



PARTicles

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

November 2011

President's Column

- *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*



During the month of October, T32C was on the air from East Kiribati (Christmas Island, IOTA: OC-024) in the Pacific Ocean. I had the pleasure of working T32C on many bands, including 10m, 12m, 15m, 17m, 20m, 30m, 40m, and 80m (both phone and CW in each case except 30m). I am eagerly awaiting a QSL card for my 15 QSOs. Their online QSL system for quickly confirming contacts worked very well. It even showed the name and photo of the operator with whom the QSO was made! I purchased a copy of their upcoming DXpedition DVD which I will be happy to share with people when I receive it.

I had a lot of fun helping Geoffrey (KB1USE) setup his shack now that he has earned his general license. I found an assembled Heathkit antenna tuner for him which I purchased for a good price at NearFest. Geoffrey and I spent an hour one morning with an antenna analyzer insuring that everything was working properly. Several people have very generously helped in many ways as this station was setup, and I'd like to especially thank Steve (WA1KBE), Rich (AB1HD), and Allison (KB1GMX). Like his QSO with T32C on 10m phone, I look forward to hearing about other QSOs he makes with his setup.

I am very close to releasing version 10 of my Linux and ham radio CD (probably before the end of November). As many of you may

remember, I took a standard Ubuntu Linux CD and modified the software selection to be one of interest to ham radio operators. This version is an upgrade to Ubuntu 11.04 with software version updates and minor tweaks to the graphics and sound systems. One can download the ISO file from SourceForge.net (search for KB1OIQ and you'll find it).

The theme for the November PART meeting will be "Show and Tell", so please bring an item or two that you'd like to show to the group. Perhaps you bought something interesting at NearFest, or maybe you've just finished working on a homebrew project. Possibly you've got something really cool that others might never have seen. Whatever it is, please bring it to the next meeting and you'll have a chance to say a few words about it.

The planning for the PART Christmas and Holiday party is in full swing. Keep an eye on the WB1GOF website and talk to Hugh (N1QGE) for more details. This party will take place on the third Tuesday in December, (specifically: December 20th). There will not be a regular meeting on that date, we will be celebrating the holiday season with one another.



Happy Thanksgiving!

73 de Andy KB1OIQ

*Next PART Meeting – November 15th
7:30 PM
– Westford Police Station*

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

November 15th, 2011

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

December 3rd, 2011

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

December 20th, 2011

- Annual Christmas Dinner. Cocktails 6:00, Dinner: 6:30 -9 p.m. Yangtze River, 584 King St. Littleton (NO regular meeting)

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury 20-September-2011 thru 17-October-2011

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	\$3,051.40	\$594.82	\$3,646.22
Income	\$19.00	\$11.00	\$30.00
Expenses	(\$42.11)	(\$0.00)	(\$42.11)
Net	\$23.11	\$11.00	\$12.11
New Balance	\$3,028.29	\$605.82	\$3,634.11

PART Membership Demographics as of 4-November-11

	Households (New + Renew)	Individuals (New + Renew)
Full (\$25)	38 (11 + 27)	38 (11 + 27)
Senior (\$15)	24 (3 + 21)	24 (3 + 21)
Family (\$30)	8 (1 + 7)	18 (2 + 16)
Student (\$15)	0 (0 + 0)	0 (0 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	0 (0 + 0)	0 (0 + 0)
Grand Total	70 (15 + 55)	80 (16 + 64)

Latest new members:

Jon/KBIWAS (Chelmsford)

* 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 Wednesday, 6 AM, Owl Diner Lowell – Breakfast
- Every 1st Saturday, 8 AM, Regency Inn Westford – PART Monthly Breakfast



Happy Thanksgiving!

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 RACES Net – this net occurs the 1st Monday or every month (except when it is a holiday). Skywarn and ARES Nets – these nets are spontaneous when local conditions warranted.

NOTE: You can LISTEN ONLY to this repeater audio by linking to this URL:

<http://www.radioreference.com/apps/audio/?feedId=6253>

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 Update

- Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)

It turns out that I miscalculated the price of the a-la-carte breakfast. The hotel charges us \$6.95, and I forgot to add the 18% gratuity and the 6.25% tax. Therefore, I will need to collect \$9.00 (rounded up slightly) for the a-la-carte breakfast, instead of the \$7.00 that I had been collecting previously.

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

I never noticed the problem until last month when I came up \$3.00 short on the collection. I think 5 or 6 people had ordered the a-la-carte breakfast, which is more than any previous month.

Summary:

continental breakfast: \$9.00 (new price)

full breakfast: \$14.00 (same price)

kids breakfast: \$8.00

I look forward to seeing you at the next PART monthly breakfast, coming soon.



Holiday Dinner

You and a spouse / guest are invited to:
Annual PART winter holiday Dinner

December 20 2011

Cocktails at 6:00pm (cash bar)

Raffle Inspection 6:30 pm

Dinner at 7:00 pm



Yangtze River Restaurant

584 King Street (Route 110) Littleton, MA 01460 Phone: (978) 486-0500

<http://www.yangtzeriverlittleton.com/>



Books and Tech Toys for all



raffle items displayed for evaluation



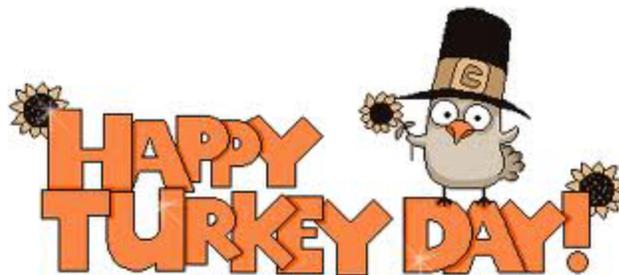
Buffet Dinner

Yes .. this is the third Tuesday of the month. This dinner party takes the place of our regular December meeting.

\$30.00 per person [member and guest] covers your buffet and tickets to the raffle with prizes chosen for amateur and (non-amateur) guest alike. Payable at the door

Advance reservations are necessary in order to properly select raffle gifts. Reply to: hugh Maguire, N1QGE hulin127@verizon.net by or before December 13th 2011

The Fine Print: 45 attendees needed to meet the (big) room guarantee. A headcount of Amateur and non-amateurs is needed to properly select & purchase raffle prizes. Number of prizes will be equal to the reservation head-count on December 1st 2011. Payment in cash (preferred) or check made out to PART. Cash bar. This event is subsidized by the club treasury - non members will be charged \$45.00.



Head of the Charles Regatta Excitement

- Alan Lewis (K1ALL)

In my previous four years of providing ham radio support to the Emergency Services team during the Head of the Charles Regatta, the most enduring memory is the boredom of spending 12 hours in a 16 foot skiff without anything to do. Although the racing is probably very exciting for those with some background in crew events, my near total ignorance of the sport means that I spend most of the time just waiting for a skull to hit a bridge or to lock sweeps with another team. This year, it was quite different.



The annual event, which attracts nearly 9000 athletes and over 300,000 spectators, was held this year on Saturday and Sunday, October 22nd and 23rd and I was assigned to a small fiberglass, outboard powered Carolina Skiff – tactical call sign “Safety Launch #6” -- with two life guards and a boat operator. On Saturday, at 0630, we left the MIT Boathouse and proceeded up river to our station at the Weeks Footbridge, about 1.5 miles from the starting line. The weather was cool (low 40’s) and cloudy, but the wind was light and the river was calm. Hams provide all of the communications between and among the land-based first aid tents along the course and the 9 safety launches stationed in the river from the pre-start area to beyond the finish line (the course is 3 miles long). All ham radio traffic uses a couple of local repeaters (2 meters and 70 centimeters) and is coordinated as a directed net by a Net Control Operator located in the Cambridge Boat Club facility about mid-course. In most years, the vast majority of radio traffic involves such heady topics as “when are our lunches being delivered?” and “Safety Launch 4 requests a bio break” (editorial note: there are no heads on these small craft and the 300,000 spectators make alternative methods of waste disposal inappropriate).

After a morning of getting to know my crewmates, we settled into the normal boring routine of finishing whatever coffee we remembered to bring, munching on granola bars, and complaining about the clouds. It was about noon and we were contemplating digging into our scrumptious bag lunches provided by the Regatta (it should be noted that there were no potato chips this year – a slight that must not be repeated). And then it happened! A young woman competing in the Club Women’s Single event hit a course marker buoy with her oar and it flipped her right out of the boat and into the river. While you might think that we would immediately get underway and head for the now swimming rower, instead we first had to get permission to cross the course (the flipped rower was on the other side of the river) from the River Control umpires to assure that we didn’t endanger other racers. That done, we were on scene within a minute or two and confirmed that the swimmer/rower wasn’t injured. She informed us that she simply wanted us to stabilize her shell while she attempted to climb back in so she could continue the race. This is allowed in the rules as long as no one actually touches the rower. After a several heroic tries, she succeeded in reboarding the shell and, with a big smile and a hearty “thank you”, rowed off toward the finish line. Although she obviously didn’t set any course records, in fact she finished last, she finished the race only 5 minutes behind the next slowest competitor. And I’ll bet she really enjoyed her next hot shower.

On Safety Launch #6, we were ecstatic that we had actually done something useful after hours of sitting on hard fiberglass. We passed the next few hours with greatly enhanced vigilance and a new sense of worth. At about 1500 hours, we noticed that a crewman in the Championship Mens Doubles race suddenly stopped rowing and was clearly in severe pain. We quickly notified Race Control and headed for the now-stopped boat. The crewman was obviously in serious distress and informed us he had experienced back pain during the flight from Puerto Rico the day before and that it was now much worse. Although the boat could have continued in the race with only one crewman rowing, it was decided to abort the event and, being careful not to obstruct the race course for other competitors, we brought the skull alongside and motored slowly to the Weld Boathouse where we were met by a Cambridge Fire

Department ambulance. The Red Cross lifeguards on our boat had determined that no immediate medical care was necessary prior to transport to the dock. The role of the ham radio operator during this sort of emergency is to keep the Net Controller and race officials aware of what is evolving, to ensure that medical personnel are summoned to the dockside facility to assume care of the patient, and to coordinate a relief launch to cover our area of the course while we were towing.

Less than 20 minutes after returning to our station, we saw the coxswain of one of the Collegiate Men's Fours (University of Vermont) raise her arm in the signal that they needed immediate assistance. The shell started toward our side of the course and we met them in less than 30 seconds. One of the oarsman was doubled over and writhing in pain; we quickly determined that he had dislocated a disk in his spine and that immediate medical attention was required, if only for his pain. After again arranging for relief, we towed the shell to the dock where once again a CFD ambulance met us and transported the rower to the hospital.

Three rescues in one day! In the previous four years, the most serious medical condition I had encountered was a skinned knee on a spectator (a band aid was ceremoniously provided). This was a modern record for a single Safety Launch on a single day and we were rewarded with having the same crew aboard on Sunday – a day in which absolutely nothing was required of us.

Although you never wish for a true emergency, I must admit that my flagging interest in volunteering for the Regatta has been reinvigorated and that the role of the volunteers in such events is both important and appreciated by the organizers and competitors alike. Give it a try.

Pumpkin Patrol Wrap Up

It was a very quite Trick-or-Treat night in Westford. No problems in any of the neighborhoods or any of the buildings, cemeteries and other areas on our checklist. Thanks to Bo-WA1QYM, Dave-W11R, Peter-KB1BPA, John-W1JMA, Alan-W1AHM and Alan-W1ALL for their assistance!

Greater Boston Net Directory

Daily 5:30 pm	Eastern Mass/Rhode Island Phone Net (NTS)	3.915
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 Newsline)	145.470

Club Activities

PART Kit Building event planned

- B. Scott Anderson (NE1RD)



The PART club is planning another kit building event. The last event, held in February 2008, had club members build a Small Wonder Labs RockMite transceiver. Most finished the kit that day (while a couple of folks needed a little extra time to cross the finish line). It was really exciting to hear working radios being tested at the meeting!

The new kit building event is planned to be held in the first few months of 2012. Those wishing to participate can order their kits through the club. The two kits, both offered from Hendricks QRP Kits (<http://www.qrpkits.com>), are the "Deluxe Tenna Dipper" and the "SLT+" tuner. The Deluxe Tenna Dipper is \$75; the SLT+ tuner is \$60.

In addition to receiving your kit through the club "postage free", kit building "Elmers" Steve (WA1KBE), Rich (AB1HD), and Scott (NE1RD) have volunteered to help prepare each kit by affixing the stenciling on each enclosure and sealing it. Kit builders should be able to have a finished, polished, working kit by the end of the build session.

The date and location for the kit building event has not been determined but it will be in or around Westford. Expect an announcement on this by year's end.

Contact B. Scott Andersen, NE1RD, to place your order. Payment can be done by cash, check, or PayPal funds transfer. Scott can be reached at ne1rd@arrl.net. The deadline to order through the club is November 30, 2011. The order will be placed with Hendricks on the first of December. No requests can be honored after that date.

Member Spotlight

Congratulations to Westford's Bob/W1RS - his Dec'08 ice storm photo is the Dec'11 QST cover photo:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=2011-11-10#toc04>



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.

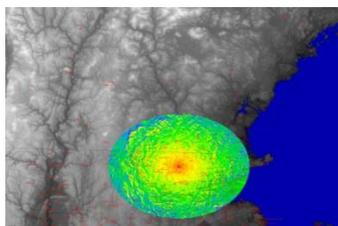
EmComm events and repeater use

Most everyone knows that the 146.955 repeater is used during times of emergency situations, drills and exercises. Skywarn and the monthly RACES 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 ARES/RACES 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 RACES Officer and Skywarn NCS) or Terry-KA8SCP (regional RACES 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

RACES – The WB1GOF 146.955 repeater is used on the first Monday of every month (except federal/state holidays) for RACES starting at 1930 local time. If you are interested in being part of the local emergency communications team in your community, feel free to contact any of the following folks:

Terry Stader – KA8SCP, MEMA Region 1 RACES Officer
Hugh Maguire – N1QGE, RACES Officer, Town of Westford
Bill Ohm – W1OHM, RACES Officer, Town of Chelmsford
- We need radio operators that can pass messages on to the local emergency management directors in several towns in northern Middlesex County.

Skywarn - The WB1GOF 146.955 repeater is also used for reporting significant weather events to the National Weather Service from our local spotters. We expect to have a local Skywarn training class in 2010, more information as it becomes available. You can provide valuable information even if you have not attended one of the training sessions. Listen to the Skywarn Net Control Station for reporting criteria, when you have information that qualifies, please advise him with your report.

Situational Awareness – Recently, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency has asked the Amateur Radio community to provide situational awareness and disaster intelligence information within your local community via RACES, ARES and/or Skywarn stations. Significant events such as widespread power outages can be reported and by agencies such as MEMA to evaluate the scope of a blackout for example. Initially, you should try and contact RACES or ARES operators on the Westford 146.955 repeater to pass this information. More on this new program will be forthcoming.

PART Sunday Night Net – The PART Net each Sunday night is an IMPORTANT part of our regional EmComm function. With each station that checks in from the surrounding communities, we test our ability to communicate vital information to the ham radio community. Sure we announce club info but we can also communicate regional disaster news and serve as a “hub” for news of situations in our communities. The repeater is on a generator, so even if we loose power in the region, an HT with a supply of batteries will reconnect you to other local hams.



PARTicles © 2010, a publication of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

This month's editor: Terry Stader – KA8SCP

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

Our website is: <http://wb1gof.org>

Our forum is: <http://wb1gof.net/forums/>

Contact us at: info@wb1gof.org

