



PARticles



The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

Celebrating 40 years of public service 1975-2015

President's Column

- Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)

A couple of weekends ago, it was my privilege to help the Boy Scouts earn part of their Ham Radio Merit Badge. It was cold and raw that Saturday. I taught the scouts about Fox Hunting, which is now a required element for the merit badge. Of course, I had to teach them some of the fox hunting treachery as well. Hiding the fox while there is snow on the ground makes it easy to find, but some of the boys created "decoy footprints" to throw fox hunters off the trail. Also, never listen to a fellow fox hunter who tells you where the fox is located, as they've been known to "accidentally" point in the wrong direction. Other aspects of the merit badge were handled by Ron (WQ1Z), who has been active with the Boy Scouts for a long time.

I'd like to congratulate George (K1IG) on the publication in QST magazine of his article entitled "Increase your CW Speed with Wordsworth". One can find this article on page 74 of the May 2017 edition.

Here is an update on my fun with the BITX40 SSB QRP transceiver. I've been hacking the Arduino programming, and have gotten a resistive keypad working (Sparkfun Electronics PRT-12080). However, now the rig will neither transmit nor receive. I suspect that I static zapped it. The IRF510 was cold during transmit, so I replaced it, but that seems to be only part of the problem. I also replaced the LM386, and things seem better, but still not working. My next place to look is at the 25MHz xtal and the SI5351 signal generator chip. This signal is used during both transmit and receive.

PART has once again been asked by the Westford Kiwanis to provide amateur radio support of the annual Apple Blossom Parade, to be held on Saturday, May 13, 2017. If you have a 2m HT and a desire to help with this public service event, please contact Terry (KA8SCP) or Alan (W1AHM).

NEAR-Fest is coming up soon! Be sure to mark your calendars for Friday, May 5th, and Saturday, May 6th. Deerfield, NH is the place to be on that weekend. Be sure to put your ticket into the raffle bin, as they are giving away an IC-7300 and an Elecraft KX2! <http://www.near-fest.com>

FARA Flea Market in Framingham: April 23rd, 9 AM, don't miss it! <http://w1fy.org/flea.aspx>

For the last several years, PART has played a leadership role in the 13 Colonies Special Event, which occurs for a week around the Independence Day holiday. Charlie (K1PUB) has been a fantastic leader for those years, working hard to run this event for Massachusetts with the K2H callsign. Charlie wrote a detailed operator's manual and maintained the online calendar for operators, as well as representing Massachusetts to the overall event coordinator. It has been my pleasure to be the QSL manager for K2H for those years. This year, Charlie decided to step down from that role, and we thank him for those many years of service. I have also voluntarily stepped down from the role as K2H QSL Manager. PART will no longer be a major sponsor for this event. The event continues to grow in popularity, and I encourage folks to get more information from the website: <http://www.13colonies.net>

At our next PART meeting, to be held on Tuesday, April 18th, we will have several speakers. First, George (K1IG) will talk about Field Day activities. Secondly, we have Bob (KC1DSQ) who will give us a talk about his 2-element collinear array for the 2m band. Thirdly, we have Terry (KA8SCP) who will talk about the WB1GOF repeaters and their capabilities. We have a very full meeting planned and I look forward to seeing all of you there!

Have a lot of fun, and 73!

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 22-February '17 & 20-March '17 (As of 21-March '17)

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Repeater Fund</u>	<u>Checking Total</u>
Old Balance	\$ 3,967.17	\$ 4,786.41	\$ 8,753.58
Income	\$ 270.00	\$ 48.23	\$ 318.23
Expenses	\$ (81.93)	\$ (0.25)	\$ (82.18)
Net	\$ 188.07	\$ 47.98	\$ 236.05
New Balance	\$ 4,155.24	\$ 4,834.39	\$ 8,989.63
Accounts Receivable	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Accounts Payable	\$ 307.18	\$ 0.00	\$ 307.18
Net Credit	\$ (307.18)	\$ 0.00	\$ (307.18)
Net Worth	\$ 3,848.06	\$ 4,834.39	\$ 8,632.45

[Note: Positive GF net, positive RF net, positive overall net, negative GF net credit, positive RF net credit, negative overall net credit/AHM]

Treasurer's note: New report lines account for funds headed into or out of our club's checking account. Accounts Payable refers to checks we've written which haven't yet been cashed, wire transfers which haven't yet been withdrawn, etc. Accounts Receivable includes funds in hand and PayPal payments which haven't yet been deposited, etc. These figures don't reflect anticipated income or expenses such as dues in the mail or next month's repeater landline bill.

PART 2017 Membership as of 14-April '17

Individuals (= New for 2017 + Renew for 2017)			Households (= New for 2017 + Renew for 2017)		
Full (\$25)*	27	(=1 + 26)	27	(=1 + 26)	
Senior (\$15)*	29	(=0 + 29)	29	(=0 + 29)	
Family (\$30)*	19	(=2 + 17)	9	(=0 + 9)	
Student (\$15)*	1	(= 1 + 0)	1	(=1 + 0)	
Associate (\$10)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(=0 + 0)	
Grand Total*	76	(=4 + 72)	66	(=2 + 64)	

ARRL members:* 67 / 88.2%

(Including ARRL Life members:* 14)

NOTE: Starred lines changed since 7-Mar '17.

New Members:

Danny / KD1NNY (Westford)
Rakesh / VU3CML (Lowell)

New Members:

Ann/KB1SRW -> K1SRW

##To pay dues##

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

-or-

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

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

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 (W1KBE) Rimsa

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

Apr 18th 2017

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

May 6th 2017

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$19/\$9; kids: \$9 – see note below)

May 13th 2017

- Apple Blossom Parade. 8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. LOCATION: Westford Center, Muster at WPD

May 16th 2017

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

June 3rd 2017

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$19/\$9; kids: \$9 – see note below)

June 20th 2017

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

June 24&25, 2017

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

Monthly PART Meetings and Social Events

- Every Sunday, 8 PM – PART Net on 146.955 repeater, Echolink Node 380799
- 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, EXCLUDING January 2017. They are held in the church hall of The Chelmsford Bible 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/wlgs/Public/ne-fleas>

2017

22 April Gales Ferry CT RASON @FireCo auction Darryl WA1DD 860 443 7799 +
23 April Framingham MA FARA @KeefeTS Andy KC1DMM 508 310 5913 A+
23 April Manchester CT NEWS VHF/UHFCon @BaymontInn Mark K1MAP (413) 566-2445 W+
30 April Middletown NY OARC @CommCtr Bruce K2ULZ 845 562 4226 A+
5-6 May Deerfield NH NEARFest XXI @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 W+
13 May E Greenbush NY EGARA @FireCo Tom KC2FCP 518 272 1494 A+
20 May Goshen CT SoBARC \$5@8 @FG Stan W2VID 518 398 7003 W+
21 May Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
3 June Brookline NH NEARC Antique@EvntCr \$10@7:30 \$5@8:30 Bruce 603 772 7516 W+
3 June Hermon ME PSARC @HS \$@6:30 B@8 Jerry K1GUP 207 848 3400 W+
4 June Fishkill MtBARC @DwnStCorr Adam KC2DAA 845-849-3666 A+
4 June Staten I NY CPARA @ScoutCamp Gary KB2BSL 718 504 0030 W+
4 June Bethpage NY LIMARC @Brierclif Richard K2KNB 516 694 4937 A+
10 June Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outside John 860 673 0518 +
11 June Queens NY HoSARC Stephen WB2KDG 718 898 5599 A+
18 June Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
16 July Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
5 Aug Milo ME PARC ThreeRiver @Kiwanis George WA1JMM 207 441 6112 A+
20 Aug Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
27 Aug Adams MA NoBARC @BoweFld 6:30sell 7:30buy Eric KA1SUN 413 743 9975
27 Aug Newtown CT CARA @Town Hall John W1JGM 203 417 0160 A+
8,10 Sept Boxboro MA FEMARA NE Conv Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235
9 Sept Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outside John 860 673 0518 +
10 Sept Ballston Spa NY SCRACES @FG \$6@7 Jim KG2H 518 703-9558 F+
17 Sept Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
8 Oct Queens NY HoSARC Stephen WB2KDG 718 898 5599 A+
13-14 Oct Deerfield NH NEARFest XXII @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 W+
15 Oct Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
21 Oct Brookline NH NEARC Antique@EvntCr \$10@7:30 \$5@8:30 Bruce 603 772 7516 W+
28 Oct Gales Ferry CT TCARC @FireCo auction Darryl WA1DD 860 443 7799 W
29 Oct Hicksville NY LIMARC @LeviitHall Richard K2KNB 516 694 4937 A+
11 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/\$@7 ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422
2 Dec Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518 +



Near-term local fleas

Framingham ARA Flea

Sunday, 23-Apr'17

Buyers \$5.00, 9:00AM-1:00PM

<<http://www.wlfy.org/2017FleaFlyer.doc>>

Keefe Vo-Tech

750 Winter St., Framingham, MA

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

NEAR-Fest XXI

Friday, 5-May'17 and Saturday, 6-May'17

Buyers \$10 for Fri+Sat

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

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

Flea at MIT

Sunday, 21-May'17

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

<<http://web.mit.edu/wlms/www/swapfest/swapfest-2017.04.pdf>>)

Parking Lot&Garage on Albany St. Cambridge, at Portland St.

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

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

Field Day

Field Day 2017

George, K1IG - Field Day Chairman

Mark your calendars and break out the insect repellant – it may feel like winter now, but Field Day 2017 is just three months away. PART will be at the Concord Rod & Gun Club again this year on June 24th and 25th, with plenty of food and fun, and there may even be a few foxes to find. Last year we contacted 49 of 50 states – can we get them all this year?



Response to the first call for volunteers has been very good; we've got stations for CW, SSB, VHF, and Get On The Air (GOTA), a Safety Officer, food team leader, and antenna team leader identified. Important slots we need to fill are the digital station leader and generator coordinator.

Antennas will be set up on Friday, June 23, and we need at least 15 people to help put them up. If you haven't done this in previous years the routine is simple; we usually start around noon and divide into two teams. With enough people and enthusiasm we can finish by 5:00 PM.

More information will be provided at the monthly PART meetings.

Current and past PART Field Day information can be found at <http://fd.ema.arrl.org/ClubDetail.php?club=PART>

Public Service



Apple Blossom Parade – Saturday May 13th, 2017

Hello PARTers new and old... 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 13th, 2017.

The Westford Kiwanis Apple Blossom Festival is a town tradition dating back to 1968. This year's event is the 47th 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 10th through Sunday, May 14th, 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 Terry-KA8SCP if you are interested and can assist or need more information.

PLEASE NOTE: We are INVITED to be a parade participant as well. We already have a banner. Maybe we can even put a vehicle... like a Corvette or a classic car/truck out front and a handful of folks with some "communicator's vests"... what do you think?

New England QSO Party – May 7-8 2017



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 testers, 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.

The full rules are here -> <http://www.neqp.org/rules.html>

The list of 2016 are on-line and the results since 2002 are also available -> <http://www.neqp.org/results.html>

Thanks!

73 Tom/K1KI

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.



Special Event Stations in New England

04/22/2017 | International Marconi Day

Apr 22, 0000Z-2359Z, KM1CC, Wellfleet, MA. Marconi Cape Cod Radio Club. 18.080 14.260 14.035 7.035 . QSL. KM1CC, Cape Cod National Seashore, 99 Marconi Site Rd., Wellfleet, MA 02667. Other historic Marconi Stations will also be on the air. www.facebook.com/KM1CC

04/22/2017 | W1BSA on the USS Massachusetts

Apr 22, 1300Z-2100Z, W1BSA, Middleboro, MA. Massasoit Amateur Radio Association. 14.259 7.259. QSL. W1BSA C/O Rick Emord, KB1TEE, 135 Wareham St , Middleboro, MA 02346. www.w1mv.org

05/13/2017 | Our Lady of Fatima 100th Anniversary

May 13, 1900Z-2200Z, W1HGY, Taunton, MA. Saint Maximilian Kolbe Net. 14.341 7.241 3.841 . Certificate. Lloyd Bankson Roach, K3QNT, 120 W Watson St, Bedford, PA 15522. Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the apparition of our Blessed Mother at Fatima Portugal. SASE (Large Envelope) to K3QNT 120 W. Watson Street Bedford, PA 15522 saintmaxnet.org

06/03/2017 | Nuclear Submarine USS Nautilus SSN 571 Museum Ships Weekend

Jun 3-Jun 4, 1300Z-2100Z, N1S, Groton, CT. Generations Amateur Radio Club. 21.324 14.264 7.264 3.924. QSL. GARC c/o Harrison Solt, N1FAM, 110 Vinegar Hill Rd, Gales Ferry, CT 06335. SASE please. Details on QRZ N1S and K3LBD listing. Nautilus information at www.ussnautilus.org/. www.qrz.com/db/n1s

06/13/2017 | Our Lady of Fatima 100th Anniversary

Jun 13, 1900Z-2200Z, W1HGY, Taunton, MA. Saint Maximilian Kolbe Net. 14.341 7.241 3.841. Certificate. Lloyd Bankson Roach, K3QNT, 120 W Watson St, Bedford, PA 15522. Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Apparition of Our Blessed Mother at Fatima, Portugal in 1917 - All stations are welcome and encouraged to send for the QSL certificate. saintmaxnet.org

Amateur Radio News



From eHam.net News:

[Postcard Brings Memories, Friendship for Hattiesburg Men:](#)

by hattiesburgamerican.com on April 17, 2017

Pine Belt residents Hugh Garraway and Bob Helfrich shared a common bond from many years ago, but neither realized it until Garraway found a postcard when going through his old ham radio equipment. The date was March 27, 1964. It was Good Friday. Helfrich, a boy of 10, was living in Yakutat, Alaska. Garraway, a 15-year-old ham radio operator, was living in Hattiesburg. An earthquake -- the largest ever recorded in the United States -- was of a 9.2 magnitude, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. At least 139 people were killed, most of them in the

ensuing tsunami, according to a report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Helfrich family, like many others in Alaska, were fine but had no way of letting their family in the Lower 48 know. As word of the earthquake and tsunami spread, volunteer amateur radio operators were sought to relay communications between survivors in Alaska and family members stateside. "My oldest sister was finishing high school in Jackson," Helfrich said. "My grandmother lived in Jackson, and I had an aunt and uncle from Jackson. Dad was trying to get word to them that we were OK." Garraway, a licensed operator who learned ham radio through the leadership of Leslie Newcomb, Scoutmaster of Troop 91 in Hattiesburg, was able to get hold of the Helfrich family in Jackson to assure them their family members in Yakutat were fine. A couple weeks later, Helfrich's father somehow was able to get Garraway's contact information and sent him a postcard thanking him for his role in helping his family. "We are grateful (sic) to all the ham operators everywhere and especially you," the postcard says. That part of history may have gone unreported, long forgotten, but for Garraway's sentimental stroll through days of old and a renewed passion for ham radio -- nearly 50 years after that fateful day. "My interests moved to other areas of life," he said. "I let my amateur radio license expire." Garraway said he decided to pick up his old hobby again when he retired. He studied for and was able to regain his operator's license. Garraway was going through his old radio equipment, which had been stored away for decades in a Perry County shed, when he happened upon the postcard. The postcard had been placed in a container with his "QSL" cards, which are written confirmations of radio exchanges. The postcard also had survived a house fire. "I found the container with my old 'QSL' and thank you notes and looked through them," he said. "I looked at the thank you note and realized that the last name on the card was the same as someone I had never met but had friended me on Facebook because of mutual friends." Helfrich's sister and brother-in-law, it turns out, are friends of Garraway's parents. Helfrich had wished Garraway a happy birthday in a Facebook message. Seeing the name brought the postcard to mind, so Garraway asked if Helfrich or a family member was stationed in Yakutat during the earthquake. Helfrich replied yes. "I sent him an image of the postcard and he replied that it was his father's handwriting and that it was a small world," Garraway said. "It was a nice moment." "I was shocked," Helfrich said. Garraway also was surprised to make the unexpected connection, as most families did not know the names of the ham operators who helped them. He said the note from the Helfrich family was the only one he received from all the calls he made that night. He said he got involved when he heard of another ham operator asking for volunteers to let families know their loved ones in Alaska were all right. "I volunteered and we spent the night as follows: He would send me the name and phone number of a person to contact. We would verify that I had the information correct and then I would make a collect phone call to the individual or family," Garraway said. "The operator would ask if they would accept the call with information on the family. Of course no one declined the call."

Amateurlogic 2013 is Released:

by peter berrett (VK3PB) on April 16, 2017

AmateurLogic 103: The Un-planned Episode Tommy repairs his mobile antenna. Emile makes a NOAA Heads Up Alert. Mike builds the Canadian Balun. Peter's Balloon fails and he repurposes an old laptop screen. Plus all the usual stuff.

Amateur Radio Roundtable Live Show Tuesday:

by tom Medlin (W5KUB) on April 16, 2017

Big show this Tues April 18th on W5KUB.COM at 8 PM central Join Katie Allen, Dave Casler, and me, with special appearance of Emmett Hohensee III W0QH, Chief Engineer of RadioWavz talking about antennas. Dave will talk about radial systems and remote antenna switching.

Puna Amateur Radio Operators Honored:

by hawaiiitribune-herald.com on April 16, 2017

Big Island amateur radio operators Richard and Barbara Darling of Puna received the prestigious 2016 International Humanitarian Award from the American Radio Relay League during a program April 8 at Aupuni Center in Hilo. For many years, the Big Island Amateur Radio Club members have provided material support and on-air communication for residents of the Federated States of Micronesia. "The nightly health-and-welfare phone patches and messages go all over the United States and the emotion involved can be heard, especially since some of the people have not talked to their relatives in several years," said former BIARC past president Bob Schneider. "The folks in the Federated States speak in several Micronesian languages and it is wonderful to hear them hook up with their loved ones."

Ham Nation to Celebrate Their 300th Show:

by Valerie Hotzfeld ~ NV9L on April 15, 2017

Petaluma, California -- Ham Nation celebrates its 300th episode at the end of May. Back in 2011, Leo LaPorte, founder of Twit.tv, happened to win a Heil microphone as a door prize. He fell in love with the microphone and

talked Bob Heil into being a guest on the show. During that live interview, hams from all over the World started checking in to the chat room. Both Leo and Bob realized there was a void that needed filling...a Ham Radio show! And almost 300 episodes later, the show is stronger than ever.

Romanian Translation of the IARU Emergency Telecommunications Guide Online:

by Francisc 'Fery' Grunberg, YO4PX on April 15, 2017

Francisc Grunberg YO4PX completed the 'Herculean' task of translating into Romanian the 93 pages IARU Emergency Telecommunications Guide.

ISS Packet System is Back on VHF:

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on April 15, 2017

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) packet digipeater system is again operating on VHF - 145.825 MHz. The failure of an Ericsson handheld VHF transceiver on board the ISS last fall had caused ARISS to shift packet operation to 70 centimeters. A cargo resupply mission in February delivered a new Ericsson 2 meter handheld, to replace the one that had failed, which had been used in the Columbus module for school group contacts and for Amateur Radio packet.

Propagation Forecast Bulletin #15 de K7RA:

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on April 15, 2017

Solar indicators, both sunspot numbers and solar flux, both dropped this week, in fact on April 8 there were no sunspots. Average daily sunspot numbers declined from 65.9 to 16.6, and average daily solar flux went from 96.5 to 73.8, compared to the previous seven days.

Radio and Recording Engineer, Motorola Sales Executive, W2JUA (SK):

by buffalonews.com on April 15, 2017

John Robert Van Son, a former Buffalo radio and recording engineer, died unexpectedly April 2 after becoming ill at his home in Southlake, Texas. He was 89. Born in Buffalo, he grew up on the family farm in Attica and was a 1945 graduate of Attica High School. He earned his FCC first class operating license for broadcast engineering from the Buffalo Radio Institute and taught evening classes there for seven years. Mr. Van Son began his broadcasting career at radio station WBEN and went on to serve as chief engineer for Richard H. Ullman Inc. and Howell Recording Studios, recording artists such as Les Paul, Louis Armstrong and Aretha Franklin. His recording of Allen Herschel playing the calliope was used to provide the musical background for Herschel carousels. He joined Motorola as a communication sales representative in 1955 and became a zone, regional and district manager for the company. He was transferred to Hawaii in 1971 and later worked in Houston, Texas. He retired in 1989 as area sales manager in the Dallas, Texas, office. He was an amateur radio enthusiast with call letters W2JUA. He also enjoyed gardening, photography, traveling and collecting big band records. In Dallas, he hosted a show on an FM radio station playing big band music from his collection.

Kids Earn Licenses and Radio Equipment:

by wbkb11.com on April 15, 2017

Two local boys from Alcona County earned their Federal Communications Commissions licenses, and some pretty cool equipment to go along with it. 12 year olds Mark Collins and Robby Mills received the equipment after successfully completing an Amateur Radio FCC License class. The class was sponsored by the Alcona County Radio Group— a non-profit organization of amateur radio enthusiasts seeking to advance their hobby. Each class consists of a three level course offered to people of all ages, and includes reading material as well as hands on experience. "For them to be a licensed amateur radio operator they have to pass the FCC test which takes quite a bit of work," said Stan Darmaforl, Emergency Radio Operator. "It's a good ten twelve chapters which can be anything from ohm's law to how to build antennas, how to operate radios, what are the international radio laws and things of that nature...I'm not going to say its easy."

WWII Veteran Thelma McCarthy: One of the Female Wireless Telegraphers:

by armidaleexpress.com on April 14, 2017

"Just before we were posted our trainer said to us - 'Remember ladies, we don't want to be the same as men, we want to be equal to men,' and that's been my war cry my entire life," WWII veteran Thelma McCarthy said. "It was very good advice because we had to prove ourselves not only to be the same as but to be better than men, and my word we did." Growing up on a property in south-west NSW, Mrs McCarthy would catch the train to boarding school during the holidays. On the carriage, the boys in the years above her would talk eagerly about their dreams of joining the Royal Australian Airforce. "My father served in WWI and was one of The 1st Light Horse Brigade, I saw

this ad in the paper calling for volunteers to learn morse code - I thought it was interesting so that's what I did," Mrs McCarthy said. Women had not previously been highly involved in the war effort, but were called to replace men after the bombing of Darwin. At the post office, the men would take 18 months to reach the required 18 words a minute receiving and sending morse code. Mrs McCarthy and a friend mastered it in just six weeks. "We learned it day and night, we slept it, I still remember it to this day," she said. Mrs McCarthy worked as a wireless telegrapher from 1942 to 1945 and said it is one of the most highly regarded times in her life.

[VK6WIA NewsWest for Sunday 16 April 2017:](#)

by WA Amateur Radio News on April 14, 2017

In the news this week we have an update on SOTA activities around the country, a flurry of VKFF awards, New Callsigns on the Air, Roy's Helpline, news from the Directors Corner, World Amateur Radio Day and a look at a project that we as Amateurs could use to provide services in case of emergencies when Glynn takes a look at the Serval Project.

[Foundations of Amateur Radio -- #97:](#)

by Onno VK6FLAB on April 14, 2017

Is the "Gentleman's Agreement" broken because the gentlemen of our hobby are being overwhelmed by a noisy minority who don't think it's their responsibility to help new Amateurs and prefer to stand on the side- lines baying for blood?

[New Storm Warning System In Place for the Lake Area:](#)

by lakeexpo.com on April 14, 2017

Amateur radio operators across the Lake of the Ozarks region are set up to provide hyperlocal weather data to one another and the National Weather Service, thanks to the work of local volunteers and donors. Spearheading the effort is Dennis Klautzer, with KRMS radio, who has provided the base radio systems and tower facilities. Ernest Venis has provided some of the hardware equipment as well as the technical expertise that enables all lake area ham radio operators to communicate early warnings regarding impending emergency severe weather storms. Regional ham radio operators will now have, for the first time, the advantage of directly communicating with each other, including storm spotters in southwest Missouri and the National Weather Service. This new capability was also supported by anonymous financial donors. The Camden County Emergency Management Agency, (CCEMA), under the direction of Ron Gentry, also functions in concert with this new communication system.

[The Poignant Significance of Maritime Radio Day:](#)

by telegraph.co.uk on April 14, 2017

Maritime Radio Day is held annually on the day the RMS Titanic started to sink, 14 April 1912 – a tragedy that came to its inevitable conclusion in the early hours of 15 April. Radio was vital in aiding the rescue of those who survived, and Maritime Radio Day celebrates a global telecoms service based on voice communication and Morse Code. Its history ranges from its inception on the world's oceans in 1900 through to the arrival of the advanced Global Maritime Distress Safety System (GMDSS) in 1999, which brought a degree of digital automation to the service. Marine telecoms services use shortwave radio frequencies, because these signals can bounce between sea level and the ionosphere high above the Earth – which allows modestly powered transmitters to achieve global range.



ARRL News

[Central States VHF Society Solicits Conference Papers, Presentations, Poster Displays](#)

Today, April 17, 2017 - The Central States VHF Society (**CSVHFS**) is soliciting papers, presentations, and posters/tabletop displays for its **51st annual conference**, set for July 27-30 at the Sheraton Albuquerque Airport Hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The conference is seeking papers, presentations, and posters on all "weak-signal" VHF-and-above Amateur Radio topics. These include:

- Antennas, including modeling, design,...

[ISS Packet System is Back on VHF](#)

April 14, 2017

[ARRL EXPO will Anchor League's Hamvention Presence](#)

April 13, 2017 - At **Hamvention®** 2017 in Xenia, Ohio, on May 19, 20, and 21, ARRL EXPO will provide a spacious area focusing on ARRL activities. The ARRL Store will be the central focus of ARRL EXPO in Building 2 of the **Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center**, where visitors will be able to peruse and purchase a wide array of ARRL publications, supplies, and official League merchandise. They'll also be able to...

[Article Links Amateur Radio Growth to Emergency Communications](#)

April 13, 2017 - An April 11 **article**, "Emergency Communications Driving Increase in Amateur Radio Operators," in *Emergency Management* magazine links the growth in Amateur Radio numbers to interest in emergency communications.

"There has been a tremendous amount of interest in emergency preparedness since 9/11 and Katrina, and this is true for the Amateur Radio community as well," ARRL Emergency Preparedness Mana...

[Radio DARC to Cover IARU Region 1 General Conference on Shortwave this Fall](#)

April 13, 2017

[The Doctor Will See You Now!](#)

April 13, 2017 - "**Grounding**" is the topic of the latest episode of the "**ARRL The Doctor is In**" podcast. Listen...and learn!

Sponsored by **DX Engineering**, "ARRL The Doctor is In" is an informative discussion of all things technical. Listen on your computer, tablet, or smartphone -- whenever and wherever you like!

Every 2 weeks, your host, *QST* Editor-in-Chief Steve Ford, WB8IMY, and the Doctor himself, Joel Hallas,...

[International Girls in Information and Telecommunication Technologies Day is April 27](#)

April 12, 2017 - **International Girls in Information and Telecommunication Technologies (ICT) Day** is April 27. The ITU initiative aims to create a global environment that empowers and encourages girls and young women to consider careers in the growing ICT field, enabling them and technology companies to reap the benefits of greater female participation in the ICT sector.

"Since we launched Girls in ICT Day, we ha...

[Russian "Buzzer" Disappears, Chinese "Foghorn" Returns](#)

April 12, 2017

[World Amateur Radio Day on April 18 Marks IARU's 92nd Anniversary](#)

April 12, 2017 - World Amateur Radio Day (**WARD**) on Tuesday, April 18, will mark the 92nd anniversary of the International Amateur Radio Union (**IARU**), and radio amateurs around the world will take to the airwaves to celebrate the day in 1925 that the IARU was formed in Paris. "Celebrating Amateur Radio's Contribution to Society" is the WARD theme.

Amateur Radio experimenters were the first to discover that the sh...

[Grounding and Bonding for the Radio Amateur Now Available](#)

April 11, 2017 - ***Grounding and Bonding for the Radio Amateur*** by Ward Silver, NoAX, is now available from ARRL. Proper station grounding is important! Build your ham radio station with effective grounding and bonding techniques for electrical safety, lightning protection, and RF management.

Grounding and Bonding for the Radio Amateur shows you how to make sure your station follows current standards for lightning ...

[2017 ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference Issues Call for Papers](#)

April 11, 2017 - Technical papers are solicited for presentation at the 36th Annual ARRL/**TAPR** Digital Communications Conference (**DCC**), set for September 15-17 in St. Louis, Missouri, at the Holiday Inn Airport West in Earth City.

Papers will also be published in the *Conference Proceedings*. Authors do not need to attend the conference to have their papers included in the *Proceedings*. The submission deadline is Ju...

[Four Days in May is Hamvention Weekend Focus for QRP Community](#)

April 11, 2017 - Four Days In May (**FDIM**) is the event that attracts many members of the QRP community to the Dayton, Ohio, area at **Hamvention®** time.

Registration remains open for the annual event, which gets under way on Thursday, May 18, at the Holiday Inn in Fairborn, Ohio. FDIM is the annual convention of the event's sponsor, the QRP Amateur Radio Club International (QRPACI).

FDIM features a day of seminars, ...

[2017 National Hurricane Conference Set for New Orleans](#)

April 11, 2017 - The **2017 National Hurricane Conference** that gets under way this month in New Orleans will offer several presentations for radio amateurs. The conference theme, as it's been in the past, is to improve hurricane preparedness. All Amateur Radio sessions are free. For 2017, all the Amateur Radio sessions will be on Wednesday Morning, April 19, from 8:30 AM until 12:15 PM CDT. There will be two Amat...

[ARRL 2016 International Humanitarian Award Winners Honored](#)

April 10, 2017



ARRL Bulletins

- 2017-04-06 [ARLB012](#) Revised Memorandum of Understanding between ARRL and FCC Still a Work in Progress
- 2017-04-05 [ARLX002](#) 30th International Marconi Day Event Set for April 22
- 2017-04-05 [ARLX003](#) Former Kansas Section Manager Orlan Cook, W0OYH, and Former Sacramento Valley Section Manager Ron Murdock, W6KJ (SK)
- 2017-03-13 [ARLB011](#) W1AW 2017 Spring/Summer Operating Schedule
- 2017-02-27 [ARLX001](#) Past ARRL Midwest Division Director Lew Gordon, K4VX (SK)
- 2017-02-24 [ARLB010](#) New Section Manager Appointed in West Virginia
- 2017-02-22 [ARLB009](#) Winter Cycle Section Manager Election Results Announced
- 2017-02-21 [ARLB007](#) FCC Invites Comments on ARRL Petition to Allocate New 5 MHz Band
- 2017-02-21 [ARLB008](#) New Section Manager Appointed in Illinois
- 2017-01-26 [ARLB006](#) Amateur Radio Parity Act Speeds to U.S. House Passage, Heads to U.S. Senate
- 2017-01-17 [ARLB005](#) New "Amateur Radio Parity Act" Bill Introduced in US House of Representatives
- 2017-01-13 [ARLB004](#) ARRL Asks FCC to Allocate New 5 MHz Band, Retain Channels and Current Power Limit
- 2017-01-12 [ARLB003](#) Illegal Drone Transmitters Could Interfere with Air Traffic Control, ARRL Complaint Asserts
- 2017-01-06 [ARLB002](#) FCC Dismisses Two Petitions from Radio Amateurs
- 2017-01-03 [ARLB001](#) W1AW 2017 Winter Operating Schedule



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.

[Two South African built satellites about to be launched](#)

The South African satellite industry is taking another step forward as a player in the international space arena with the launch of two South African built nanosatellites from Cape Canaveral in Florida USA

[ICQPodcast - Portable Multi-Band Dipole released](#)

In this episode, Martin M1MRB / W9ICQ is joined by Chris Howard MoTCH, Martin Rothwell MoSGL, Dan Romanchik KB6NU and Ed Durrant DD5LP to discuss the latest Amateur / Ham Radio news. This episode's feature is Portable Multi-Band Dipole

[SARL National Convention](#)

The South African Radio League National Convention which includes the Annual General Meeting and the Awards Dinner takes place at Bergvallei in Muldersdrift just north of Johannesburg on Saturday 6 May 2017. The event is being hosted by the West Rand Amateur Radio Club

[International Marconi Day](#)

International Marconi Day (IMD) is a 24-hour amateur radio event that is held annually to celebrate the birth of Marconi on 25th April 1874

[IRTS Counties Contests](#)

We have two short counties contests taking place today, Easter Monday. The usual 2 metres contest for two hours from 2.00 pm local time, plus the first-ever 70 cms counties contest for the preceding hour, from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm local time

[Russell Tollerfield RIP](#)

Previously with the BBC, radio engineer Russ Tollerfield joined Radio London in January 1965 and stayed until the end. In fact he was the one who drew the short straw to switch the transmitter off for the last time on 14 August 1967. Russ died this month

[Togo operation this month](#)

Operators David OK6DJ and Petr OK1FCJ will be active as 5V7P from Lome between April 21-28th

[How to survive the total solar eclipse of 2017](#)

We're just 18 weeks away from the "Great American Total Solar Eclipse" that will darken skies across the continental U.S. on Aug. 21. Are you ready for it?

[ISS packet digipeater back on 145.825 MHz](#)

ARISS is pleased to announce that packet radio from the International Space Station is back on 145.825 MHz FM

[Same-band 'Duelling CQs' now prohibited in all ARRL contests](#)

ARRL has clarified its rules for all contests to clearly prohibit the practice of interleaved CQs - also known as 'duelling CQs' - on 2 or more frequencies in the same band

Friday TAPR/AMSAT Banquet at Hamvention

The eleventh annual joint TAPR/AMSAT Banquet will be held on Friday evening, May 19th. This dinner is one of the main AMSAT activities during the Hamvention

Spratly Islands DXpedition postponed

The international amateur radio team has postponed their December 2017 DXpedition and will be active from Layang Layang Island (Swallow Reef), Spratly Islands (AS-051), in March of 2018

Live HAMTV France April 25-28

Daniel Cussen reported on the HamTV@yahoogroups list that there may be live HAMTV over France and Europe during the time period of April 25-28. The date of a school contact is not yet set but it will be a daytime pass

South African QB50 CubeSats

Two South African built satellites are about to be launched to the International Space Station as part of the QB50 project

Apollo 11 capsule going on road trip

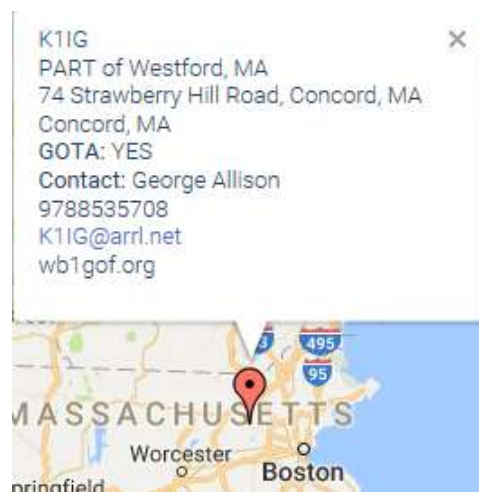
To accommodate the Smithsonian renovation of its gallery at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, the capsule will visit four US cities

Field Day on Social Media!

Follow Field Day on Facebook and Twitter! ARRL has created a [Field Day event on Facebook](#), and you can also join the conversation by using the hash tag #ARRLFD. Share your plans, tips and tricks to a successful Field Day!

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>

Objective- To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries



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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Robert Schmeichel
2011



Copyright WB1GOF,
Robert Schmeichel
2013

2017 ARRL Field Day is June 24-25

ARRL Field Day

ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.



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.

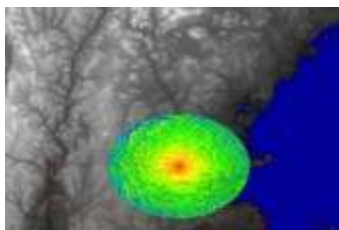
EmComm events and repeater use

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 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:
PART, PO Box 503, Westford, MA 01886

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