point to the public that "When all else fails, Ham Radio works!" From severe storms to hurricanes to tsunamis, ham radio has provided the most reliable communication networks in the critical early hours of an event. Because ham radio is not dependent on the Internet, cell tower or other infrastructure, they work when nothing else is available, the association noted.

Campers Query Orbiting Astronaut:

by azstarnet.com on June 10, 2013

A short time ago, in an auditorium close, close by, 30 teens boldly went where no University of Arizona astronomy camper had gone before: the International Space Station. For 10 minutes on Saturday - in voice, at least - Astronomy Camp participants boarded the Space Station as it passed over Australia, orbiting 250 miles above the Earth, for a ham-radio chat with one of its astronauts, Chris Cassidy. It was the first time in the camp's 25-year history that students contacted the International Space Station. "It was so amazing to talk to an actual astronaut," Kevin Yee, 13, of Austin, Texas, said. Though Yee didn't get to ask his question about life aboard the space station, he was thrilled nonetheless with the opportunity to listen in as other campers asked questions. The group met at Steward Observatory on the UA campus, where they were linked to the space station by a program called ARISS - Amateur Radio on the International Space Station. Ham-radio operators all over the world volunteer to facilitate chats with space station astronauts and cosmonauts.

Ham Radio Experts to Teach Rookies:

by laketahoenews.net on June 10, 2013

The Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society is putting on a field day June 23 for people to learn about amateur radio. It will be at the northwest corner of Wedge Parkway and Whites Creek Lane, across from the South Valleys Library in Reno starting at 11am.

ARRL Field Day Upcoming:

by portsmouth-dailytimes.com on June 9, 2013

Sometimes when major disasters such as tornadoes and floods occur, the normal means of communication are wiped out. That is where Amateur Radio operators come in. On Saturday, June 22 and 23, the public is invited to observe Field Day, sponsored by the American Radio Relay League, performed locally by the Portsmouth Radio Club on Hope Road in South Webster. The event will go from 2 p.m. on Saturday and will run until 2 p.m. on Sunday. A map of the location is available on the www.portsmouthradioclub.org website. "This is a national event through the American Radio Relay League," Bill Massie, public information officer for the club said. "And they do it each June." Vassar said the event is a competition, but it also gets everyone involved prepared to make sure they have the equipment and skills necessary to make emergency communications. "If a tornado hit, for example, or if there was a flood, or a snow emergency, things like that," Massie said. "Those are things we have dealt with before."

When other forms of communication, like cell phones, electrical outages, and other people's repeaters go down, we are able to establish communications when everything else fails."

Ham Radio Operators Set to Sharpen Skills:

by pressbanner.com on June 8, 2013

Amateur radio operators from all parts of Santa Cruz County will descend upon Cal Fire's Ben Lomond training camp the weekend of June 22 and 23 for a refresher training course in emergency broadcasting. The general public is invited to attend. Jointly hosted by the San Lorenzo Valley (SLVARC) and Santa Cruz County (SCCARC) amateur radio clubs, the goal of the annual event is to prepare amateur, or "ham," radio operators to serve as emergency communication relays in the event of natural disasters.

Propagation Forecast Bulletin #23 de K7RA:

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on June 7, 2013

Solar activity seems to dip back into the doldrums again, with the average sunspot number for the past week (72) lower than any reporting week since Propagation Forecast Bulletin ARLP013, which was for the week of March 21-27.

Public Invited to See How SCV Emergency Communications Work:

by scvnews.com on June 7, 2013

The Santa Clarita Amateur Radio Club and the Santa Clarita Emergency Communications Team will be host their annual Field Day emergency communications exercise at the Castaic Lake Water Agency on Saturday, June 22, and Sunday, June 23. Participants will be demonstrating how they assist public safety professionals during disasters when their primary methods of communications fail. There will also be a Get On The Air (GOTA) station available for the public to use so they can learn the many different aspects to amateur radio and see its not just how Hollywood portrays it in movies with Morse code.

ARNewsline Report 1869 -- June 7 2013:

by Bill Pasternak (WA6ITF) on June 7, 2013

The following is a QST. A ham radio operator severe weather researcher loses his life in an Oklahoma tornado; the FCC sets commentary date for comments on RF exposure reassessment; new life for ham radio in Ghana; the government seizes an unlicensed broadcast station near Boston and some long missing moon dust is found in a California warehouse. All this and more on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1869 coming your way right now.

NCA Encouraging Amateur Radio Operations:

by ghanaweb.com on June 6, 2013

Mr Paarock Vanpercy, Director General of the National Communications Authority (NCA) has stressed the need for Ghana to encourage Amateur Radio Operations. This, he said, would help the youth to develop interest in the area and move to higher levels of technological awareness. He made the call at the opening of a five-day training course on Amateur Radio Administration, organised by the NCA in conjunction with the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) (Region 1) and the International Telecommunications Union in Accra. The workshop, which runs from June 3 to June 7, is to train regulators and prospective regulators on administration of the amateur service and amateur-satellite service in developing countries for managing disaster relief communications and to organise an amateur radio society.

DX News -- ARRL DX Bulletin #23:

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on June 6, 2013

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by NC1L, The Weekly DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

Ham Radio Connects with Historic Ships Around the World:

by kaj18.com on June 5, 2013

BILLINGS -- The USS Pampanito, the USS Hornet and the USS North Carolina were just a few of the contacts made during Museum Ships Weekend. The Yellowstone Radio Club communicated with ham radio operators in San Francisco, Alameda, California and Wilmington, North Carolina over the weekend. A club in New Jersey organized the two-day event at the US Naval Reserve Training Center in Billings, that draws Ham Radio operators and clubs all over the world - with the goal of communicating with historic ships docked or at museums. "A lot of

them are museum ships that are not navy ships," said Dennis Tulp, a ham radio operator with the Yellowstone Radio Club and a US Navy veteran. "They're anywhere from ore carriers, a lot them have been lost in the great lakes, every type of ship is represented."

Ham Radio Operators Tuned In for Next Weekend's Hamfest:

by kxnews.com on June 4, 2013

Radio Amateur Club of Knoxville (RACK) ham radio aficionados are excited about next weekend's Hamfest and Electronics Exposition. RACK's 47th annual Hamfest will be 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 8 at Kerbel Temple. Admission is \$7 though it's free for public officials and folks in uniform (military, scouts, etc.), as well as kids under 12. Anyone who enjoys ham radios, electronics, antique radios and the like will likely enjoy the event. According to Hamfest Director and RACK member Lou Dreinhoefer, Hamfest will include forums, exhibits and demonstrations; breakfast and lunch concessions; equipment sales tailgating outside; and onsite VE radio exams. The event, recognized by American Radio Relay League (ARRL) as the state convention for Tennessee, is both a public service for "hams" but also RACK's only major fundraiser. For some, the term "ham radio" will waft through the air with a definite scent of nostalgia. But for the hundreds of thousands in the U.S., according to ARRL, who are licensed amateur radio operators it is as contemporary as the Internet. Ham radio operators can transmit voice, data and pictures via radio waves without depending upon commercial radio systems. Ham radio operators are licensed by the FCC.

Ghana Holds First Amateur Radio Administration Course Workshop:

by ghanabusinessnews.com on June 4, 2013

The first Amateur Radio Administration course, aimed at bringing together operators, industry experts and other relevant bodies to exchange experiences and best practices in the field, is underway in Accra. The weeklong workshop is being organised by the National Communication Authority (NCA) in partnership with the International Telecommunication Union and the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). Speaking at the opening session, Mr Paarock VanPercy, Director General of the NCA said that amateur radio operations involved the use of designated radio frequency for private, non-commercial and non-professional use and for exchange of messages, wireless experimentation and training.

July 17-20, 2014 -- Hartford, Connecticut



In the News

- [ARRL Centennial Convention](#) (PDF)
- [ARRL Plans Centennial Celebration in Hartford in 2014](#)

More information coming soon.

*Your PARTicles contribution could
be in this space!*

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.

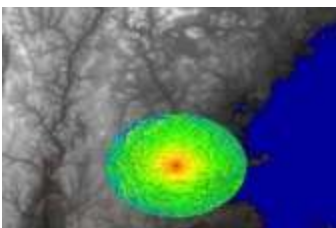
EmComm events and repeater use

Most everyone knows that the 146.955 repeater is used during times of emergency situations, drills and exercises. Skywarn and the monthly 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 either Hugh-N1QGE (Westford EmComm/Skywarn NCS) or Terry-KA8SCP (MEMA Region 1 Communications Officer and Skywarn NCS) . They will be more than happy to talk about these programs with you.



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. 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 from [The Sign Man](http://thesignman.com/clubs/part.html) (<http://thesignman.com/clubs/part.html>) PLEASE NOTE: Please check with Hugh Maguire-N1QGE, hulin127@verizon.net, if you need a badge.



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
Hugh Maguire – N1QGE, for the Town of Westford
Bill Ohm – W1OHM, for the 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 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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