



# ***PARTicles***

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

November 2014

## President's Column

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### - *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*

Many thanks to the people who participated in the Pumpkin Patrol on Halloween!

Our speaker at the next PART meeting will be club member Fred (AB1OC), who will be talking about the DXLab software suite. DXLab is a freeware suite of eight interoperating applications that can be installed independently in any order. When multiple applications are running, they sense each other's presence and automatically interoperate to support your Amateur Radio DXing activities. This software runs natively on many variants of the Windoze operating system.

Fox hunting has returned to the area! For a while, there was a great deal of activity, which seemed to me to have waned a bit. However, I have noticed renewed energy and activity in this area. Bob (W1FDR) borrowed my fox transmitter (Micro-Fox 15 by Byonics, LLC) and has been hiding it for the last couple of weeks. I understand that Bob (KB1SWZ) and John (KB1MGI) have also been hiding and finding foxes. I suspect a few others are having fun with this also. If you have never tried this activity, it is a lot of fun and relatively easy to do. Feel free to contact one of the aforementioned people to get more information.

Thanksgiving is coming very shortly, and this is the time of year we are supposed to give

thanks. Be thankful for the elmer who helped you most recently. Be thankful for the fellow ham who gave you the adapter you needed. Be thankful for the guys who helped you install your antennas. Be thankful for the loan of an antenna analyzer. Be thankful that you have the gear that you have, and make the most of it, even if it isn't the fanciest stuff on earth. Be thankful that a club like PART exists where you can share your experiences, ask questions, and listen to great monthly presentations. Be thankful that winter is coming, so you can spend time in your shack, making those QSOs, and making someone's day who needed MA or Middlesex County in their log books.

The PART Christmas and Holiday Party is coming up soon! In December, instead of our monthly meeting, we will meet for a party and share a great time together! Hugh (N1QGE) is the chairman of this event (for which we should be thankful!). When he asks for volunteers, please offer a hand. Large events such as this are so much easier when many people help, and we should be thankful to have such a large group of people in this club.

You might be thinking, "Thankfully, his article is finished!". :-)

Have a lot of fun!  
73 de Andy KB1OIQ

<p><b>Next PART meeting: Tuesday November 18th</b> @1930 – Westford Police station</p>
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## Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

### PART Treasury between 16-September '14 & 20-October '14 (As of 21-October '14)

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	\$ 2,631.64	\$2,586.09	\$5,217.73
Income	\$ 225.00	\$ 100.97	\$ 325.97
Expenses	\$ (53.50)	\$ 0.00	\$ ( 53.50)
Net	\$ 171.50	\$ 100.97	\$ 272.47
New Balance	\$ 2,803.14	\$2,687.06	\$5,490.20

### PART 2014 Membership as of 4-November '14

	Individuals (= New for 2014 + Renew for 2014)		Households (= New for 2014 + Renew for 2014)	
Full (\$25)*	41	(= 10 + 31)	41	(= 10 + 31)
Senior (\$15)*	38	(= 1 + 37)	38	(= 1 + 37)
Family (\$30)*	31	(= 5 + 24)	14	(= 3 + 11)
Student (\$15)	1	(= 1 + 0)	1	(= 1 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(= 0 + 0)
Grand Total*	<b>111</b>	(= 19 + 92)	94	(= 15 + 79)

ARRL members:\* 97

(Including ARRL Life members: 9)

NOTE: \* Starred lines changed since 7-October '14

##To pay dues##

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

-or-

Club Meeting, Westford P.D., 7:30PM, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday

### Latest new PART members:

Patrick/KE9AN

-and- (Family: Concord MA)

Kathleen/KC1CDS

## Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

### November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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

### December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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

### December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014

- *No Meeting. HOLIDAY DINNER @ Yangtze River (see inside)*

### January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

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

### January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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

### February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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

### February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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

## Monthly PART Meetings and Social Events

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

## Ham Fleas/Events

### *New England Area Ham/Electronic Fleas:*

<http://web.mit.edu/wlgs1/Public/ne-fleas>

#### **2014**

29 Nov Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518

#### **2015**

14 Feb Springfield VT CVFMA.org @1st CongCh Steve N1QDT 802 885 8110 +  
15 Feb Westford MA NEARC RadioXLVI 8AM@Regency antique Bruce 603 772 7516 F+  
28 Feb S Burlington VT RAoNVt @ HI I89 x14 Mitch W1SJ 802 879 6589 W+  
7 Mar Chicopee MA MtTomARA @MooseLodge @8:30 S@6:30 Mary KB1ME 413 222 1990  
14 Mar Dayville CT ECARA @StJosephCh \$3@8A \$10/T Peter K1LNx 401 603 1485 +  
27,28 Mar Lewiston ME AARC ME Conv @Ramada @8 Ivan N1OXA 207 784 0350  
11,12 Apr Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553 +  
19 April Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+  
1,2 May Deerfield NH NEARfest XVII @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 R+  
17 May Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+  
6 June Hermon ME PSARA @8 @HS TG@6:30 Jerry K1GUP 207 848 3400  
21 June Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+  
19 July Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+  
16 Aug Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+  
21,23 Aug Boxboro MA FEMARA NE Conv Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 A  
30 Aug Adams MA NoBARC @BoweFld 6:30sell 7:30buy Eric KA1SUN 413 743 9975 +  
13 Sept Ballston Spa NY SCRACES @FG \$10@7 Darlene N2XQG 518 587 2385 +  
13 Sept Newtown CT CARA @TownHall\$5@8:30 Ron AB1RJ 203 938 7007 +  
19 Sept Forestdale RI RIAFMRS @VFW \$5/Sp@8 Pete AA1PL 401 639 4484 +  
20 Sept Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+  
17,18 Oct Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553 +  
18 Oct Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+

#### **Flea at MIT**

Sunday, 19-Apr5'15

Buyers \$6.00, 9:00AM-2:00PM (\$1.00 discount with flyer:

<<http://web.mit.edu/wlgs1/www/swapfest/swapfest-2014.04.pdf>> ) Parking Lot&Garage on Albany St.  
Cambridge, at Portland St.

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

<<http://web.mit.edu/wlgs1/www/swapfest/buyers-parking.pdf>>

#### **NEAR-Fest XVI**

Late April/early May 2015 - Buyers \$10 for

Fri+Sat <<http://www.near-fest.com:8084/nearfest/>>

Deerfield Fairgrounds, 43 Stage Rd. (Rt. 43), Deerfield, NH <<http://goo.gl/maps/gdFDT>>



## **Your Call EXPIRED?**

### **How to avoid losing your license...**

The USA Callsign database contains about 750,000 listings and at any given moment, approximately 30,000 of these callsigns are expired! Over 1,000 old callsigns are returned to the unused pool each month! <http://www.qrz.com/expired/>

## PART Special Events – Holiday Dinner



Members and a spouse / guest are invited to:  
The PART winter holiday Dinner

*December 16, 2014*

Cocktail Hour Begins at 6:00 pm

Buffet Dinner from 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Activity from 8:00pm to 9:14pm

- \$20.00 per person Cash only at the door for buffet - Cash Bar
- Yankee swap to be hosted by K1NS
- More information at the November meeting
- RSVP High-N1QGE at [hulin127@verizon.net](mailto:hulin127@verizon.net)

Yangtze River Restaurant

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

584 King Street (Route 110) Littleton, MA 01460

Phone: (978) 486-0500



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





From eHam.net News:

### [Radio Amateurs Celebrate Jubilee:](#)

by daily-mail.co.zm on November 16, 2014

RADIO amateurs in Zambia celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Zambia's independence by using the special prefix 9I50 as part of their call sign in October 2014. Amateur radio is a service recognised by the world telecommunications regulatory body; the International Telecommunications Union. Bands of frequencies are set aside by international agreement for the use of radio amateurs for the purpose of sending non-commercial messages to each other, for experimentation, emergency communications self training and recreation. Amateur radio goes as far back as the beginning of radio. Marconi called himself a radio amateur. Amateurs were at the leading edge of radio technology of their day and opened up the short wave bands which at the time were regarded as useless for long distance communications by professionals. Today, Amateur Radio is found aboard the International Space Station and amateurs can communicate by bouncing signals off the moon and meteor trails. Amateurs were on the air from the then Northern Rhodesia even before World War Two.

### [KKMM to Ensure All Communication Towers Function During Floods:](#)

by thesundaily.my on November 16, 2014

KEMAMAN: The Ministry of Communications and Multimedia (KKMM) will ensure that all communication towers are fully functioning even though they are inundated during the flood season, said its minister, Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek (pix) , here. He said several communication towers that were inundated during the flood season last year, especially in the Kemaman area, had already been upgraded so that they were located on higher ground and would not be inundated during the flood season. "The sites for several power stations for the communication towers have been relocated to higher ground and we are confident that towers located in the flood-prone areas will continue to function despite the disruption in power supply," he told reporters when met after an event to present medals at the Awana Kijal Kemaman, here today. Meanwhile, Shabery said the ministry would also cooperate with several amateur radio associations under the Malaysian Communication and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) to assist in terms of information sharing in the flood-affected areas. He said there were several areas which could not receive normal communication coverage but could be contacted using the amateur radio.

### [Ham Radio Station Installed at Raven Hill:](#)

by petoskeynews.com on November 15, 2014

EAST JORDAN -- Raven Hill Discovery Center, 4737 Fuller Road, East Jordan, recently installed a ham radio station with the help of John Clements and the Top Of Michigan Amateur Radio Club (TOMARC) and Bryan Shumaker of the Northern Michigan Astronomy Club (NOMAC). Two opportunities are scheduled for those interested in exploring the world of amateur radio. The first event is called Sweepstakes of Sunday and will take place from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 16. Over that weekend, certified ham radio volunteers will be participating in the 2014 Sweepstakes event with ham operators all over the U.S. and Canada. The event encourages participants to contact as many stations as possible in a 24-hour period. A contact consists of two-way communication with another station and both passing a mini-message to each other. The message consists of a serial number, type of station you are running, the year you were first licensed, and the state, section and country you live in. Events like these are great for testing a station and helping operators learn how to pass messages during an emergency. Sweepstakes last from 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, until 10 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16.

### ['This Is VU3BLR...Come in 8J1RL!' And Then It Was His Eureka Moment:](#)

by bangaloremirror.com on November 15, 2014

'For 49-year-old Bengaluru-based businessman, Srivathsa Sathya, September 7, 2014 will forever remain etched in his memory. On that day, he scaled the Mount Everest of sorts for the Bengaluru Ham (Amateur Radio) fraternity by establishing contact with someone in the region of the South Pole - a feat so difficult to accomplish that it is considered a record here. It was a Sunday, what he refers to as "communication day". As he sat at his rig (his Ham communication system) at his Race Course Road residence, trying out various frequencies to make contact with other Hams, he suddenly sensed he was getting in touch with someone at a remote station. Vathsa (as he is known in the Ham circles) was scanning radio frequency band 21.233 Mega Hertz. After trying for 40 minutes, his set crackled to life. It was the Japan Amateur Radio League (8J1RL) - the Syowa Station, a Japanese research facility on East Ongul Island in Queen Maud Land, Antarctica, a post set up in 1957.



### **ARNewsline Report 1944 -- Nov. 14 2014:**

by Bill Pasternak (WA6ITF) on November 14, 2014

The following is a QST. The FCC revokes the amateur license of a convicted sex offender; the ARRL asks the FCC to continue issuing paper amateur license documents; permanent access to 60 meters moves a bit closer for hams in Argentina; the 4M Lunar fly-by transponder goes QRT; more non-ham intruders hit the amateur radio bands and the capturing first light gives a look back in time. All this and more on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1944 coming your way right now.

### **Warren County Young Hams In Competition:**

by nj.com on November 14, 2014

A group of Young "hams," also known as Amateur Radio Operators, have entered their project: The Emergency Antenna Platform System (EAPS) in the Boca Bearings Innovation Competition. The Warren County group known as the "721st Mechanized Contest Battalion" has created a device for raising antennas on vertical structures like lamp posts and flagpoles. In an emergency a ham radio operator or first responder could use the device to establish a communications link from a remote location.

### **Citizens Trained To Help In Emergencies:**

by utsandiego.com on November 14, 2014

Chula Vista's CERT program trains residents how to provide relief in time of disasters and smaller incidents: The next CERT academy will be offered in May or June 2015. The class fills up quickly and is first come, first served. There are five classes, including orientation and an introduction on disaster preparedness and fire safety and utility controls. Participants will also learn about disaster medical operations, complete exercises and demonstrations, light search and rescue operations and learn about disaster psychology and terrorism. The last day the class will have a course review and take a final exam, complete a disaster simulation and critique, take an oath and graduate from the academy.

### **DX News -- ARRL DX Bulletin #46:**

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on November 13, 2014

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by 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.

### **FCC Reverses ALJ's Decision, Revokes Convicted Sex Offender's Ham License:**

by The ARRL Letter on November 13, 2014

The FCC has reversed the decision of an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) who had ruled in 2010 that David Titus, KB7ILD, of Seattle, Washington, could keep his Amateur Radio license in the wake of his conviction for a sex-related crime 17 years earlier.

### **W1AW Centennial Operations Heading South to Florida, Arkansas:**

by The ARRL Letter on November 13, 2014

The ARRL Centennial W1AW portable operations taking place throughout 2014 from each of the 50 states are now in Mississippi and Rhode Island. They will transition at 0000 UTC on Wednesday, November 19 (the evening of November 18 in US time zones), to Florida (W1AW/4) and Arkansas (W1AW/5). So far during 2014, W1AW has visited each of the 50 states for at least 1 week, and by year's end W1AW will have been on the air from every state at least twice.

### **ISS Briefly 'Ham-Less' After Crew Members Return to Earth:**

by The ARRL Letter on November 13, 2014

The only two radio amateurs on the International Space Station (ISS) were among three crew members who returned to Earth on November 10, and another ham-astronaut won't arrive on board the ISS until later this month. An exciting 2015 appears to be in store.

### **The ARRL November Sweepstakes SSB Is This Weekend:**

by The ARRL Letter on November 13, 2014

"CQ SS, CQ SS!" Operators in the US and Canada will be exercising their vocal cords (or their digital voice memories) to compete in the 2014 ARRL November Sweepstakes SSB event this weekend, November 15-17.

### Some CQ WPX Applications via LOTW Not Processed:

by The ARRL Letter on November 13, 2014

It has been determined that some CQ WPX Awards Program applications using ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) were not properly processed, because the applications were inadvertently tagged as incomplete.

## ARRL News



### 11/13/2014 | [“Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014” Attracts More than a Dozen New Co-Sponsors](#)

“Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014” Attracts More than a Dozen New Co-Sponsors.  
[Learn More](#)



### 11/13/2014 | [International Space Station Briefly “Ham-less” After Crew Members Return to Earth](#)

International Space Station Briefly “Ham-less” After Crew Members Return to Earth,  
[Learn More](#)



### 11/13/2014 | [ARRL “Red Badges” Will Be Out and About on Saturday, November 22](#)

Another ARRL “Red Badges” activity is set for Saturday, November 22.  
[Learn More](#)



### 11/12/2014 | [ARRL Seeks Input on Initial VHF-UHF-Microwave Contest Rule Changes](#)

ARRL Seeks Input on Initial VHF-UHF-Microwave Contest Rule Changes.  
[Learn More](#)



### 11/12/2014 | [California Scientist-Ham On the Air from Antarctica's McMurdo Station, Ross Ice Shelf](#)

A California Scientist-Ham is on the air from Antarctica's McMurdo Station and the Ross Ice Shelf.

[Learn More](#)



## 11/12/2014 | [4M Lunar Flyby Spacecraft Amateur Radio Payload Now in Silent Earth Orbit](#)

4M Lunar Flyby Spacecraft Amateur Radio Payload Now in Silent Earth Orbit  
[Learn More](#)



## 11/10/2014 | [Past ARRL Connecticut SCM Victor L. Crawford, W1TYQ, SK](#)

Past ARRL Connecticut SCM Victor L. Crawford, W1TYQ, SK  
[Learn More](#)



Latest Amateur Radio News from around the world  
URL: <http://www.southgatearc.org>

## [Upheaval foreshadowed for spectrum management in Australia](#)

The Australian Government's spectrum review program, which began in May 2014, has reached another milestone, says the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA)

## [Get ready for 'Frequency' - the series](#)

Get ready to share the airwaves Tim Allen. The neighbors are buying a ham radio!

## [National integrated ICT policy discussion document published](#)

South Africa's Department of Telecommunication and Postal Services has published a 300-page national integrated ICT policy discussion document. It is available on the SARL web for download

## [Manx Radio on the Ross Revenge](#)

Manx Radio took their popular sixties programme 'Carnaby Street' on to the legendary Radio Caroline Ship, the Ross Revenge, the special programme was simulcast on both stations yesterday morning

## [SA AMSAT call for papers](#)

SA AMSAT has issued a call for the submission of proposals for papers to be presented at the 2015 Space Symposium to be held at the Innovation Hub in Pretoria on Saturday 23 May 2015

## [December is YOTA month!](#)

During the month of December many countries will be on the air with the YOTA (Youngsters On The Air) suffix

## [Propagation Report from Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP](#)

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity will be at low to moderate levels



## FCC Is Listening UP

- *By WB0RUR, on the scene*

**TEMECULAH, California** – The Federal Communications Commission today formalized a program to assist amateur radio operators in achieving better operating practices. The “UP Monitor” program will pair each DX radio operator working “split frequency” with one official representative of the U.S. federal government.



The representative’s duties are to constantly monitor the DX station’s transmit frequency. If an operator – hoping to work the DX – accidentally transmits simplex, the “UP Monitor” will announce “HE’S WORKING SPLIT! HE’S WORKING SPLIT.”

“We closely examined current operating procedures,” says FCC Field Agent John Ranklestein.

Based at the FCC’s California bureau, Ranklestein says, “We have recordings of hams who were rude, crude and downright obnoxious when someone accidentally transmitted simplex. In fact, the list of obscenities would fill a binder the size of most ham’s logbooks.”

Ranklestein adds the FCC opted to provide the service as a means of cleaning up the bands and eliminating crass language and QRM.

For a small fee, U.S. hams may request an “UP Monitor” be assigned when they activate special event 1×1 call signs (and operate split).

A spokesman for the National Radio Retransmission League (NRRL) says they support the program, but are concerned about what all the hams now performing this function as volunteers will do with their time.

“Removed from their police duties, we doubt seriously they will make actual QSOs,” says the agency.

Ranklestein says the “UP Monitor” program is open to both CW and SSB DX operations, but is not available to QRP operations, since “no one can actually hear those signals anyway.”

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> Monday or every month (except when it is a holiday).
- [Skywarn and ARES Nets](#) – these nets are spontaneous when local conditions warranted.

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
- Friday 8:00 PM CanNet D-Star Net – XRF021B

NOTE: The status of the WB1GOF D-Star repeaters can be seen at <https://wb1gof.dstargateway.org>

## 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

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*



Copyright WB1GOF,  
Robert Schmeichel  
2011



Copyright WB1GOF,  
Robert Schmeichel  
2013

## 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.*

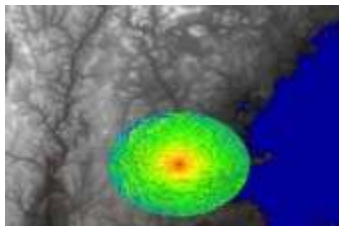
### EmComm events and repeater use

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.



**R**epeater 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](#).

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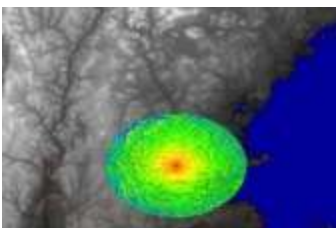
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So what does this mean to those that are just looking for regular QSOs with other users? It means that if you are in a regular QSO and there is a significant weather situation that has been getting press/air-time lately, you can expect that if severe 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.



**R**epeater 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](mailto: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 & Town of Westford

Bill Ohm – W1OHM, for the Town of Chelmsford

Darrel Mallory – K1EJ, North Middlesex ARES

- 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 © 2013, a publication of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

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