



PARTicles

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

May 2012

President's Column

- *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*



NEAR-Fest has come and gone. We had typical NEAR-Fest weather - rain! Despite the conditions, Steve (WA1KBE) and I drove to NEAR-Fest to check out the bargains. I found a bunch of small electronic parts that I can use, and Steve found a few deals of his own. I saw about a dozen club members at NEAR-Fest on Friday, and I hope everybody had a good time.

At our May PART meeting, our guest speaker will be Dave (KM3T) Pascoe, who will talk to us about WRTC 2014 - the World Radiosport Team Championship. This is a major event in amateur radio, and it will be held right here in New England! Dave tells me that central Massachusetts will be the epicenter of activity for this event. I'm looking forward to hearing Dave's talk and finding out how PART can help. As a premier club, I suspect a lot will be expected of us. It seems like a long way off, but time flies, and there is a lot to be done.

The Field Day committee recently gathered at the Concord Rod and Gun club. Lead by Field Day chairman Bob (W1IS), we settled on quite a few items. Most notably, our Field Day will be entirely QRP (5 watts or less) and every radio will be operating on battery power. Many people have told me stories about very real situations where QRP and battery was all they had, so this will be a great opportunity to practice those skills.

For those of you who believe that you can't do anything with 5W, consider that your HT probably outputs 5W or less, and with altitude,

one can communicate about 90-100 miles on 2m FM. By contrast, my longest contact on CW QRP HF was 5000 miles to Hawaii. At Field Day, you will be able to experience QRP operation and see for yourself the capabilities and challenges of low power operation.

With battery power comes additional challenges. Batteries are often big and heavy. Carelessness can give you a nasty shock (or worse!). We will be recharging batteries via solar power, so let's hope for a sunny weekend. Again, another opportunity to learn about batteries, battery charging, battery life while operating the radio, etc.

More details will be discussed at both the May and June PART meetings. Be sure to ask about the food and the special arrangements we're making for our newest members.

The K2H 13 Colonies special event is coming up quickly! This event will run from the end of June through the Independence day holiday. PART is the lead club out of 4 clubs participating in Massachusetts. The QSO counts have been rising exponentially over the last couple of years as this event becomes more popular. Last year, the pileups were tremendous, and a great training ground for learning to handle them. Charlie (K1PUB) once again has volunteered to lead this event. More will be said at the May and June PART meetings. Ask about the cool QSL card for K2H!

That's all for now! I'm looking forward to seeing you at the May PART meeting!

72 de Andy KB1OIQ

***Next PART Meeting – May 15th 7:30 PM-
World Radiosport Team Championships
by Dave (KM3T) Pascoe
@ the Westford Police Station***

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

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 (contact KA8SCP@WB1GOF.org)

June 2nd, 2012

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

June 15th, 2012

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

June 23rd & 24th, 2012

- PART Field Day, Concord Rod & Gun Club

July 7th, 2012

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

July 17th, 2012

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

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 20-Apr '12 and 17-Apr '12 (As of 17-Apr '12)

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	\$3,629.86	\$1,009.84	\$4,639.70
Income	\$285.00	\$15.00	\$300.00
Expenses	(\$40.92)	(\$0.00)	(\$40.92)
Net	\$244.08	\$15.00	\$259.08
New Balance	\$3,873.94	\$1,024.84	\$4,898.78

PART 2012 Membership as of 1-May '12

	Households (= New for 2012 + Renew for 2012)	Individuals (= New for 2012 + Renew for 2012)
Full (\$25)*	39 (= 12 + 27)	39 (= 12 + 27)
Senior (\$15)*	27 (= 2 + 25)	27 (= 2 + 25)
Family (\$30)	15 (= 0 + 15)	7 (= 0 + 7)
Student (\$15)	0 (= 0 + 0)	0 (= 0 + 0)
Associate (\$10) *	0 (= 0 + 0)	0 (= 0 + 0)
Grand Total*	81 (= 14 + 67)	73 (= 14 + 59)

* Starred lines changed since 3-Mar'12

* 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

Andrew/KB1VCS (Westford)
Curt/KB1WXG (Westford)
Corey/KB1WIT (Dracut)

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>

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
2 June Hermon ME PSARA @HS Jerry K1GUP 207 848 3400 A
2 June Woonsocket RI BVARC 8AM @HI FortinDr FreeTG Bob W1YRC 401 333 2129 W+
3 June Bethpage NY LIMARC \$6@9 \$10/Sp@7 Richard K2KNB 516 694 4937 W+
10 June Queens NY HoSARC @HoS Stephen WB2KDG 718 898 5599 A
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+
11 Aug Milo ME PARC @AmLegion George WA1JMM 207 441 6112 A
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
8 Sept Ballston Spa NY SCRACES @FG @7 Darlene N2XQG 518 587 2385
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
22,23 Sept Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553
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
3 Nov Londonderry NH IRS @Lions \$3@8 \$@6 Chris KB1QVM 603 434 6137 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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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 The national association for AMATEUR RADIO™
ARRL Contest Update
NEWS AND TECHNIQUES FOR THE ACTIVE OPERATOR

- Public Service
- Advocacy
- Education
- Technology
- Membership

**Click the logo to view the
ARRL Contest Update**



PART Field Day!

By Robert Glorioso rglorioso@comcast.net

In my opinion, Field Day is the epitome of Ham Radio with many of the technical and operational aspects of the hobby that drew us to it in the first place. It is also a great place to learn about parts of the hobby that you may not be familiar with. We all can learn something at Field Day. But Field Day is also about operating, camaraderie, teamwork, socializing, food and just plain fun. So mark your calendar for June 23rd and 24th for PART Field Day. We start putting up antennas at 0830 on Saturday June 23rd so we can be on the air by 1400. Tear down begins at 1400 on Sunday the 24th and we will be clear of the Concord Rod and Gun Club by 1600.

Thanks to Joe, KB1SSA, we are indeed fortunate to once again have use of the Concord Rod and Gun Club for Field Day. It is an ideal and beautiful site.

The Field Day Committee met on May 8th to plan and make some decisions. We all agreed to make this year's Field Day a realistic exercise in Emergency Communications by operating QRP with batteries for all stations on all bands. We will operate in the 2A or 3A class with the free VHF station that class A allows. A satellite station is free for all classes. The choice of 2 or 3 simultaneous HF stations and whether we will operate straight through the 24-hour period depends on the number of operators we have and if some want to work the "graveyard shift." This will give us as many as 5 stations on-the-air simultaneously.



All our HF stations will use Elecraft K2's or maybe a KX3 or two if any of the four KX3's club members have ordered arrive on time! We will set up three operating HF stations, SSB, CW and Digital, and have a fourth receive only station for spotting new activity. We will also have a VHF station provided by Allison, KB1GMX, and Bob, KB1SWZ's, Satellite Station.

Current antenna plans call for using the two full size wire beams on 40 and 20 Meters and the G5RV that we used last year. Additionally, Fred, AB1OC, and Anita, AB1QB, will bring two Buddipole beams for 15 and 10 Meters that we will set up on the deck, and Scott, NE1RD, will bring a tri-band beam that we will set up along side the building. Completing the HF antenna farm will be Allison's, KB1GMX's, PAR 40-20-10 end fed. This set up and the filters we have will allow us to simultaneously operate two HF stations on different modes on the same band, something we have not been able to do before. Allison will bring her 6 and 2 Meter beams and Bob will have his portable satellite antennas as well.

In keeping with the Emergency operation, other than making simple exchange contacts, we will be sending and receiving formal traffic.

So sign up now to participate in the PART 2012 Field Day by sending me an email at rglorioso@comcast.net indicating if you will help set up and tear down, operate SSB, CW or Digital and preferred hours, or will come to see what is going on. If you have never operated Field Day or a contest before and want to try, we will have folks to help you get started, just let me know.

MEMA's MCST - Mobile Communications Support Trailer



MEMA has taken delivery of a new field response support trailer, the Mobile Communications Support Trailer (MCST). The MCST has been fully outfitted and is ready for deployment. This trailer can be requested by **any** community or agency in the Commonwealth through either the MEMA Regional offices or MEMA Headquarters for use in emergencies, pre-planned events, and disasters. The MCST trailer is a specialized interoperable communications asset that can provide

communications support to incident commanders dealing with disasters, incidents, or pre-planned events, and help provide communications in areas with limited coverage by providing both on scene communications support and serve as a 're-trans' trailer for extending radio coverage. The trailer is specially equipped to provide interoperable communications in fringed or non-existent coverage areas of a disaster or event. The trailer also serves as a Wi-Fi "hot spot" allowing internet connectivity and also can be used as a hub for cellular and satellite telephone service. In addition, the trailer has a unique 10' total height to allow for bridge/tunnel travel statewide.



THE MCST CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT

- MOTOROLA MICOM HF RADIO (3-30MHz)
- MOTOROLA CDM1550 LB RADIO (30-36MHz)
- MOTOROLA CDM1550 LB RADIO (42-50MHz)
- MOTOROLA XTL1500 VHF RADIO (136-174MHz)
- MOTOROLA XTL1500 UHF RADIO (450-512MHz)
- (2) MOTOROLA XTL2500 800MHz RADIOS
- MOTOROLA XTL5000 VHF CONSOLETTTE (136-174MHz)
- MOTOROLA XTL5000 UHF CONSOLETTTE (450-512MHz)
- MOTOROLA XTL5000 800MHz CONSOLETTTE
- HARRIS MASTER 3 VHF BASE STATION
- MOTOROLA APX7500 VHF/7/800 RADIO
- MOTOROLA QUANTAR 8TAC REPEATER
- (4) TELLULAR VOICE LINES
- RAYTHEON/JPS ACU-1000 GATEWAY
- (6) XTS2500 CACHE RADIOS VHF (136-174MHz)
- (1) SATELLITE VOICE LINE
- (6) XTS2500 CACHE RADIOS 800MHz

For more information, contact:
Steve Staffier (508) 820-2022
steve.staffier@massmail.state.ma.us
or
MEMA Headquarters 24/7 (508) 820-2000
400 Worcester Rd Framingham, MA 01701



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>



[ARRL EXPO Offers Activities for the DIYer](#)

May 10, 2012 - When the **ARRL EXPO** comes to the **Dayton Hamvention®** May 18-20, it will bring activities for almost every Amateur Radio activity under the Sun. From radiosport to card checking to scouting to the Youth Lounge, every radio amateur will definitely find something to suit his or her interests. This year -- in addition to our popular kit building station -- watch how “makers” and “hackers” are using A...



[Three Hams Venture to ISS Next Week](#)

May 09, 2012 - NASA will **televis**e the launch and docking of the next mission to the International Space Station (**ISS**), scheduled for May 14. NASA Flight Engineer **Joseph Acaba, KE5DAR**, and his two Russian crewmates, Soyuz Commander **Gennady Padalka, RN3DT**, and Flight Engineer **Sergei Revin, RN3BS**, are completing their training as they undergo Soyuz spacecraft fit.

Live NASA TV coverage of the Soyuz TMA-04M spacec...



[Heathkit Educational Systems Closes Up Shop](#)

May 09, 2012 - For the second time since 1992, Heathkit Educational Services (**HES**) has shuttered its doors. Rumors of the legendary kit-building company's demise were **posted on QRZ.com**, with several readers bringing the news to the attention of the ARRL. In August 2011, Heathkit announced it was **returning to the kit building business**, and in September, that it would once again be **manufacturing Amateur Radio k...**



[Senate Approves Two New FCC Commissioners, Commission to Be at Full Strength](#)

May 08, 2012 - Six months after President Barack Obama **nominated Jessica Rosenworcel and Ajit Varadaraj Pai to the Federal Communications Commission**, the Senate confirmed their appointments on Monday, May 7. Rosenworcel, a Democrat, fills the seat vacated by Michael Copps who retired from the Commission earlier this year; her term runs through June 30, 2015. Pai, a Republican, replaces Meredith Attwell Baker,...



[BSA to Offer Morse Code Interpreter Strip](#)

May 08, 2012 - For many years, Boy Scouts and Scouters have been able to earn an interpreter strip to wear on their uniforms. This strip -- worn on the uniform above the right pocket -- denotes proficiency in a foreign language or sign language. Each language has its own strip (with the name of the language embroidered in that language), and some Scouts and Scouters wear more than one strip. Now those hams in...



[Coast Guard to Join Armed Forces Crossband Communications Test](#)

May 07, 2012 - The US Coast Guard will be joining the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines in the **2012 Armed Forces Crossband Test**, scheduled for May 12. In addition to the Coast Guard station, five Army stations, three Air Force stations and six Navy/Marine Corps stations will be on the air to celebrate the 62nd anniversary of Armed Forces Day (**AFD**). Military-to-amateur crossband operations will take place on th...



[DXCC Desk Approves DXpeditions to Yemen and Somalia](#)

May 07, 2012 - ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that the current 7O6T DXpedition to Yemen and the February 2012 6O3A DXpedition to Somalia have been approved for DXCC credit. "If you had cards that were recently rejected for the 6O3A operation, please send an **e-mail** to the ARRL DXCC Desk," Moore said. "Please note that due to extremely heavy e-mail, DXCC staff may not respond to your message. Once ...



[FCC Seeks Higher Vanity Call Sign Fee](#)

May 07, 2012 - The FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* on May 4, seeking to raise the fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$14.20 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to \$15 for 10 years, an increase of 80 cents. The FCC is authorized by the *Communications Act of 1934 (as amended)* to collect vanity call sign fee...



[The K7RA Solar Update](#)

May 04, 2012 - The average daily sunspot numbers declined 38 points to 106.7 this week, while the average daily solar flux declined nearly 18 points to 116.2. Sunspot numbers for April 26-May 2 were 117, 99, 118, 114, 104, 99 and 96, with a mean of 106.7. The 10.7 cm flux was 119.2, 117.9, 121.1, 116, 114.1, 109.9 and 115.5, with a mean of 116.2. The estimated planetary A indices were 17, 8, 5, 5, 3, 4 and 5,...



[Surfin': Open Source Ducks](#)

May 04, 2012 - By Stan Horzepa, WAILOU, Contributing Editor

This week, Surfin' rediscovers the wonders of open source software. - I am trying to get my ducks all lined up for my annual trek to the **Dayton Hamvention** in less than two weeks. One duck in that line-up is *PSR*, the quarterly newsletter of **TAPR**. In addition to serving as the Contributing Editor of Surfin', I am editor of *PSR* and the pre-Dayton issue of tha...



[ARDF Update: Register Now for the USA ARDF Championships in Southern California](#)

May 03, 2012 - By Joe Moell, K0OV, ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding Coordinator, k0ov@homingin.com *Some call it foxhunting, but no animals are ever harmed. The hunt trophies are gold, silver and bronze medals. Will you win one this year?* The biggest event of the year is coming soon for fans of on-foot hidden transmitter hunting, also called fox tailing, radio-orienting and Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARD...



[Logbook of The World Marks 50,000 Users](#)

May 02, 2012 - On May 1, Dragan Pavlovic, YT3PDT, completed his registration process for Logbook of The World (**LoTW**), becoming the 50,000th person to take advantage of the ARRL's online QSL confirmation system. According to ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, there are more than 3500 individuals from outside the US in the process of obtaining a digital certificate, and more than ...



[Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Test Scheduled for May 12](#)

May 02, 2012 - The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual Military/Amateur Radio Crossband Communications Test in celebration of the 62nd anniversary of Armed Forces Day (**AFD**). Although the actual Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May -- May 19 in 2012 -- the AFD Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test will be conducted on May 12 to preven...



The ARRL New England Convention

At the Holiday Inn, Boxborough, Massachusetts

August 24-25-26, 2012

[Call for Speakers!](#)

All speakers and organizations wanting to participate in the 2012 ARRL New England Division Convention program, please contact us at your earliest opportunity. Note the dates

for the convention this year: August 24 – 26, 2012.

While there has been good response to date, open program hours remain available. Contact us if you wish to present a talk; include a subject title and, if you are so prepared, include a brief abstract.

If you represent a regional club or organization (e.g. NESMC, CEMARC, MARS, NEWS etc.) we can help facilitate open forums or closed meetings by providing you a meeting room. We do ask that organizations like this to please consider Sunday morning time slots for their closed meetings.

Groups looking to set up information booths should get your request in early. While the information booths are offered without charge, we ask for some volunteer time in return to assist us with ticket sales and other logistics during the convention operation.

Note, if you require a hotel room, make your reservations ASAP per the instructions contained on the web site to get the special convention rate.

Keep an eye on the convention web site, <http://www.boxboro.org>, for the latest information. We look forward to meeting you at the convention, Ken Caruso, WO1N, Boxboro Program Chairman, WO1N@ARRL.net, 508-572-3347.

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.

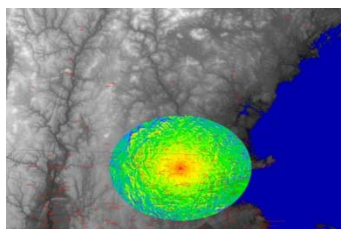
EmComm events and repeater use

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

This month's editor: Terry Stader – KA8SCP

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Our website is: <http://wb1gof.org>
Our forum is: <http://wb1gof.net/forums/>
Contact us at: info@wb1gof.org



Scan this QR code

