



# *PARTicles*

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

## October 2011

### President's Column

- *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*

For the first time, PART offered amateur radio support to the Grace Race, held in Chelmsford. This race took place on Saturday, October 1st, 2011. The weather was overcast with occasional light rain. There were about 115 runners (5 miles) and just over 100 walkers (3 miles). This race is sponsored by the Grace Community Church to raise money for Kenyan orphans, and has been held every year for the past 8 years.



This was my first opportunity to plan such an event, and it was my pleasure to be the net control operator. Thankfully, the event ran smoothly with no unusual incidents. I'd like to thank the following volunteers: Geoffrey (KB1USE), Jon (N1ILZ), John (W1JMA), John (WB2OSZ), Rich (N1YLX), Andy (KB8JDO), and Dave (W1IR). This was Geoffrey's very first public service event as an amateur radio operator, for which he willingly volunteered.



I'd also like to thank everybody for refraining from use of the repeater during this event. John Fehrer, the race director, sent us a very nice thank

you card shortly after the race, expressing his appreciation for our efforts. We had a lot of fun and are looking forward to potential participation during next year's race.

During the month of October, T32C will be on the air from Christmas Island. This very large DXpedition will be on the island for about 3.5 weeks, and will be operating as many as 15 simultaneous stations. They are operating CW, SSB, and RTTY across the bands. They also subscribe to the DX Code of Conduct, which is a list of operating behaviors intended to improve DxEtiquette, and ultimately improve the experience of chasing a rare DX entity. For more information, please check their website at <http://www.t32c.com>, and the DX Code of Conduct at <http://www.dx-code.org>.

I would like to both congratulate and thank the following PART officers for their continued willingness to serve: Rich (AB1HD), Rick (W1RAG), Alan (W1AHM), Kim (K1ZA).

The planning for the PART Christmas and Holiday party is in progress. Keep an eye on the WB1GOF website and talk to Hugh (N1QGE) for more details.

73 de Andy KB1OIQ

*PART Pumpkin Patrol, 6-10PM, Monday 31-Oct'11*

*See article below for details, contact Terry*

[KA8SCP@WB1GOF.org](mailto:KA8SCP@WB1GOF.org)

## Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

### October 18th, 2011

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

### October 31st, 2011

- PART Pumpkin Patrol 6:00 -10:00 p.m. muster at Westford Police station

### November 5th, 2011

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

### 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 13-August-2011 thru 19-September-2011

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	\$3,073.91	\$588.82	\$3,662.73
Income	\$51.00	\$6.00	\$57.00
Expenses	(\$73.51)	(\$0.00)	(\$73.51)
New Balance	\$3,051.40	\$594.12	\$3,646.22

### PART Membership Demographics as of 7-October-11

	Households (New + Renew)	Individuals (New + Renew)
Full (\$25)	38 (11 + 27)	38 (11 + 27)
Senior (\$15)	24 (3 + 21)	23 (2 + 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday

## Monthly PART 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 Wednesday, 6 AM, Owl Diner Lowell – Breakfast
- Every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, 8 AM, Regency Inn Westford – PART Monthly Breakfast

## 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

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- *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.

I apologize if the correction of my mistake causes any inconvenience.

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

***Next PART Meeting – October 18th 7:30  
PM  
– Westford Police Station***

## 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 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=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>

### Pumpkin Patrol

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As we have done for many years, PART will once again be providing the Pumpkin Patrol service to the Town of Westford. Many of you are veterans and others may be volunteering for the first time... whichever you are... thank you in advance for your help!

Pumpkin Patrol involves the use of Amateur Radio volunteers providing additional eyes and ears to the Town of Westford during the annual Trick or Treat event. Our purpose is to observe and report any potential safety concerns back to the PART Pumpkin Patrol Net Control Station which will be located at the Westford Police station. A report from one of our patrols will get handed off to the Westford PD dispatcher and addressed by the Town's public safety services. Our role is **ONLY** to report what we see and provide input to our Town's public safety departments.



We normally require 5 - 8 radio operators per "shift" that will patrol various geographical sections of town. Maps and a checklist of locations to watch will be provided when you check-in for your assignment. Check-in occurs at the Westford Police station where we record your call sign and your vehicle information. You do **NOT** need to be a resident of the Town of Westford to volunteer, but a basic familiarity to the town's geography is a plus!

We have quite a few new hams and club members this year. If warranted, a meeting prior to the event may be scheduled. This will give our new folks and veterans a chance to interact and become comfortable with the operation.

The normal time for Trick or Treater's' is 6 PM until 8 PM. Our activities have varied over the years, but we normally will run the operation from 5:30 PM until 10:00 - 11:00 PM. If the weather is lousy, the net closure time will be adjusted accordingly. We try and accommodate every individual's schedule, we have run with 2 shifts in the past... an early and a late shift. We will accept your offer to assist at any time throughout the course of the evening.

The plans are to use the WB1GOF 2 meter repeater, 146.955 (PL 74.4), for the entire event. So all a volunteer will need is a radio capable of operating on that frequency. A vehicle will help too... but if you don't drive and want to ride shotgun with another ham, which can be accommodated as well. If you'd like to do a bike or foot patrol, please contact me and we could talk thru that kind of an operation.

Feel free to drop me a note with any questions and/or if you would like to volunteer. Pass this along to others who may be interested. Contact Terry-KA8SCP (via email preferably) [ka8scp@arrl.net](mailto:ka8scp@arrl.net)

### Comcast Offers Low-Cost Internet Service to Low-Income Students

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Low-income families are able to purchase broadband service for \$9.95 a month from Comcast, under a new program that was launched recently and will continue through the 2013-14 school year.

Called Internet Essentials, the program is available to any family with a child living in the home who qualifies for free lunches under the Department of Agriculture's National School Lunch Program. The broadband program, which is an outgrowth of Comcast's purchase of NBC Universal, is available to eligible families in any area served by Comcast, which has a presence in 39 states and the District of Columbia.

Comcast states that there are about 2 million to 2.5 million students in the communities that they serve who are eligible for the free lunch program and thus their families qualify for the low-income internet service. Any family eligible for the program can call 1-855-846-8376 to sign up.

## **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 Newslines)	145.470

## **Upcoming Fleas**

Near-term local fleas,  
from <http://web.mit.edu/wlgs1/Public/ne-fleas>

Flea at MIT  
Sunday, 16-Oct'11  
Buyers \$5.00, 9:00AM-2:00PM (\$1.00 discount with flyer:  
<http://web.mit.edu/wlms/www/swapfest/swapfest-2011.09.pdf> ) Parking Lot/Garage on  
Albany St. Cambridge, opposite Portland St.

New England Antique Radio Club Fall Swap Meet Sunday, 30-Oct'11 Buyers free(!),  
8:00AM-12:00 noon, Regency Ballroom <http://nearc.net/#SwapMeets> Regency Ballroom,  
Westford Regency  
219 Littleton Rd. (Rt. 110), Westford, MA

Interstate Repeater Society Flea Market  
Saturday, 5-Nov'11  
Buyers \$4.00, 8:00AM-12:00 noon  
Londonderry Lions Club  
256 Mammoth Rd.  
(East side of NH Rt. 128, immediately south of Pillsbury Rd).  
<http://www.irs.nhradio.org/Flea.html>

## PART Board Meeting

PART BOARD MEETING

9/8/2011

Present: Alan/W1AHM, Treasurer  
Andy/KB1OIQ, President  
Hugh/N1QGE, Membership Chair  
Rick/W1RAG, Director at Large  
Rich/AB1HD, Vice President  
Bo/WA1QYM,  
Terry/KA8SCP, Senior Club Advisor  
Kim/K1ZA, Secretary

Apologies: Ernie/N1AEW, Repeater Technical Committee Chair

1. Set agenda

2. Election of Director-at-Large

(Rick was previous Director-at-Large)

Andy nominated Rick

Rich seconded nomination

Vote: Unanimous

3. Meeting Room

Hugh sent a letter to Westford Police Chief asking for use of meeting room for another year. He also raised the possibility of displaying some PART memorabilia/certificates/historical artifacts etc. in the police meeting room.

4. K2H Report

Andy: K2H was successful in many ways. We had problems with sharing with multiple groups/clubs. There have been two QSL card parties so far, one more is needed to finish. Should we participate as a club next year?

Alan: We need a leader/chairman.

Bo: There was positive feedback from other clubs that participated.

Andy: Charlie (K1PUB) is still keen to run it.

Consensus: We should participate next year.

5. Field Day comments

Kim: The only outstanding Field Day business is the gift for CRGC.

Andy: We can wait until next year if we hold FD at CRGC again. However, those members of CGRC who played a significant role in FD were given honoraria.

There was a discussion on possible Boy Scout involvement in Field Day; no specific conclusions were drawn.

6. Kit build

Scott wants to run a "Deluxe Tenna Dipper" kit build project, no date has been set. Scott will let us know when he is ready.

Consensus: This is a good idea and project.

Other possible projects:

Hugh: Twin lead j-pole

Bo: Linux CD

7. Grace Race

Andy: A church in Chelmsford is running a 5 mile road race - approx. 300 people. It is a charity event. Andy raised the possibility that Amateur Radio comms for event would be helpful to them. Should PART participate?

Terry: The date would clash with part breakfast (Oct 1 2011). What are the comms rolls?

Andy: 6-12 volunteers will be needed, some at water stations, some tailing officials.

Terry: We need to discover the comms needs and challenges.

Hugh: Perhaps we should observe only for first year? Should we call this a club event?

Consensus: Yes, and if there are not enough volunteers, go outside the club and ask.

8. Holiday Party

Hugh: Who wants to volunteer to run it this year? Should we use the same location?

Can we get the big room?

Hugh: Yes, it can be guaranteed if we commit to the numbers. However, if count falls short, the club must pick up the difference

Rich: Should we defray costs with raffle income?

Hugh: The quality of items in the swaps is going down in recent years. We need better control/guidelines on these items.

Last year we broke even. Hugh needs guarantee that PART will pick up the difference if we fall short of the numbers to get the big room. Is PART willing to make the number guarantee?

Vote: Yes unanimous, stick with December club meeting evening as date/time.

Hugh will run the event if he gets the number guarantee.

#### 9. Pumpkin Patrol

Alan: Do we need a volunteer to organize?

Terry: The news letter asked for volunteers. Westford Police are assuming we will be there.

We need a net control who knows how to talk to the police dispatcher.

Andy to announce at next monthly meeting.

Rich to add item to the Sunday night net announcements.

#### 10. Membership

Hugh is membership chair.

Sign-in sheets - we need to distinguish between members & guests. We average 35-36 total per month. Hugh will assemble some statistics.

Should the club buy badge for new members? We could create an incentive for the badge.

Rick: We could add the price to initial membership and place accumulated orders say 4 times per year.

Terry: Can club subsidize badge?

Bo: Many Massachusetts clubs just give new members a badge. It works well. We should give the badge, use half of the first years dues, or charge an initiation fee.

Andy: We should present the badges to new member at the monthly meeting.

Terry: Should we add a page to web site? (I cant remember for what - was it a badge order form? - Kim)

Alan: Membership is constant more-or-less, with a 25% annual turnover. This raises concerns over the cost to the club if the first years membership is used in part to pay for the badge.

Andy: Lets give it a try - use half dues for new badge, and present it to the new member at club meeting.

Rick: It would help new members feel connected.

Motion: New member will get a PART badge from The Signman to be presented at a club meeting, the cost to be taken from the first year's membership dues. This is to start immediately.

Seconded.

Vote: Yes unanimous.

Membership screening: The membership form says review from board.

Andy: Do we want to institute a screening or sponsorship, or leave it as is?

money = membership, leave meetings technical.

If we use filtering, then we must have it in the club charter.

We don't know new members, so we can't judge any filter questions on a membership form if they should be added.

Rich: Going forward, we should accept all members, but discuss renewals if there are problem members. Again, this must be in our bylaws.

Andy: Lets think about it some more, and discuss it again at a future meeting.

#### 11. Treasurers Report

\$617 deficit since last board meeting.

\$3k in bank including the repeater fund.

YTD +\$103

Meeting adjourned at 20:45.

## 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.*

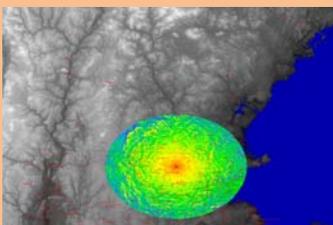
### EmComm events and repeater use

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

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Our website is: <http://wb1gof.org>  
Our forum is: <http://wb1gof.net/forums/>  
Contact us at: [info@wb1gof.org](mailto:info@wb1gof.org)

