



PARTicles

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

March 2012

President's Column

- *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*



As of this writing, I am still looking for a Field Day Chairman for 2012. I have contacted a couple of people who politely turned down the opportunity for perfectly valid reasons, and I thank those folks for their consideration. We once again have the opportunity to use the Concord Rod and Gun Club in Concord, MA. Many thanks to Joe (KB1SSA) for his help in this area. We also have Rick (W1RAG) and Charlie (W1ADL) volunteering once again in the kitchen (thanks, guys!). Using the W1IS callsign, the club came in first place in the 3D division last year, and our 1B station using the KB1OIQ callsign came in first place in EMA. I am really looking forward to this year's Field Day activities. Let's think of interesting ways to use the resources that are available at the Concord Rod and Gun Club.

Be sure to attend the March PART meeting, to be held on Tuesday, March 20th. Club members Fred (AB1OC) and Anita (AB1QB) will tell us about their very recent DXpedition to Bora Bora. Get there early, as I expect we will be close to capacity.

April 2012 will be the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic. There will be

several special event stations operating to commemorate this event. Listen well, you just might hear Geoffrey (KB1USE) on his replica Titanic key pounding out the CW. This key was given to Geoffrey recently by a very kind fellow ham. The gentleman had heard about Geoffrey's 10 CW contacts during the January SKCC K3Y event. He wanted to give the key to a young person who would use and appreciate it. Geoffrey and I together made a cable to connect it to his rig. This is not the first time I've seen this type of generosity in the ham community. Many thanks, my friend!

The K1P special event station will be operating over the Patriots' Day weekend, which this year is April 14th and 15th - location to be determined. In the past, this has been a single station SSB operation, and the plan is to operate that way again this year. I look forward to seeing many operators this year, especially the folks who have most recently joined the hobby. This is a great opportunity to learn and have fun!

If you have not yet paid your 2012 dues, please see the club treasurer Alan (W1AHM).

Until next month, have a lot of fun, and 73!

*Next PART Meeting – March 17th 7:30 PM-
Bora Bora DXpedition
by Fred-AB1OC and Anita-AB1QB
@ the Westford Police Station*

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

March 20th, 2012

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

April 7th, 2012

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

April 14th & 15th, 2012

- KIP Patriot's Day Special Event station (more info to follow)

April 17th, 2012

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

May 5th, 2012

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

May 15th, 2012

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

May 19th, 2012

- Apple Blossom Parade. 8:00 AM - Noon Westford Common

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 18-Jan'12 and 20-Feb'12 (As of 21-Feb'12)

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	\$3,027.44	\$845.84	\$3,873.28
Income	\$725.00	\$87.00	\$812.00
Expenses	(\$242.67)	(\$0.00)	(\$242.67)
Net	\$482.33	\$87.00	\$569.33
New Balance	\$3,509.77	\$932.84	\$4,442.61

PART 2012 Membership as of 3-Mar'12

	Households (= New for 2012 + Renew for 2012)	Individuals (= New for 2012 + Renew for 2012)
Full (\$25)	28 (= 6 + 22)	28 (= 6 + 22)
Senior (\$15)	23 (= 1 + 22)	23 (= 1 + 22)
Family (\$30)	11 (= 0 + 11)	5 (= 0 + 5)
Student (\$15)	0 (= 0 + 0)	0 (= 0 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	1 (= 1 + 0)	1 (= 1 + 0)
Grand Total	63 (= 4 + 10)	57 (= 8 + 4)

Latest new PART members

Mark/N1EEM (Acton)
Jason/KB1IPF (Melrose)
Douglas/WN1FVQ (Westford)
Curt/tbd (Westford)

* To pay dues *

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

-or-

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

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

New England Area Ham/Electronic Fleas: <http://web.mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>

17 Mar Daville CT ECARA @StJoseph \$3@8 \$10/T Paul KE1LI 860 928 2456 W
18 Mar Southington CT SARA @HS \$5@8 \$20/T@6:15 Norm W3IZ 860 584 1403 F
18 Mar Henniker NH CVRC @ComSch Don N1ZIH 603 651 8000 W+
23-24 Mar Lewiston ME AARC ME Conv @Ramada Ivan N1OXA 207 784 0350 A
25 Mar Framingham MA FARA @KeefeTech Bev N1LOO 508 626 2012
15 Apr Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F
Third Sunday April thru October
21 Apr S Portland ME PAWA @AmLegion John W1JLB 207 776 2288 A+
28 Apr Gales Ferry CT RASON Auction @FireCo Gary WT1SND 860 884 4218
4, 5 May Deerfield NH Nearfest XI @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235
19 May Goshen CT SoBARC @FG \$4@8 Lee K1LEE 860 435 0051 W
20 May Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F
2 June Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518
16 June Newington CT NARL @StMarySch Steve WV1X 860 594 0265
16 June Brookline NH NEAntqRC@EvtCtr\$10@7:30\$4@8:30\$0@10 Bruce 603 772 7516 W+
17 June Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F
15 July Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F
11 Aug St Albans VT STARC @VFW \$5@8 Arn N1ARN 802 309 0666 F+
12 Aug Adams MA NoBARC @BoweFld \$5@9 \$10/T Tim KE3HT 413 822 7075
19 August Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F
24-26 Aug Boxboro MA FEMARA NE Conv @HI Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 W
9 Sept Newtown CT CARA @TownHall \$5@8:30 \$10/TG \$15/T Joe AB1DO 203 938 4880 W
15 Sept Forestdale RI RIAFMRS @VFW \$5/Sp@8 Rick K1KYI 401 864 9611
15 Sept Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518
16 Sept Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F
7 Oct Wallingford CT Nutmeg John N1GNV 203 440 4973 T+
12,13 Oct Deerfield NH NEARFest XII @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235
21 Oct Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F
27 Oct Gales Ferry CT TCARC Auction @FireCo @10 Darryl WA1DD 860 443 7799 T
2 Nov Feeding Hills MA HCRA Auction @CongCh @6:30PM Jim KK1W 413 237 4666
3 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/S@7 Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422 F
1 Dec Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518

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> (UPDATED 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. 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>

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 Pricing

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

Continental breakfast: \$9.00 (new price)

Full breakfast: \$14.00 (same price)

Kid's breakfast: \$8.00



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2011



Public Service Events



Apple Blossom Parade – May 19th

The Westford Kiwanis will Sponsor the 44th annual Apple Blossom Festival the week of May 16-20 2012 with the parade and crowning of this year's Apple Blossom Queen on Saturday May 19th 2012. PART has been cordially invited to participate in the parade and festivities. Individuals and Organizations should gather between 8:00 - 8:30 AM Sat. May 19th. The Parade will kick off at 10:00 AM sharp rain or shine.

PART has supported this event for a number of years by assisting with parade route staffing at key locations for safety and operational services to the Kiwanis. Please consider volunteering this year for the event. Contact info@wb1gof.org if you'd like to volunteer or learn more about the parade activities.

ARRL Field Day!

Field Day is June 23-24, 2012

Is Field Day a contest, an emergency preparedness exercise, a public relations demonstration, a great event for clubs, or just a fun way to get on the air? Field Day is ALL these things! Hams set up away from commercial power and normal installations for 24 hours in June.



PART 2012 Kit Building Event

B. Scott Andersen, NE1RD

Anyone who knows me will (eagerly) tell you that I am not a very patient person. For better or worse I am a fan of immediate gratification. One of the exceptions in my behavior pattern comes with kit building. There, I enjoy the journey at least as much as arriving at the destination. Kit building with friends only doubles the fun!

About a dozen or so hearty PART members gathered on the 9th of February after the monthly club breakfast to bend leads and melt solder. This year's kit selection came from Hendricks QRP Kits (<http://www.qrpkits.com/>) with the *Deluxe Tenna Dipper*, *SLT+* tuner, and *Scout Regen* receiver taking center stage.



Group picture taken on the 21st of February at the PART monthly meeting. Kit building participants were, from left to right, Alan (W1AHM), Steve (WA1KBE), Johan (K1ARG), Ann (KB1SRW), Geoffrey (KB1USE), Charles (AA1VS), Rich (AB1HD), Russell (KB1UKU), Mike (WB1AAT), Scott (NE1RD), Jon (K2LEB), Andy (KB1OIQ), Allison (KB1GMX). For once, our intrepid club photographer Bob (N1RXV) was in front of the camera and appears on the far right.

PART's first kit building in February of 2008 (could it really have been four years ago?!) centered on the Small Wonder Labs *RockMite* QRP transceiver. [See the brief write-up on the club web site <http://www.wb1gof.org>] That kit was selected because it could be assembled in one sitting and had nearly all through-hole parts. One thing missing from that kit was the chance to wind a toroid.

Toroids, those little metal donuts painted red, yellow, blue, or left powdery gray are a common object in ham radio devices. They, along with fine wire sometimes called *magnet wire*, are used to make inductors and transformers. There is nothing particularly difficult about winding a toroid, yet many novice kit builders are intimidated by the idea of putting windings of wire on these little O's. I selected these kits from Hendricks QRP Kits precisely because they required winding toroids. I had hoped that doing this work in a supportive environment (with plenty of "Elmers" waiting in the wings) would remove any angst and anxiety about working with these parts. My scheme worked. I heard no complaints about winding toroids! The complaints were about something completely unexpected.

Not long into the session builders had opened their packages and began inventorying their parts. One after another a builder popped up and said, "I'm missing a resistor" or "I'm missing a cap." This was not a good sign. I confess I am spoiled by my experiences with the kit supplier Elecraft, Inc. In building three K1s, two K2s, a KX1, and several of their "mini-modules" I had never been shorted a part in their bundle. Now, in a room full of builders, hands were raised one after another with a sour look on the face of the builder.

My inventory for the *Deluxe Tenna Dipper* also came up short one capacitor. It was time to take a deep breath and see how big the problem was! I did a walk around the room visiting every table. "Tell me what you are missing", I said. After circling the room I had a list. Luckily, a small but well-stocked electronics shop called *Electronics Plus* was nearby. It was easy to get Allison (KB1GMX) and Steve (WA1KBE) to volunteer to drive over and find suitable replacement parts or reasonable substitutes. They

were able to find everything except a replacement for the potentiometer incorrectly bundled with Russell's (KB1UKU) *Deluxe Tenna Dipper* kit. Alas, Russell would not be able to finish his project that day.

The good news, though, was everybody else was able to take those replacement parts and bring their project to a successful completion. One by one builders' connected their antenna analyzers to the TW2010 antenna standing behind the building to see if their unit would find a match. Though I was a bit slower than many (and with a little help from Allison, KB1GMX, when my tired eyes really couldn't see well enough to mount the transformer in place) my analyzer also performed flawlessly in the five-band antenna test.



Johan (K1ARG) and Ann (KB1SRW) Sorvari with Alan (W1AHM) in the background



Alan (W1AHM) seated kibitzing with Chauncey (K1OPE)



Russell (KB1UKU) exclaiming to Allison (KB1GMX), "They sent the wrong #*&^%# part!"

There are always lessons-learned in these exercises. The big lesson I learned was four years is too long to wait for another kit building event! There was a lot of enthusiasm for this event and even more for another event soon. Like Field Day, the K1P special event station, and the 13 Colonies event, it seem that the energy of the group will call for something this fun to become an annual fare. I am already researching possible kits for next winter's gala.



The author (NE1RD) left with Andy (KB1OIQ) patiently following the directions



Steve (WA1KBE) left with Rich (AB1HD)



Geoffrey (KB1USE) finishing up his *Deluxe Tenna Dipper*

Acknowledgements:

Many thanks go to Dave Welsh, W1IR, and The United Methodist Church of Westford for allowing us to use their meeting space for our event. I'd like to thank Steve, WA1KBE, and Rich, AB1HD for applying the labels on the enclosures and getting them sealed with several coats of spray. Everybody had a chance to walk out of the event with a finished, good-looking kit. Thanks, guys!

There were some last minute heroics by Allison, KB1GMX, and Steve, WA1KBE, who made the trek to Littleton's *Electronics Plus* to pick up all those parts that were missing from the kits. (Almost) everybody had a successful day because we were able to get nearly all those missing parts replaced. Thanks to you both for coming to our rescue!

Finally, as the event organizer, I'd like to thank the officers and leadership of PART for their strong support for the event. Thanks, guys!

Editor's Note: Thanks to Alan-W1AHM for the pizza/soda run.

ARRL News



The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is the national association for amateur radio, connecting hams around the U.S. with news, information and resources. URL: <http://www.arrl.org>

[The K7RA Solar Update](#)

Friday, March 09, 2012, 3:05:00 PM - This has been quite a week for dramatic solar activity. The average daily sunspot number was up nearly 26 points to 69.4, while the average daily solar flux rose nearly 17 points to 121.9 for the period March 1-7. Sunspot numbers for March 1-7 were 24, 24, 52, 70, 105, 109 and 102, with a mean of 69.4. The 10.7 cm flux was 103.4, 108.2, 116.4, 120.1, 131.6, 138.1 and 135.7, with a mean of 121.9...

[Surfin': Still Hunting](#)

Friday, March 09, 2012, 3:02:00 PM -By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU Contributing Editor *This week, Surfin' continues hunting broadcast transmitter sites and circuit design tools.*

Still Hunting Transmitters - "Hunting Broadcast Radio Transmitters" from **two weeks ago** resulted in reader mail suggesting other broadcast transmitter-related websites. William Bond, N5YCK, suggested "**RabbitEars** is a TV info site; has way more than most need." Mike Maste...

[Dayton Hamvention® Honors QST Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, with Technical Achievement Award](#)

Wednesday, March 07, 2012, 3:07:00 PM - The **Dayton Hamvention®** Awards Committee has **announced** the recipients of the 2012 Hamvention's four annual awards. *QST* Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, was named the winner of the Technical Achievement Award. The recipient of the Amateur of the Year is S. Suri, VU2MY. Steven Betza, WZ2V, was selected as the recipient of the Special Achievement Award. The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club -- German...

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

Wednesday, March 07, 2012, 2:54:00 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:

- When operating CW, do you send the symbol "@" (di-dah-dah-di-dah-dit), or do you spell out "at" (di-dah/dah)?
- Is your primary station computer a desktop, laptop or tablet?
- Does your local Amateur Radio club still publish a newsletter?
- How...

[ARRL Seeks Comments on Proposed 9 cm Band Plan](#)

Tuesday, March 06, 2012, 10:01:00 PM - A few months ago, the ARRL UHF/Microwave Band Plan Committee **asked the Amateur Radio community** about current, planned and projected uses of the amateur bands between 902 MHz and 3.5 GHz. The response was beyond our expectations, with hundreds of comments and suggestions received. Thanks to all of you who took the time to share information with us. After reading the feedback, the committee began ...

[FCC Reduces Forfeiture for Florida Man Accused of Using Unauthorized Equipment](#)

Tuesday, March 06, 2012, 7:28:00 PM - In November 2011, the FCC **issued** a *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL)* in the amount of \$10,000 to Michael Perry of Cross City, Florida. In a **Forfeiture Order** released on March 6, the FCC reduced the forfeiture that Perry must pay to \$450. Perry was accused of operating a radio transmitter without the requisite FCC authorization and his failure to operate a Citizens Band station, ...

[Active Sunspot Region 1429 Produces Solar Flares, Coronal Mass Ejections](#)

Tuesday, March 06, 2012, 7:08:00 PM - An X-1.1 class solar flare erupted from the Sun on Sunday, March 4 at 11:13 PM EST (0413 UTC March 5), sending an explosion of plasma and charged particles -- a coronal mass ejection (CME) -- hurtling through space. Forecasters at NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center (**SWPC**) are saying that the CME should miss Earth, but will hit Mercury and Venus. Even if this CME misses, high-latitude sky wat...

[Enter the Seventh Annual ARRL Photo Contest!](#)

Tuesday, March 06, 2012, 3:29:00 PM - Have you ever wanted to see a photo of yours in *QST*, the annual ARRL Amateur Radio Calendar or another ARRL publication? Well, here's your chance! If you're among the winners, not only will your photographic skill be propagated far and wide, but we're offering \$100 as the First Prize. The winning photo and three runners-up will be published in *QST*. All submitted photos will also be considered f...

[Three Operations Approved for DXCC Credit](#)

Tuesday, March 06, 2012, 2:41:00 PM - ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that three operations -- the current VK0TH and AX/VK0TH (Macquarie Island) operation, the 2011 600M (Somalia) operation and the December 2011-January 2012 9U3TMM (Burundi) operation -- have been approved for DXCC credit. "If you have had these operations rejected in a recent application, please send an **e-mail** to the ARRL DXCC Desk," Moore said. "Pleas...

[New 60 Meter Privileges Now In Effect](#)

Monday, March 05, 2012, 12:00:00 PM - Effective today, US amateurs have new privileges on the 60 meter band. In addition to an increase in effective radiated power from 50 to 100 W, hams can now transmit CW and PSK31 on the following channel-center frequencies: *Channel 1: 5332.0 kHz, Channel 2: 5348.0 kHz, Channel 3: 5358.5 kHz, Channel 4: 5373.0 kHz, Channel 5: 5405.0 kHz*

Amateurs can also transmit Upper Sideband voice and PACTOR III on...

[TX3A and Me](#)

Friday, March 02, 2012, 9:41:00 PM

[The K7RA Solar Update](#)

Friday, March 02, 2012, 2:25:00 PM

The average daily sunspot number this week was down 12 points from the previous week, and the solar flux was about the same. Sunspot numbers for February 23-29 were 52, 47, 47, 58, 45, 35 and 22, with a

mean of 43.7. The 10.7 cm flux was 103.3, 108.9, 108, 107, 105.5, 103.3 and 102, with a mean of 105.4. The estimated planetary A indices were 4, 6, 6, 6, 16, 10 and 6, with a mean of 7.7. The es...

[Surfin': Designing Circuits Online](#)

Friday, March 02, 2012, 2:22:00 PM - By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU, Contributing Editor

This week, Surfin' considers a new online electronic circuit design tool. - If you tinker with electronic circuit designs, you will be interested in a new free online application for designing, testing, editing, and sharing electronic circuits: **CircuitLab Editor**. Intended for students, educators and engineers, as well as hobbyists, this online application ...

[ARRL In Action: What Have We Been Up to Lately?](#)

Thursday, March 01, 2012, 4:13:00 PM - Compiled by S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, ARRL News Editor, k1sfa@arrl.org

This feature -- including convenient Web links to useful information -- is a concise monthly update of some of the things ARRL is doing on behalf of its members. This installment covers the month of February. - At the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (**WRC-12**) in Geneva, Switzerland, the Amateur Radio Service gained a **new, w...**

[Phil Salas, AD5X, Wins February QST Cover Plaque Award](#)

Thursday, March 01, 2012, 2:00:00 PM - The winner of the *QST* Cover Plaque Award for February is Phil Salas, AD5X, for his article "A Relay-Based Full Break-In TR Switch for Your Vintage System." *Congratulations Phil!* The *QST* Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the *QST* Cover Plaque Poll web page. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in...

Greater Boston Net Directory

Daily 5:30 pm	Eastern Mass/Rhode Island Phone Net (NTS)	3.918
Daily 7 and 10 pm	Eastern Mass/Rhode Island CW Net (NTS)	3.658
Daily 8 pm	Eastern Mass 2M Traffic Net (NTS)	145.230 (PL 88.5)
Daily 8 pm	Slow Speed CW Net	28.160
Daily 10:00 pm	Heavy Hitters Traffic Net (NTS)	MMRA-linked repeaters: 146.610, 146.670, 146.715, 146.820, and all 222 and 440 repeaters
First Mon 8:30 pm	EMA Section ARES Net	146.610 and all MMRA links
Mon 9 pm	BARC Club Net	145.230 (PL 88.5)
Tue 8 pm	MMRA Club Net	146.610 and all MMRA links
Wed 8 pm	Wellesley Amateur Radio Society Net	147.030; 444.600 (PL 88.5)
Wed 9 pm	HHTN Swap Net	146.640
Thu 8:30 pm	AMSAT Net	146.640
Sat 9 am	Northeast SATERN Net	7.265
Sun 9:30 am	Yankee SSB Net	50.275
Sun 8 pm	Algonquin Amateur Radio Club Net	446.675 (PL 88.5)
Sun 8 pm	Westford PART Net	146.955 (PL 74.4)
Sun 8:30 pm	NSRA Net (with Newslines)	145.470

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.

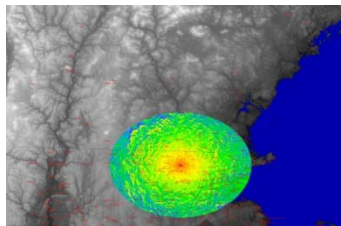
EmComm events and repeater use

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.



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.

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

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.



PARTicles © 2012, a publication of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

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