



April 2016 PARTicles



The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

Celebrating 40 years of public service 1975-2015

President's Column

- Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)

Spring is almost here, and now is a great time to put up a new wire antenna in the trees, before the leaves appear and make that task more difficult. Tie a monofilament line to a pine cone, placed below the tree of interest. The squirrels will eagerly carry it up the tree for you, just wait a day or two. Before you know it, the antenna is up and you'll be making many QSOs with faraway lands.

For this year's Apple Blossom Parade, Brian (W1BP) has agreed to take the lead role. Thanks, Brian! With help from Terry (KA8SCP), who has led this public service event for 18 consecutive years, I'm sure the event will be very successful. Please support Brian and Terry in this effort, and volunteer to help if you can.

Our intrepid fox hunters have been very active over the last couple of weeks. There have been a couple of foxes out each weekend and during the week, too. More formally known as "radio direction finding", this is a great skill to learn and requires very inexpensive equipment in order to join the fun. It is also a great excuse to get outside, get some fresh air and exercise, and meet fellow fox hunters.

I am still looking for somebody to take over the lead role for the 13 Colonies Special Event, specifically for MA, callsign K2H. Charlie (K1PUB) will be stepping down, and I'd really like to see someone from PART continue this tradition. Even though the event takes place during the first week of July, planning needs to start now in order to be successful. Charlie has done the hard work of creating an operating manual, and setup of a Google calendar. The next person needs to take what has been done, and run with it. I will continue

as the K2H QSL manager, so in a sense, if you take this role, you'd be my boss! :-)

NEAR-Fest is coming very soon! Friday, April 29, and Saturday, April 30 are the big days, in Deerfield, NH. NEAR-Fest is a large flea market with lots of stuff related to ham radio and electronics. Bring money, carrying bags, and a large vehicle. It is also a social event, where you will see many of your ham radio friends.

Field Day is our largest event of the year, and this year, like every year, it will be held on the 4th full weekend in June. The dates this year are June 25 and 26. George (K1IG), our Field Day chairman, will have a lot more to say about this event at our upcoming monthly PART meeting, which will be held at the Cameron Senior Center in Westford, MA. The meeting starts at a NEW TIME of 7:00 PM, on the third Tuesday of the month (Tuesday, April 19th).

For the Linux fans in the club, I have released versions 19 of "Andy's Ham Radio Linux". This is a complete Linux operating system containing

a lot of programs related to ham radio. It is meant to replace whatever operating system is currently on your computer. You can test drive it by downloading it, putting it on to a DVD or USB thumb drive, and booting it. It won't touch your hard drive unless you explicitly tell it to do so. The previous version was downloaded 14,000(!) time in 7 months. For more information, including a download link, look on Sourceforge: <http://www.sf.net/projects/kb1oiq-andysham>.

Have a lot of fun, and 73, Andy - KB1OIQ

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 16-February '16 & 14-March '16 (As of 15-March '16)

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	\$ 3,841.47	\$ 3,963.95	\$ 7,381.69
Income	\$ 415.00	\$ 33.68	\$ 448.68
Expenses	\$ (56.00)	\$ 0.00	\$ (56.00)
Net	\$ 359.73	\$ 33.68	\$ 392.68
New Balance	\$ 4,200.47	\$ 4,051.31	\$ 8,251.78

PART 2016 Membership as of 8-April '16

	Individuals (= New for 2016 + Renew for 2016)		Households (= New for 2016 + Renew for 2016)	
Full (\$25)*	37	(=5 + 32)	37	(= 5 + 32)
Senior (\$15)	34	(=1 + 33)	34	(= 1 + 33)
Family (\$30)*	17	(=1 + 16)	7	(= 0 + 7)
Student (\$15)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(= 0 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(= 0 + 0)
Grand Total*	88	(= 7 + 81)	78	(= 6 + 72)

ARRL members:* 80 / 90.9%

(Including ARRL Life members: 11)

NOTE: * Starred lines changed since 12-Mar '16

##To pay dues##

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

Renew online by PayPal at: http://www.wb1gof.org/F_join/part_dues.html

Latest new PART members:

Megan/KC1FGH (Westford)
Mike/WM1K (Lexington)

New Call Sign:

Glenn/W1RBO (ex-KC1BGR)

Silent Key:

Olof/W1OCJ (Concord, MA)

-or-

Club Meeting, Cameron Senior Ctr., 7:00PM, 3rd Tuesday

PART's official mailing address is:

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

Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/wb1gof

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wb1gof

PART Officers:

President: Andy (KB1OIQ) Stewart
Vice President: Rich (AB1HD) Crisafulli
Secretary: Rick (W1RAG) Green
Treasurer: Alan (W1AHM) Martin
Director-At-Large: Steve (WA1KBE) Rimsa



**ARRL New England Convention
at the Holiday Inn
Boxborough, Massachusetts
September 9, 10 & 11**

2016 PART Field Day

2016 ARRL Field Day is June 25-26

It's surely the highlight of every ham's social calendar!

This year's Field Day will again be held at the Concord Rod and Gun Club facility in Concord during the last weekend in June, and we're working to make it an event that every PART member can participate in and enjoy.

George, K1IG, is leading this year's Field Day planning.



Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

April 19th 2016

- PART Meeting, 7:00 -9:00 p.m. LOCATION: Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant St.

May 7th 2016

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

May 17th 2016

- PART Meeting, 7:00 -9:00 p.m. LOCATION: Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant St.

June 4th 2016

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

June 21st 2016

- PART Meeting, 7:00 -9:00 p.m. LOCATION: Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant St.

June 25th & 26th 2016

- Field Day. LOCATION: Concord Rod and Gun Club, 74 Strawberry Hill Rd, Concord, MA

July 2nd 2016

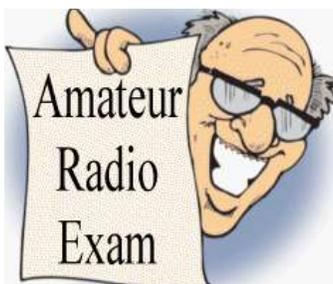
- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$15/\$9; kids: \$8 – see note below)

July 19th 2016

- PART Meeting, 7:00 -9:00 p.m. LOCATION: Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant St.

Monthly PART Meetings and Social Events

- Every Sunday, 8 PM – PART Net on 146.955 repeater
- Every 3rd Tuesday, NEW TIME - 7:00 PM – PART Meetings at Cameron Senior Center
- Every 1st Saturday, 8 AM, Regency Inn Westford – PART Monthly Breakfast
- Every Wednesday, 6 AM, Owl Diner Lowell – Breakfast



The Billerica BARS VE team conducts VE Sessions on 2nd Thursday of every month. They are held in the church hall of Matthews Memorial Church, 128 Gorham St, East Chelmsford at 7pm. New license and upgrade tests. Walk-Ins, not a problem. No Reservations needed. For more information, contact:

Bruce W1LUS at 978-851-2886 [Email Bruce W1LUS](mailto:Bruce.W1LUS@arrl.org) or Gary W1GFF at 978-453-1100 [Email Gary W1GFF](mailto:Gary.W1GFF@arrl.org).

Ham Fleas/Events

Links to Massachusetts hamfest websites (partial)

Cambridge MA Flea at MIT <http://www.swapfest.us>
Boxborough MA NE ARRL Conv <http://www.boxboro.org>
Adams MA N BerkshireARC <http://www.nobarc.org/hamfest.htm>
Dartmouth MA SEMARA <http://www.semara.org/flea.htm>
Falmouth MA FARA <http://www.falara.org>
Feeding Hills MA MTARA <http://www.mtara.org>
Framingham MA FARA <http://www.fara.org> & <http://www.n1em.org>
Marlboro MA AARC <http://www.gsl.net/n1em>
Newton MA Waltham ARA Auction <http://www.wara64.org/auction>
Rockport MA CAARA <http://www.caara.net>
S Dartmouth MA SEMARA <http://www.semara.org>
Wakefield MA Photographica <http://www.phsne.org>
Westford MA NEAntiqueRC <http://www.nearc.net>
Whately MA FranklinCARC <http://www.fcarc.org/news.htm>
Worcester MA WPI ACM <http://acm.wpi.edu/swapmeet/>



New England Area Ham/Electronic Fleas:

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

2016

24 Ap Middletown NY OCARC Bruce K2ULZ 845 391 3620 A+
29,30 Apr Deerfield NH NEARfest XIX @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235
14 May E Greenbush NY EGARA @FireCo \$6@8 \$6/T@6 Tom KC2FCP 518 272 1494
15 May Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 +
21 May Goshen CT SoBARC \$5@8 @FG Stan W2VID 518 398 7003 W+
21 May Brookline NH NEARC Antiqe @EvtCr \$10@7:30 \$5@8:30 Bruce 603 772 7516 W+
4 June Hermon ME PSARA @8 @HS TG@6:30 Jerry K1GUP 207 848 3400
5 June Bethpage NY LIMARC @Briercliff Richard K2KNB 516 694 4937 A+
5 June Fishkill NY MtBARC @CorrectionalQWL \$5@8 Adam KC2DAA 845 849 3666 W+
11 June Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518 +
19 June Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 +
17 July Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 +
13 Aug St Albans VT STARC @VFW \$5@8 Arn N1ARN 802 309 0666
21 Aug Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 +
28 Aug Adams MA NoBARC @BoweFld 6:30sell 7:30buy Eric KA1SUN 413 743 9975
9,10,11 Sep Boxboro MA FEMARA NE Conv Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 *CHANGED DATE*****
10 Sept Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518 +
18 Sep Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 +
14,15 Oct Deerfield NH NEARfest XX @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235
16 Oct Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 T+
30 Oct Hicksville NY LIMARC @Levitt Hall Richard K2KNB 516 694 4937 A+
12 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/S@7 Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422 +
3 Dec Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518 +



Near-term local fleas

Flea at MIT - Sunday, 15-May'16

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

<<http://web.mit.edu/w1mx/www/swapfest/swapfest-2016.04.pdf>>) Parking Lot&Garage on Albany St. Cambridge, at Portland St.

NEAR-Fest XIX - Friday, 29-Apr'16 and Saturday, 30-Apr'16

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>>



The PART monthly meetings are held at the Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant Street in Westford. *NOW STARTING AT 7 PM*

Click [here](#) for the address and information.

New England QSO Party – May 7-8 2016



New England QSO Party

The NEQP is a great time to check out antenna systems and offers a moderately paced opportunity to work new states and countries. You'll find a wide variety of participants, from newcomers to experienced contesters, all interested in making contacts with New England stations.

We're working to make sure that all of the New England counties are active again this year and would appreciate your help. Get on for at least an hour or two and join in on the fun. Please let me know if you can put in any time at all so we can work on activity from the rarest counties. **Will you be QRV? Let us know which county you'll be on from with a message to info@neqp.org**

Oh yes, the NEQP is also **lots** of fun when mobile. Every time you cross a county line the action starts over again. It's amazing what a 100w radio and mobile whip can do.

The QSO Party is 20 hours long overall, in two sections with a civilized break for sleep Saturday night. It goes from 4pm Saturday until 1am Sunday, then 9am Sunday until 8pm Sunday. Operate on CW, SSB and digital modes on 80-40-20-15-10 meters. For each QSO you'll give your callsign, a signal report and your county/state.

Last year we had logs from 139 New England stations and 275 more from around the country and world.

The full rules are here ->

The 2015 results have been on-line for a week or so and the results since 2002 are also available ->

<http://www.neqp.org/results.html>

It's just a month until the 2016 NEQP. Please make some QSOs even if you don't want to send in a log.

Thanks!

73 Tom/K1KI



Apple Blossom Parade – Saturday May 14, 2016

Hey new PARTers... for many years PART has been asked to provide communications support for the Westford Kiwanis Apple Blossom Parade. This year is no different; the parade is on Saturday, May 14th, 2016.

The Westford Kiwanis Apple Blossom Festival is a town tradition dating back to 1968. This year's event is the 46th year that the Westford Kiwanis have hosted the festival as a fundraiser to support local youth through scholarships, grants and financial support. The festival, which runs from Wednesday, May 11th through Sunday, May 15th, features the very popular Apple Blossom parade, a carnival, the Apple Blossom Queen contest, talent show, fireworks and more.

For our "part", the parade starts around 10 AM near the junction of Graniteville Rd and Main St. and ending at Abbot School. For those that are assisting you will need to be available from 8:30/9:00AM until 11:00AM/noon at the latest. All you need to bring is a 2 meter walkie and some good walking shoes. We need about a dozen operators for this event.

Most volunteers will be assigned to "shadow" various members of the AB Parade committee. Our actual duty will not start till about 9:00AM but we need to get into the center of town before the roads are closed and we need to establish our assignments by 8:30 AM or so.

Please contact Brian-W1BP or Terry-KA8SCP if you are interested and can assist or need more information.



This is your pre-meeting reminder to add something to your weekly shopping to bring to the next meeting. Watch your e-mail for specific needs this month.

PART member donations have been greatly appreciated in the past and we hope to continue this great community service at every meeting.



From eHam.net News:

[Air Ambulance Week 2016:](#)

by JOHN OTOOLE (M0HEM) on April 18, 2016

You, your club, along with your Local Air Ambulance are invited to take part in the 3rd International Air Ambulance Week 2016, a 9-day Special Event. September 19th - September 27th 2016.

[Amateurlogic Episode 89 Has Been Released:](#)

by peter berrett (VK3PB) on April 18, 2016

George shows us how to make a 'Lineman's Splice'. Emile introduces us to his Ubiquiti Wireless Point-to-Point bridge. Tommy benchmarks the various models of the Raspberry Pi with some interesting results. And Peter presents the Raspberry Pi 4?

[Radio Enthusiasts Ham It Up at Expo:](#)

by tdtnews.com on April 18, 2016

BELTON -- About 1,000 ham radio enthusiasts showed up to buy, sell or trade at the Bell County Expo Center on Saturday. The Ham Expo included about 250 commercial and individual vendors with radios, antennas, cables and other electronic equipment on display. Temple Amateur Radio Club has sponsored a spring and fall ham fest since 1994, said Myron Mesecke, club secretary. "Some of the commercial vendors make their living going to these events," he said. Others come from ham radio stores that also make the area sales events, he said. Steve Roberts, manager of Houston Amateur Radio Supply Inc., said he attends about 15 shows a year. A lot of people were looking for accessories, microphones and radios, he said. He also displayed used equipment taken as trade-ins. There have been technological changes in the ham radio world, he said. The addition of digital modes and Internet linking has made it possible to plug the ham radio into an Internet tower, he said. Towers may be knocked out during a disaster, he said, but the older, basic ham radio will always be there. "The point-to-point radio system that has worked since the days of Marconi will still work if the infrastructures of today fail," he said.

[Hamvention Update:](#)

by tom Medlin (W5KUB) on April 17, 2016

This weeks show will feature Michael Kalter, W8CI, Treasurer and Board of Directors of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association and Mitch Stern W1SJ. Michael will give us updates and information on Hamvention which will be here in just a month.

[Listen to the DMR Brandmeister Network:](#)

by ian abel (G3ZHI) on April 17, 2016

Welcome to hose line: Hose line is an online streaming platform for the HAM radio Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) Brandmeister network. The project is still under heavy development, so if you encounter bugs, please try again at a later stage.

[Amateur Radio: A World of Possibilities:](#)

by RSGB on April 17, 2016

Amateur radio is a hobby with so many aspects it can be hard to describe -- and difficult to know what to try first! Our new video Amateur Radio: A World of Possibilities gives you a taster of just some of the many exciting, challenging and fun things you can with amateur radio. We're planning to take a look at other parts of the hobby in the future.

[The ISS is Sending TV Signals to Ham Radio Nerds:](#)

by motherboard.vice.com on April 17, 2016

Ham radio enthusiasts around the world are freaking out this week because they've had the rare chance to receive and decode television signals from the International Space Station. The ISS is outfitted with an amateur radio that allows it to send and receive signals from Earth. Astronauts aboard the spacecraft occasionally use it to communicate with students as a whoa I'm talking to an astronaut from my classroom sort of exercise. There have even been times when bored astronauts have turned on the radio and started talking to random people around the world. But every once in a while, the ISS has an announced "event" where it broadcasts signals to amateur radio enthusiasts. This week, it's sending out what's known as "Slow Scan TV" -- radio waves that can be decoded and

turned into pictures. The technology is how we first sent images from the moon to Earth. “Unlike normal television that takes a lot of bandwidth, it sends it quite a bit more slowly on narrower bandwidth,” Ryan Reynolds, an amateur radio operator who received the picture you see at the top, told me. “It took me three minutes to get a full picture.”

[Learn Ham Radios at Weekend Convention:](#)

by visaliatimesdelta.com on April 16, 2016

Amateur HAM radio operators looking to improve their skill, their stations and their connections will have the next three days to so. The 67th International DX Convention, sponsored by the Southern California DX club, kicks off at 1 p.m. today and will run through Sunday. The event takes place at the Visalia Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia Ave., where guests can visit vendor booths, sit in on presentations and a banquet dinner. bRoughly 700 people are expected to be in the area for the convention, said Cathy Gardenias, convention chairwoman. “The convention gives people the opportunity to meet people they may talk to through the frequency,” Gardenias said. “Some people talk to friends from other countries, and they like to find out who they’ve talked to. It’s a fun way to meet them in person.” Amateur radio (HAM radio operators) is considered a hobby that brings people, electronics and communication together. People use HAM radios to talk across town, around the world or even into space, all without the Internet or cell phones, according to the National Association for Amateur Radio.

[DIY Review: KN-Q7A SSB 20m QRP Ham Radio Transceiver Kit:](#)

by examiner.com on April 16, 2016

Are you tired of building pixie kits, rockmites, and other entry level ham radio transceivers that just end up sitting on the shelf or junk box in your ham shack collecting dust? Take your kit building up a notch with the KN-Q7A SSB Transceiver from CRKITS, and build a radio that you will actually want to use on the air. The KN-Q7A comes in three flavors: 80/75m (10W), 40m (10W), or 20m (5W). If electronic kit building isn’t your thing but you still want to own this radio, then you are in luck. The KN-Q7A can also be purchased fully built and aligned from QRVTronics, which is the official distributor in America. This review will cover the real world capabilities and performance of the 20m KN-Q7A SSB Transceiver. This will not be a walkthrough on how to build the kit as it was provided to me already fully built. The 20m KN-Q7A comes with a frequency range of 14.300 - 14.330 MHz, which is controlled by a single tuning knob (sorry, no fine tuning control here). Initially, I was concerned about this rig not having a fine tuning control knob. Luckily, my fears were quickly abated. Within minutes of hooking up the KN-Q7A to a power supply and antenna, I was already making contacts and checking into nets all over the United States including Alaska and even multiple contacts into Canada.

[UK Amateur Radio Museum In National Competition Needs Public Votes To Win!](#)

by William Presland on April 15, 2016

The Radio Communication Museum of Great Britain, a new museum set to open in Derby, UK in autumn 2016 is a finalist in a national competition, where the winning location will get a leading contemporary artist to their museum to create a unique arts event. The events will happen as part of the Museums at Night’s October festival, which will take place over October 28-29. Public voting will decide the winner.

[Tusco Amateur Radio Club to Participate in National Parks On the Air Event:](#)

by timesreporter.com on April 15, 2016

The Tusco Amateur Radio Club will participate in the National Parks on the Air event from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 23 at Camp Tuscazoar, 6066 Boy Scout Road NE, Dover. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about amateur radio and speak on the air at two stations set up at the camp for the day. Scouts also can make radio contacts that can count toward radio merit badges.

['Hacking Hitler's Code' Brings Enigma Machine to Bozeman Computer Museum:](#)

by bozemandailychronicle.com on April 15, 2016

At the height of World War II, Europe was in flames, falling to Hitler’s armies and bombing raids, and the Allies were desperate to crack the German military’s secret codes. A new exhibit at Bozeman’s American Computer Museum tells how teams in Poland, Britain and America deciphered the code, shortened the war and accelerated the development of the computer. The star of the “Hacking Hitler’s Code” exhibit is an actual German Army Enigma machine, housed in its wooden box, still wearing its “Enigma, Berlin” label. George Keremedjiev, computer museum founder, said he feels lucky that David Bohnett, one of the internet’s pioneers, was willing to loan the fabled Enigma machine, one of about 200 to survive. Picking up the Enigma machine in California and carrying it on the plane, Keremedjiev said, felt “magical.” It seems equally magical that human beings were able to crack the Enigma code, since it generated a diabolically vast number of combinations, 107 sextillion.

[Navy Telegrapher to Talk on Titanic Communication Errors:](#)

by candgnews.com on April 15, 2016

PONTIAC -- If only things were done differently. It's a phrase uttered often by people when faced with the ramifications of a mistake. But perhaps those words never carried more weight than they did the night of April 14-15, 1912, when 1,514 lives were lost because of a tragic error. That's the fateful night the RMS Titanic ran into an iceberg and sank into the north Atlantic Ocean. Some might blame the captain's decision to continue at full speed through a sea littered with icebergs, and others might say it was the designers who thought that an adequate number of lifeboats would clutter the ship's deck. On Sunday, April 17, former U.S. Navy Morse code telegrapher Larry Hathcock will discuss why he blames the disaster on bad communication during the next Small Talk presentation of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. He'll explain the Titanic crew's use of Morse code to signal nearby ships out on the ocean. The S.S. Californian was stopped in the water just miles from the Titanic that night, but missed SOS calls because its radio was turned off. "My approach is to bring in the radio messages," said Hathcock of the talk this Sunday, when he'll use a Morse code oscillator to reproduce the messages sent by the Titanic. "I was a radioman in the Navy." Because of the lives lost in the historic tragedy, laws were changed in Naval communication, Hathcock added.



ARRL News

[New ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, Pledges World-Class Service, Openness, Inclusiveness](#)

April 18, 2016 - The ARRL's new Chief Executive Officer **Tom Gallagher**, NY2RF, got down to work on his first day in office by promising to make the League's foundational business processes "rock solid" and bringing them up to state of the art, which members have a right to expect. Gallagher, who arrived at Headquarters on February 29 as CEO-Elect, has now assumed the top leadership post long held by David Sumner...

[Radio Amateurs Asked to Keep 7.060 MHz Clear for Ecuador Earthquake Emergency Traffic](#)

April 18, 2016 - In the wake of the April 16 earthquake in Ecuador, the Amateur Radio community is being asked to keep 7.060 MHz clear for "Cadena HC" emergency traffic. DXpeditions operating RTTY on 40 meters are requested to keep pileups below 7.060 MHz. The 7.8 magnitude earthquake has resulted in dozens of deaths and many more injuries.

[It's World Amateur Radio Day!](#)

April 16, 2016 - Every April 18, hams around the globe observe World Amateur Radio Day (**WARD**). Sponsored by the International Amateur Radio Union (**IARU**), World Amateur Radio Day marks the founding of the IARU in 1925. Radio amateurs worldwide will celebrate Amateur Radio's contribution to society. WARD 2016 coincides with National Parks Week in the US, so listen for amateurs on from NPS units for National Parks...

[The K7RA Solar Update](#)

Friday, April 15, 2016 - There was an upward bump in recent solar activity, with average daily sunspot number for the April 7-13 period at 32 (compared to 19.1 for the previous seven days) and average daily solar flux rising 23 points to 106.1.

Note that what we are seeing now is the occasional uptick in solar activity as the Sun continues its decline to solar minimum, perhaps sometime around 2020.

[ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology Application Deadline is May 1](#)

April 15, 2016 - Time is running short to apply for a spot in the ARRL **Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology** this summer. The deadline is May 1. Now in its 13th year, the Teachers Institute is an

intensive *expenses paid* professional development opportunity for educators who want to receive training and resources to explore wireless technology in the classroom.

[ARRL VHF Contest Revitalization Committee Calls for Comments on Proposed “UHF and Up” Event](#)

April 15, 2016 - The ARRL VHF Contest Revitalization (VCR) Committee has drafted rules for a **proposed new UHF and Up Contest** and now is seeking input from the contesting community. The invitation follows the Committee’s review of “considerable input from the amateur community.”

“In proposing the new rules, the Committee sought to respond to some of the most frequently received comments and to provide a ‘test be...

[The “Other” Heard Island DXpedition – VK0LD](#)

April 14, 2016 - The just-ended Heard Island **VK0EK DXpedition** logged more than 75,000 contacts, but the under-the-radar, contemporaneous **VK0LD** operation also put a new one into a few more logs. VK0EK logistics team member Mike Coffey, KJ4Z, operated as **VK0LD** from California, remotely controlling one of the VK0EK **Elecraft** K3S operating positions. He used a K3/o-Mini and the free **RemoteHams.com** *RCForb* client and ...

[ARRL Rookie Roundup Returns with SSB Event on Sunday, April 17!](#)

April 13, 2016 - The SSB version of **ARRL Rookie Roundup** is back on Sunday, April 17. The event gets under way at 1800 UTC and continues through 2359 UTC. For the purposes of this operating event, a “Rookie” is any radio amateur licensed within the current calendar year or in the previous two calendar years, regardless of license class. The goal of Rookie Roundup is to encourage recently licensed operators in No...

[K1KP Wins April QST Cover Plaque Award](#)

April 13, 2016 - The winner of the April 2016 QST Cover Plaque award is “**Can Home Solar Power and Amateur Radio Coexist?**” by Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP.

The *QST* Cover Plaque Award -- given to the author or authors of the most popular article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the **QST Cover Plaque Poll web page**. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the May issue today.

[World ARDF Championships Participation Expected to Break Record](#)

April 13, 2016 - According to a post on the **IARU Region 1** website from Don Beattie, G3BJ, the 2016 **World Amateur Radio Direction Finding Championships** are expected to attract a record-breaking number of participants. The World ARDF Championships will take place in the Black Sea resort of Albena, Bulgaria, on September 3-9.

The 18th Championships are expected to be a huge event, and so far 374 participants from 3...

[First-Ever D-STAR Satellite to Launch in April](#)

April 12, 2016 - The first-ever satellite to carry a D-STAR (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio) Amateur Radio payload into space is expected to launch on April 22 from Guiana. The **OUFTI-1** (Orbital Utility For Telecommunication Innovations) CubeSat is one of three CubeSats developed by student teams under the European Space Agency (ESA) Education Office “**Fly Your Satellite!**” program, which is aimed at...

[Youth Rally Will Be a Highlight of ARRL's Hamvention 2016 Activities](#)

April 11, 2016 - The first-ever **ARRL Youth Rally** will be a feature of the League's menu of activities at **Hamvention®** 2016. The event is set for Saturday, May 21, and requires advance **online registration**. Hamvention takes place May 20-22, and the centerpiece of ARRL Hamvention exhibits and activities is **ARRL EXPO**, a huge exhibit area in one of the main exhibit halls in Hara Arena. The ARRL Youth Rally is open to...

[Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T, Named as IARU Satellite Advisor](#)

April 11, 2016 - The International Amateur Radio Union (**IARU**) has announced the appointment of Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T, as IARU Satellite Advisor, effective immediately. Blondeel Timmerman succeeds Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS6AKV, who had served as IARU Satellite Advisor since 1994. Van de Groenendaal established many of the Amateur Satellite frequency coordination procedures and has been a critical contr...



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

S [Ham Radio and the Ecuador earthquake](#)

A magnitude 7.8 Earthquake struck Ecuador at 23:58 UT on April 16 causing at least 77 deaths and 500 injuries

S [AIR short-wave may shut down](#)

The external short-wave broadcasts from All India Radio (AIR) may cease due to high maintenance costs

S [Radio Communication Museum of Great Britain](#)

UK amateur radio museum finalist in national competition needs public votes to win!

S [ICQPODCAST - Erecting Antennas released](#)

In this episode, Martin M1MRB / W9ICQ is joined by Chris M0TCH, Dan KB6NU and ED DD5LP to discuss the latest Amateur / Ham Radio news. Colin M6BOY rounds up the news in brief, and this episode's feature is Erecting Antennas

S [Quiet sunspot wakes up, explodes](#)

Surprise! Quiet sunspot **AR2529** isn't so quiet, after all

S [Kerry Amateur Radio Group in IMD](#)

Kerry Amateur Radio Group will participate as an Award Station in this year's **International Marconi Day** event on Saturday 23rd April

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 adult 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: \$9.00(new price effective March 2015)



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2011



Copyright WB1GOF,
Robert Schmeichel
2013

Repeater Information

Repeater Interference

The 146.955 repeater periodically has had interference to in-progress 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.

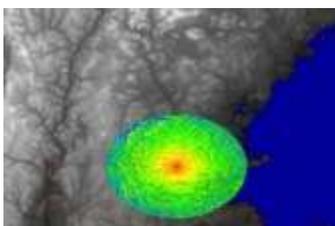
EmComm events and repeater use

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 Terry-KA8SCP. All requests for repeater use can be initiated by email to info@wb1gof.org.



Repeater propagation info is 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 (the first one is FREE to new members). We use The Sign Man of Baton Rouge as our official supplier, and you can browse the club's design at:

<<http://thesignman.com/clubs/part.html>>. However, please place your order via the PART Membership Chairman, Hugh Maguire-N1QGE, hulin127@verizon.net so that we may benefit from bulk pricing.



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. 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.



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This month's editor: Terry Stader – KA8SCP

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

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