



PARTicles

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

February 2015

President's Column

- Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)

Last month, I threatened to start the arm twisting process to convince a worthy person to be our Field Day chairman for 2015 unless a volunteer came forward. So far, nobody has expressed any interest, so I'm guessing you thought I was bluffing. :-)



This is a *great* opportunity for the right person. I am eager to continue the PART tradition of excellent Field Day activities, and a great Field Day chairman is key to accomplishing that goal. The role of the chairman is to steer the ship in the right direction, and thus doesn't need to do everything. This club has a great many people ready to volunteer and accept delegated tasks. Please think about it and send me email if you have any interest.

Please keep in mind that the politeness and spirit of goodwill that we all use while communicating on the air also applies to our communications via the club email list.

PART was well represented in the Straight Key Century Club's K3Y special CW event, which ran for the month of January. Charlie (K1PUB) and I were two of the seven people who operated as K3Y/1 for the event. Together, we accounted for 50% of the 1600 contacts made to K3Y/1. Nice job, Charlie!

If you earn an operating award, such as "Worked All States", DX Century Club, or similar, please let me know and we can be sure to announce your accomplishment at the club meeting. Not only did you earn the bragging rights, but it lets other people know about the available award programs in the hobby.

Last week, it was my pleasure to give a talk to the Worcester Linux Users' Group entitled "Broadband-Hamnet(TM)". This Linux software can be programmed into a Linksys WRT54G/GL/GS wireless access point to change its behavior to that of a wireless mesh network node. I am seriously investigating this technology and its applicability to Field Day, while learning a bit about 2.4GHz propagation in the 13 cm ham band. Did you know that WiFi channels 1-6 are in the 13 cm ham band?

PART has several people who give talks to other ham radio clubs. If you have done so, please let me know so I can make note of it here, or even better, please consider writing a short article about your experience for this newsletter.

Version 17 of Andy's Ham Radio Linux was recently released to the community. This version of Linux contains a large number of ham radio programs. If interested, go to <http://www.sf.net/projects/kb1oiq-andysham>.

The Algonquin Amateur Radio Club's annual flea market was held in Marlboro recently. I was visiting the auto mechanic that morning and could not attend. I hope that somebody who attended will be willing to give us a quick report at the next PART meeting.

Speaking of which, the speaker at the February PART meeting will be club member Colin (W1DJR) Brench. He will be discussing the available RF Simulation Tools at a reasonably high level. Colin is a great speaker with a lot of knowledge in this area. This promises to be a great meeting. I look forward to seeing you there!

Have a lot of fun!
73 de Andy KB1OIQ

Next PART meeting: Tuesday February 17th

@1930 – Westford Police station

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

PART Treasury between 16-December '14 & 16-January '15 (As of 20-January '15)

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	\$ 2,872.58	\$ 2,827.06	\$ 5,699.64
Income	\$ 220.00	\$ 24.26	\$ 244.26
Expenses	\$ (66.53)	\$ 0.00	\$ (66.53)
Net	\$ 153.47	\$ 24.26	\$ 177.73
New Balance	\$ 3,026.05	\$ 2,851.32	\$ 5,877.37

PART 2014 Membership as of 14-February '15

	Individuals (= New for 2015 + Renew for 2015)	Households (= New for 2015 + Renew for 2015)
Full (\$25)*	18 (= 0 + 18)	18 (= 0 + 18)
Senior (\$15)*	21 (= 1 + 20)	21 (= 1 + 20)
Family (\$30)	17 (= 2 + 15)	8 (= 1 + 7)
Student (\$15)	0 (= 0 + 0)	0 (= 0 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	0 (= 0 + 0)	0 (= 0 + 0)
Grand Total* 56	(= 3 + 53)	47 (= 2 + 45)

ARRL members:* 48

(Including ARRL Life members: 3)

NOTE: * Starred lines changed since 7-January '15

##To pay dues##

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

-or-

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

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/>



Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

March 7th 2015

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

March 17th 2015

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

April 4th 2015

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

April 14th 2015

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

May 2nd 2015

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

May 19th 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 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

Ham Fleas/Events

Flea at MIT

Sunday, 19-Apr'15

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

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



NEAR-Fest XV

Friday, 1-May'15 and Saturday, 2-May'15

Walk-in buyers *FREE* Fri/Sat!

<http://near-fest.com/>

Deerfield Fairgrounds

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



New England Area Ham/Electronic Fleas:

<http://web.mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>

2015

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
8 Mar Hicksville NY LIMARC @LevitHall \$6@9 \$20/T Richie K2KNB 516 694 4937 W+
14 Mar Dayville CT ECARA @StJosephCh \$3@8A \$10/T Peter K1LNx 401 603 1485
15 Mar Southington CT SARA \$5@8A @HS \$20/T@6:15 John WA1JKR 860 621 8791 A+
22 Mar Henniker NH CVRC @CommSch Don N1ZIH 603 707 7696 W+
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
11 Apr Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM John 860 673 0518 +
12 Apr Framingham MA FARA @KeefeTech \$5@9 \$25/T Steve KB1NIV 508 872 9336 +
18 Ap S Portland ME PAWA @Am Legion Bryce K1GAX 207 415 0498 A+
19 April Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
25 Apr Brookline,NH NEARC Antique \$5@8:30 \$10@7:30 Bruce 603 772 7516 W+
1,2 May Deerfield NH NEARfest XVII @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 R
9 May E Greenbush NY EGARA @FireCo \$6@8 \$6/T@6 Tom KC2FCP 518 272 1494 W+
17 May Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F
30 May Goshen CT SoBARC @FG \$5@8 Stan W2VID 518 398 7003 W+
31 May Fishkill NY MtBARC \$5@8 \$5@7 @QWL DnSTCorr Adam KC2DAA 845 849 3666 W+
31 May Sorel-Tracy PQ STARC \$8@7 \$15/T@6 Luc VE2DEW 450 743 8676 R+
6 June Hermon ME PSARA @8 @HS TG@6:30 Jerry K1GUP 207 848 3400
6 June Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518 +
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
5 Sept Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518 +
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
26 Sep Brookline,NH NEARC Antique \$5@8:30 \$10@7:30 Bruce 603 772 7516 W+
17,18 Oct Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553
16,17 Oct Deerfield NH NEARfest XVIII @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 +
18 Oct Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F
25 Oct Hicksville NY LIMARC @LevitHall \$6@9 \$20/T Richie K2KNB 516 694 4937 W+
5 Dec Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518 +

2016

6 Feb Springfield VT CVFMA.org @VFW @8-12 Steve N1QDT 802 885 8110 +
29,30 Apr Deerfield NH NEARfest XIX @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235
14,15 Oct Deerfield NH NEARfest XX @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235



Member Contributions

More QRP Adventures

- *Bob, W1IS, and Dee, W1MGA*

As most of you know by now, my XYL Dee, W1MGA, and I spend some time in FL especially when the probability of snow is highest in Massachusetts. We hit is right this year leaving the day before the big storm hit, and hit, and keeps on hitting.

We have a little second floor condo about 20 feet from the intracoastal waterway with a big window facing north. I stick my long Buddistick with 8.5 feet of wire clipped to the end out the window angled up about 20 degrees. The Buddipole clamp won't support it at that angle without the help of some string guying and holding it up. I use part of the 19 foot the aluminum window frame as the ground. I call it a "Lazy inverter L." My KX3's antenna tuner tunes it from 40-10 Meters though I have another configuration that works better on 80, 60 & 40M but that's for another article. I usually run the KX3 about 5 watts.

I came down here with a sinus problem that delayed my getting on the air so, finally, I have been on quite a bit the last few days.

For those of you who have been listening, the bands have been quite hot and loaded with stations calling K1N on Navassa Island about 700 miles SE of here. Listening to that 5-10 KHz cacophony on all the bands, I didn't have much hope of working them. But with the dual receive capability of the KX3 and listening to how the K1N op was behaving, I worked him on 20M CW Monday yesterday, February 9.

Because I worked a few U.S. stations on 10M SSB, I have been listening there some and late yesterday afternoon I heard ZL2WL calling CQ. If you don't try, you don't work them so I called him running QRO, 7 Watts, and he came right back! I then turned up the speaker so Dee could listen in. Wayne and I exchanged the usual until I told him I was running 7 watts. He was very excited about that and wanted to run an experiment to see how low I could go. Unfortunately, other U.S. stations weren't all that interested in experiments and kept jumping in with their call. Through all that I dropped the KX3 power to 5 watts, then to 3 watts and finally to 2 watts where he could hear me between some inconsiderate U.S. operator's QRM. We finally gave up at 2 watts and said our 73s. Dee was all smiles and as excited as I throughout that 8,000 mile QSO with Wayne in New Zealand.

We had to go out after that so I pulled in the antenna and leaned it against the wall as I always do when I'm not using it so the few "condo police" we have here don't get upset though most of my neighbors keep asking me if I'm catching anything with my black fishing pole. The single conductor drooping wire stripped from clear insulated fine speaker zip cord looks like monofilament fishing line! I always respond that the fun is in the hunt (for DX that is)!



From eHam.net News:

[ANZAC 100 Marks an Epic Journey to Enlist:](#)

by WIA on February 15, 2015

The commemorative WIA callsign VI8ANZAC will soon be on air thanks to Darwin Amateur Radio Club, which is covering the Albert Chalmers Borella journey re-enactment. The Victorian was in the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade, before the lure of a new life and grant of government land saw him move to the Northern Territory. After a time, farming proved unsuccessful, leading him to be a chef on a telegraph maintenance site near Tennant Creek. He wanted to enlist in World War I. Travelling by foot, horseback and train the 33 year old left Tennant Creek for Darwin, found it did not have a sign-up point, so continued to Townsville in Queensland by boat for enlistment.

[AmateurLogic 75 has been Released:](#)

by peter berrett (VK3PB) on February 15, 2015

AmateurLogic 75: DV3000 Raspberry Pi Hot Spot, is now available for download.

[Broadcasts of Unknown Origin Heard Worldwide Since the Discovery of Radio:](#)

by ufodigest.com on February 15, 2015

Strange broadcasts of unknown origin and purpose have been heard worldwide since WW1 and continue today. Fairly recently, since the 1990's these broadcasts have been researched in what is known as the Conet Project which distributes recordings of the broadcasts to the public. The content of these broadcasts have a very wide genre ranging from Morse Code which seemingly makes no sense, voices reciting number sequences, background music, multiple language broadcasts and just about everything imaginable. These so called number stations broadcast on a continuous basis and can be heard at practically any given time. Mostly heard on Ham Radio frequencies and with the help of electronic equipment at times in making the sounds audible to the human hearing range. There is also broadcasts that can be heard on AM frequency radio mainly on non digital transistor radios or old style Short Wave radios where one can listen between the broadcasts of powerful radio stations.

[Rotary Celebrates Its 110th Birthday:](#)

by WIA on February 14, 2015

The service organisation Rotary International is celebrating its founding 110 years ago with a special event callsign VI 110 ROTARY that will be heard from Australia for three months. Rotary's signature initiative has been to rid the world of Polio. That aim has almost been reached thanks to Rotary being joined by governments, the World Health Organisation and prominent community people such as Bill Gates. Rotarians worldwide will use special events to publicise the Polio initiative to help speed the eradication program. It will also mark the first Rotary Club meeting that saw a group of local professionals meet for the first time in Chicago Illinois in February 1905.

[Propagation Forecast Bulletin #7 de K7RA:](#)

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on February 14, 2015

We saw solar indices drop this week. Average daily sunspot numbers dropped from 139 to 81.6, while average daily solar flux went from 151.1 to 144.1.

[ARNewsline Report 1953 Feb 13 2015:](#)

by Bill Pasternak (WA6ITF) on February 14, 2015

The following is a QST. Ham radio responds as a volcano erupts in Guatemala; a Super High Frequency band could face reallocation here in the United States; the K1N Nevassa Island DXpedition winds down; AMSAT-UK puts out first call for speakers for its 2015 Space Colloquium; the FCC renews the only United States 4 meter experimental beacon permit and a fascinating discovery about the new Raspberry Pi 2 pico computer. All this and more on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1952 coming your way right now.

[The New HamQTH Callbook Service and URL:](#)

by OK2CQR, Petr on February 14, 2015

After a year of development there is brand new version of HamQTH - the free hamradio callbook. It's new design has been significantly enhanced. It is more responsive and is compatible with mobile phones and tablets and yields faster website performance.

This Was Then: Dave Noble, W1SGL:

by mvtimes.com on February 13, 2015

David Noble came to Martha's Vineyard in 1933 as a patient at the Marine Hospital in Vineyard Haven. Formerly employed on an oil tanker, Mr. Noble was slowly freezing up; he suffered from a creeping debility which ultimately left him almost completely paralyzed. By the time he turned 40, Mr. Noble was unable to leave the bed in the small home on Mount Aldworth that he shared with his sister Olive. Unable to walk, sit up, or even turn his head, he couldn't even read because of eyestrain and his inability to hold a book or magazine. He only had full use of his right hand and his voice. In 1949 Mr. Noble turned to ham radio. Friends set up a radio set and transmitter for him, cleverly adapted to accommodate his disabilities. He quickly earned his amateur radio license and call sign -- W1SGL -- and went on to become a familiar voice on the airwaves, speaking with hams from all over the earth, and tracking his conversations on the world map he hung on his wall. Vineyard hams would gather each week in his home in an informal club meeting, and Noble began to collect QSL cards -- personalized postcards traditionally traded by hams after each new contact. This photograph became Noble's QSL card. His niece Kathie Noble Case of Edgartown, who moved to the Island with her family in her childhood to care for her uncle, writes, "He did radio right up until his death in '68. It was what we believed kept him alive all those years."

Thank You for the Radio:

by thehindu.com on February 13, 2015

If memes are to be believed, then it is true when it is said, 'Home is where the wifi is.' Wifi signals have become almost synonymous with one's connect to the world. But before all this came, there was only the humble radio. Be it entertainment or news, that was the world's only medium to know what was happening elsewhere. It is World Radio Day. A day formally announced by UNESCO in 2011, after a suggestion put forward by Spain to celebrate this important means of communication. While we fret and fume with weak wifi or 3G connectivity, in some parts of the world, radio still remains an important lifeline to the outside world. The need to celebrate Radio day is all the more important because as a site says, "In remote farming communities in Australia, children learn their school work through radio. In poor communities in Africa, villages gather around the radio each evening to keep up to date on national news and hear music and speeches. Radio has been superseded by the internet and satellite communications for large parts of the world, but for millions of less fortunate people, radio is still a miracle of technology." For some, radio as an instrument might just be a nostalgic piece but even today there are people who feel radio has more potential than the internet or any other networking medium. When the floods ravaged Visakhapatnam and every network including electricity failed, it was the radio that connected and helped rescue work, points out Farhan Ashhar, convenor of Hyderabad Amateur radio. Farhan, who also restores and collects radios, has more than nostalgic moments to share. "Worldwide, radio is seeing resurgence. More and more smaller radio stations are coming up, primarily with governments making it easier to get licenses and setting up a studio and transmitter with modern technology.

Nebraska Artist Sends Kansas City a Valentine In Lights:

by kcur.org on February 13, 2015

Flashing lights are sending a message from the windows of downtown Kansas City, Mo., buildings. In Morse code, a signal taps out "LUV U." The light installation, in eight locations from City Hall to the Central Library, is called Message Matters. The project by Nebraska-based artist Jamie Burmeister, first appeared at the Bemis Center of Contemporary Art in Omaha, Neb. "They had just installed new windows on the upper floors of the building," says Bermeister. "I was just thinking of the simplest way to activate the building, so I thought of these lights ... and Morse code became a way of sending a message."

Army Radio Used In Falklands and Gulf Wars Stolen from the Back of a Car:

by northamptonchron.co.uk on February 13, 2015

The distinctive radio, which is carried in a large camouflage backpack, was stolen from a car parked in Kingsland Avenue, Kingsthorpe, sometime between 6pm on Sunday, February 8 and 2.15pm the following day. The type of radio which was stolen was previously used in the Falkland and Gulf wars. They are now more usually used by amateur radio enthusiasts.

DX News -- ARRL DX Bulletin #6:

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on February 12, 2015

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by WX3P, 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.

[Just Ahead In Radiosport:](#)

by The ARRL Letter on February 12, 2015

Just Ahead In Radiosport:

[FCC Seeks Comment on Radar Sharing that Could Displace Ham Radio 76-81 GHz:](#)

by The ARRL Letter on February 12, 2015

The FCC is seeking comment on issues involving expanded use of various radar applications in the 76-81 GHz band, which Amateur Radio shares with other services. The band 77.5-78 GHz is allocated to the Amateur and Amateur Satellite services on a primary basis, and to the Radio Astronomy and Space Research services on a secondary basis.

[ARRL Field Day 2015 Field Day Packet Now Online:](#)

by The ARRL Letter on February 12, 2015

The complete 2015 ARRL Field Day packet is now online. There are no rule changes for 2015. Field Day 2015 takes place June 27-28.

ARRL News



02/14/2015 | [ARRL Headquarters Closed for Presidents Day](#)

ARRL HQ will be closed February 16 [Read More](#)



02/14/2015 | [US to Propose Additional Sharing of 10 GHz Band at WRC-15](#)

US to Propose Additional Sharing of 10 GHz Band at WRC-15. [Read More](#)



02/13/2015 | [ARRL Warns Experimental Licensee to Avoid Interference to HF Ham Activity](#)

ARRL Warns Experimental Licensee to Avoid Interference to HF Ham Activity [Read More](#)



02/13/2015 | [Canada Funds Amateur Radio Disaster Assistance Project in Saint Lucia](#)

Canada Funds Amateur Radio Disaster Assistance Project in Saint Lucia. [Read More](#)



02/13/2015 | [K1N Navassa Island DXpedition Announces "ATNO Days"](#)

The K1N Navassa Island DXpedition will offer opportunities for stations needing Navassa as an all-time new one. [Read More](#)



02/13/2015 | [The K7RA Solar Update](#)

Quiet to unsettled conditions in the forecast [Read More](#)



02/11/2015 | [World Radio Day, February 13, Will See Inauguration of Special 4U0ITU Call Sign](#)

World Radio Day, February 13, Will See Inauguration of Special 4U0ITU Call Sign [Read More](#)



02/11/2015 | [Another Round of International Space Station SSTV Activity Set for Late February](#)

Another Round of International Space Station SSTV Activity Set for Late February [Read More](#)



02/11/2015 | [Word From Navassa: Turn Off Those Speech Processors! K1N Tops 100,000 Contacts](#)

K1N has topped 100,000 contacts. Operations will end February 15 "at the break of dawn." [Read More](#)



02/11/2015 | [Polish Radio Amateurs Receive 3D-Printed ARTSAT2: DESPATCH QSL Card](#)

Polish Radio Amateurs Receive 3D-Printed ARTSAT2: DESPATCH QSL Card. [Read More](#)



02/10/2015 | [Brazil Forms an AMSAT Organization](#)

Brazil Forms an AMSAT Organization. [Read More](#)



02/10/2015 | [ARRL Field Day 2015 Field Day Packet Now Online](#)

ARRL Field Day 2015 Field Day Packet Now Online [Read More](#)



02/10/2015 | ["Gray Radio Gang" Reactivates Vintage Battleship Iowa HF Transmitter](#)

A group of vintage military radio enthusiasts has successfully reactivated a transmitter onboard the Battleship *Iowa*. [Read More](#)



02/10/2015 | [The March Issue of Digital QST is Available Now!](#)

This is the annual antenna issue. [Read More](#)



02/09/2015 | [FCC Seeks Comment on Radar Sharing Schemes that Could Displace Amateur Radio at 76-81 GHz](#)

FCC Seeks Comment on Radar Sharing Schemes that Could Displace Amateur Radio at 76-81 GHz. [Read More](#)



02/09/2015 | [Hamvention Week AuxComm Course Registration Now Open](#)

Hamvention Week AuxComm Course Registration Now Open. [Read More](#)

[ARRL warns MITRE over HF Broadband](#)

On January 17, Southgate Amateur Radio News reported on the plans of MITRE to broadcast wideband on HF. Now the ARRL has issued a warning to the company

[GRIFEX CubeSat update](#)

The student built GRIFEX CubeSat was launched along with FIREBIRD-2, ExoCube and NASA's SMAP, on Saturday, January 31 on a Delta 2 rocket from the Vandenberg Air Force Base

[USA to propose additional sharing of 10 GHz ham band](#)

The ARRL report the the USA is to propose the use of 9.9-10.5 GHz for the Earth Exploration Satellite Service

[January RSGB Board Proceedings](#)

The RSGB Board proceedings for January 2015 are now available on the Society's website

[New SARL Youth Coordinator](#)

The Council of the South African Radio League is busy finalising the appointment of a new Youth Coordinator

[RadioShack a Hams View](#)

The Tribune-Review interviews radio amateur Jason Togyer KB3CNM about the demise of RadioShack

[Radio Astronomy and SDR Dongles](#)

David Morgan 2WoCXV has released several papers covering the use of the RTL-SDR Dongle in radio astronomy

[The Deep Space Climate Observatory](#)

For years, space weather forecasters have worried about the aging ACE spacecraft, which provides early warnings of CMEs and other solar storms bearing down on Earth

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

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

[World Radio Day in the Press](#)

World Radio Day featured in the Mail and Guardian newspaper which interviewed Boyza Dubasi of JMR

[Telegraph publish Gerry Wells obituary](#)

The Curator of the British Vintage Wireless and Television Museum, Gerald Wells, passed away on December 22, 2014

[Amateur radio operators test their skills](#)

The Hutchinson Leader reports members of the Crow River Area Amateur Radio Club know firsthand how a natural disaster such as a tornado, or even large crowds of people, can render cellphones, the Internet and similar technologies useless

Chuckles

New Ham Radio Movie Causes Controversy

By K5KAC, on the scene

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — “50 Shades of Grey Line Propagation,” a film based off of the now famous book of similar name, is raising cries of both outrage and pride in the amateur radio community. The book, written by Earl Glenn in 2007, was an overnight success.



“Hell, I don’t know. I just write what I feel. It’s very organic. If you’ve never gently probed the ionosphere with a QRP signal or wound your own ferrite by hand, you wouldn’t get it,” Glenn said before slamming his phone down.

The reclusive author is famously secretive of his process and has a P.O. Box listed on the ULS, making eyeball QSOs very difficult.

“It reminds me of my YL days in the college club back in ’62. I couldn’t tell you why,” said ham radio operator Vernard Rather of Skiatook, Oklahoma, adding, “it’s tame compared to last year’s club Christmas party!”

An excerpt from the book may give some insight to the controversy around the movie (used with author’s permission):

“Earl slowly pulled the dipole legs apart, each length gently quaking as it submitted. He studied his solid length of coax up and down. He marveled at the intersection of the dipole. Moisture barrier? Check. 1:1? Check. Now he had to feed it.

The faint red neon light from his Astron RS-35A flickered on and maintained itself. His rig came to life, moaning muffled static from the tempestuous afternoon sun. Out of his shack window he could see the lusty orb lowering itself to the horizon. Grey Line would be here soon. And with it would come DX.”

It is rumored that Glenn is currently working on his second work, “Power in the Shack,” an exploration of power relationships between exciter and operator.

HamHijinks.com

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> (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.

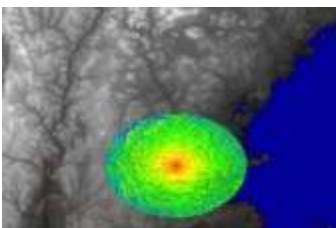
EmComm events and repeater use

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.



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. 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, 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 lose power in the region, an HT with a supply of batteries will reconnect you to other local hams.



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This month's editor: Terry Stader – KA8SCP

PART official mailing address is:
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