



# *PARTicles*

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

August 2014

## President's Column

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### - *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*

This has been a very busy couple of months! It was my pleasure to attend the ARRL Centennial Convention in Hartford, CT. I'd guess about 12 PART members attended, and I saw many of you there. I tried to focus more on the talks, but I also spent time visiting the vendors.

One of the first things I saw was an exhibit of telegraphy equipment hosted by Tom (W1TP). There were many CW keys, sounders, and even an Enigma machine. I grabbed one of Tom's free books and discovered some of my own keys described in its pages. None of my keys are particularly noteworthy from a collector's standpoint, but they all serve me well. Tom (W1TP) also had a 1 hour talk which was mostly a large number of pictures with Tom's descriptions.

It was my pleasure to shake hands with ARRL President Kay Cragie (N3KN). There were many people from the ARRL on hand to visit with convention attendees. They were also giving away the ARRL 100 Years commemorative coin.

A highlight for me was meeting Mel Whitten (K0PFX), who was running the FreeDV booth. FreeDV refers to "free digital voice", and is an open source effort to create a digital voice codec that is not patent encumbered. This work was initially inspired by the proprietary nature of the D-Star codec. The codec itself was created by David Rowe (VK5DGR) and is called CODEC2. If you hear a strange sounding transmission on 14.236 MHz, you are likely hearing this new mode. My first QSO using this mode was with Mel, so it was great to meet him in person. Mel was kind enough to pose in a photo with me.

I also met the famous 100 Pound DXpeditioner himself, Scott (NE1RD), and I have photos to prove it!

Riley Hollingsworth, the former Special Counsel for the FCC Enforcement Bureau, gave a nice talk about current enforcement activities. He tried to dispel the notion that enforcement activities had been reduced since his retirement. He cited examples of current enforcement activities such as those directed at users of 14.313 MHz. He also made a few humorous comments about the hot dogs at Dayton.

Three club members were speakers at the convention: Andy (KB1OIQ), Fred (AB1OC), and Scott (NE1RD). I understand that all 3 talks were well attended.

One talk was somewhat unique to me, and that was the QRP talk given by Dennis Marandos (K1LGQ), the club administrator for the New England QRP Club. Dennis was a speaker at the September 2012 PART meeting. Interestingly, his talk didn't focus much on the radio, antenna, or other technical information. Dennis' talk focused on the \*people\* and the locations from where they like to operate. He had a lot of pictures of people operating from all sorts of outdoor locations such as picnic tables, open fields, near the water, and the like. Remember, the excitement is building....

After returning from the convention, reality set in that there were a large number of K2H QSL cards sitting on my kitchen table. One day, there was so much incoming mail that my mailbox was literally full. A few days later, 9 of us met at a local pizza place to enjoy food, socialization, and filling out the cards. We got 240 cards filled out that evening, and I dropped them into the mail the next day. During the next couple of weeks, we ran out of QSL cards, but Charlie (K1PUB) was quick to order more. In total, 540 QSL cards have been mailed, which is many more than last year. All of the cards to date have been filled out and mailed, and I expect only a trickle of cards to arrive. I'll bring a few of the more interesting cards to the monthly meeting.

After giving my talk about "Linux in Your Hamshack" at the convention, several people asked when I would be releasing the next version of the software collection. I expect that to be somewhere near the end of August. George (K1IG) noted that there was a link for this software published in the September 2014 QST magazine as part of an article written by Bill (WA6SAZ). Bill's article discussed Linux from the perspective of an XP user trying to decide what next to use. I sent Bill an email thanking him for writing the article and for promoting Linux in the ham radio community.

Have a lot of fun!

73 de Andy KB1OIQ

<p>Next PART meeting: Tuesday August 19<sup>th</sup> @1930 – Westford Police station</p>
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## Treasurer's Report

### PART Treasury between 17-Jun '14 & 14-July '14 (As of 15-July '14)

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Repeater Fund</u>	<u>Checking Total</u>
Old Balance	\$ 3,800.35	\$2,409.12	\$6,209.47
Income	\$ 276.00	\$ 171.97	\$ 447.97
Expenses	\$(1,533.25)	\$ 0.00	\$(1,533.25)
Net	\$(1,257.25)	\$ 171.97	\$(1,085.28)
New Balance	\$ 2,543.10	\$2,581.09	\$5,124.19

### PART 2014 Membership as of 11-July '14

	Individuals (= New for 2014 + Renew for 2014)		Households (= New for 2014 + Renew for 2014)	
Full (\$25)*	38	(= 9 + 29)	38	(= 9 + 29)
Senior (\$15)	36	(= 1 + 35)	36	(= 1 + 35)
Family (\$30)*	27	(= 3 + 24)	12	(= 1 + 11)
Student (\$15)	1	(= 1 + 0)	1	(= 1 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(= 0 + 0)
Grand Total*	<b>102</b>	(= 14 + 88)	87	(= 12 + 75)

ARRL members:\* 87

(Including ARRL Life members: 8)

NOTE: \* Starred lines changed since 11-July '14

##To pay dues##

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

-or-

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

### Latest new PART members:

Craig/KC1CGS (Chelmsford)  
Ajit/KU1MAR (Bedford)

## Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

### August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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

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

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

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

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

### October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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

### October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014

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

### November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014

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

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

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

## Monthly PART Meetings and Social Events

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

## Ham Fleas/Events

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

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

#### **2014**

17 August Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+  
24 Aug Adams MA NoBARC @BoweFld \$5@9 \$10S@8 Eric KA1SUN 413 743 9975 F+  
6 Sept Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518  
6 Sept Gander NF @MasonicLodge Ira VO1IRA R+  
6 Sept Windsor ME AARA @FG Bill K1NIT 207 512 0312 A+  
7 Sept Ballston Spa NY SCRACES @FG \$10@7 Darlene N2XQG 518 587 2385 W+  
14 Sept Newtown CT CARA @TownHall\$5@8:30 \$10/TG \$15/T Ron AB1RJ 203 938 7007 +  
20 Sept Forestdale RI RIAFMRS @VFW \$5/Sp@8 Pete AA1PL 401 639 4484 T+  
20 Sept Riverview NB MAARC @Lions \$5@10 S@8 Charles VE9CEL R+  
21 Sept Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+  
27 Sept Brookline NH NEARC Antique \$5@8:30 \$10@7:30 Bruce 603 772 7516 F+  
5 Oct Queens NY HoSARC Stephen WB2KDG 718 898 5599 W+  
10,11 Oct Deerfield NH NEARfest XVI @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 +  
12 Oct Meriden CT Nutmeg @Sheraton was Wallingford John N1GNV 203 440 4973  
12 Oct Fishkill NY MtBARC @CorectionalQWL Adam KC2DAA 845 849 3666 A+  
18,19 Oct Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553 +  
18 Oct Longueuil PQ CRA-RS \$10/T@7 \$7@9 Martin VE2DNF 405 466 2810 R+  
19 Oct Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F  
25 Oct Gales Ferry CT TCARC Auction @FireCo @10 Darryl WA1DD 860 443 7799 T  
26 Oct Hicksville NY LIMARC @Levittown Hall Richie K2KNB 516 694 4937 A  
8 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/S@7 Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422  
29 Nov Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518

#### **2015**

7 Mar Chicopee MA MtTomARA @MooseLodge @8:30 S@6:30 Mary KB1ME 413 222 1990  
27,28 Mar Lewiston ME AARC ME Conv @Ramada @8 Ivan N1OXA 207 784 0350  
6 June Hermon ME PSARA @8 @HS TG@6:30 Jerry K1GUP 207 848 3400 +  
21,23 Aug Boxboro MA FEMARA NE Conv Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 A+



## **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/>

## Field Day 2014

### Field Day Wrap Up

- By Bob Glorioso –W1IS

For those who missed the July meeting, the following is a summary of our 2014 ARRL Field Day activities and operations. We operated in the 3A category – three stations operating simultaneously on emergency power, generators and solar/batteries. The three stations were SSB, CW and Digital. VHF was a free station allowed for our category.



Figure 2-Hyatt logs at the CW Station

First, we more than doubled our QSO count from last year; 1669 versus 733 in 2013! Second, we were able to keep the CW and SSB stations on the air for 24 hours. The Digital station was on for at about 18 hours.

How did all this happen? We started planning in April and had two planning meetings to get organized. Two committee groups were set up, one managing Infrastructure and the other managing Operations. The committees and their leaders are listed at the end.

Once again, our Field Day was a great team effort with about 20 members taking leadership roles starting with Joe - KB1SSA, and his fellow members of the Concord Rod and Gun Club, Dale – KB1ZKD, Charlie – W1ADL, and Lawton – KG1M who obtained the use of the club facilities for the whole weekend. We used more of the site this year moving the SSB station, tents and all, to the field on the east side of the road. This separation, about 200 feet, allowed simultaneous operation on the same band with nary a click or pop.



Figure 3-W1RAG & KC1ACV stock the food table

Our crack food team, Charlie – W1ADL and Rick – W1RAG bolstered this year by Lela – KC1ACV, seamlessly handled the expanded duties due to our 24 hour operation at two sites. The food was great and plentiful. I don't think anyone went hungry or lost any weight!

Another change this year – we used only wire antennas for HF. The configuration included G5RV and 2-element Triband wire beam for the SSB Station, a G5RV, 2-element 40M-wire beam

and another 2-element Triband wire beam for the CW and Digital stations. Allison – KB1GMX put up larger beams for 6M and 2M but, unfortunately, the bands weren't cooperative. Allison compensated by running on Solar and Batteries getting us an additional 100 points. Our crack antenna launch team, Al – W1CCE, Colin – W1DJR, Dale – KB1ZKD, Bill – K1NS, Steve – N1BDA and yours truly, W1IS, using Al's pneumatic launcher managed to put up all the ropes and all but one of the HF antennas up Friday afternoon. This gave us from 0830 to 1200 Saturday to get all the stations operational before lunch and



Figure 1-Henry makes a contact



Figure 4-“Crack” Antenna Launch Team & Pneumatic Launcher. Most antennas were at least 40 feet up! K1NS, N1BDA, W1CCE & W1DJR



Tool Box Talks. And, with the enthusiastic support of all, we made it again this year.

This year the Tool Box Talks focused on the radios and software we were using and the ins and outs of operating in a contest environment. I was pleased to see so many take the lessons to heart and jump in with both feet to make contacts. I think a few may have even caught the incurable "Contest Fever." Our scores surely reflect some excellent contest operating skills. So, how did we do? The chart below shows how we have improved over the years. Note that we operated QRP in 2012 and 2013 and QRO, 100 Watts, in 2014 explaining some of the difference in the QSO count between 2013 and 2014 as QRP has a 5X multiplier for QSOs.

#### QSO Count by Mode and Year

QSOs	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
CW	60	257	235	417	307	378	670
SSB	123	80	174	90	119	158	814
Digital	15	8	0	41	149	162	161
VHF	53	32	49	70	17	25	24
Total	251	377	458	618	592	723	1669
Score						7355	5002

The total score is not only based on QSOs but also includes Bonus Points for several activities and accomplishments.

Category	Bonus Points
100% Emergency Power	300
Media Publicity	100
Information Booth	100
NTS Message to ARRL SW/SEC	100
Copy W1AW Filed Day Message	100
Formal NTS messages handled = 10	100
Satellite QSO completed	100
Natural Power QSOs completed	100
Youth Participation, 3 Participants	40
Submit Score via Web	50
Educational Activity	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,190</b>

Our score this year places us in the top 15% and 5<sup>th</sup> in New England in last year's scoring for 3A. We'll have to wait for the scores to be released by ARRL to see how we actually rank this year.

#### QSOs by Band 2014

80	40	20	15	10	6*	2*	Satellite
346	500	467	313	19	23	1	1



Figure 5-W1LKS & W1BP making Digital Qs

The HF bands as well as the weather were good to us. The 15M opening mid-morning on Sunday was a great help to our QSO count while the old FD workhorses 80, 40, & 20 delivered their usual good results.

I credit the big jump in SSB QSOs this year with the following: site separation from the CW and Digital Stations so all could take advantage of band openings, a large number of excellent operators, the 2-element tri-band wire beam and running 100 watts.

A highlight was Bob – KB1SWZ's contact with the International Space Station. His neat Satellite set-up was used by one of our younger members, Peter - KC1BGT, to get a personal contact with ISS. His excitement was contagious! It also impressed many of our guests who were visiting us on Sunday. And, speaking of guests, we had three ops under age 15 make a QSO on SSB, Hyatt, Mark- K1MGY's son, Daniel, my Grandson, and Henry Gordon Ozydin, the son of friends of mine. His mother sent me an email saying she could see a radio tower in the in their future!



Figure 6-KB1SWZ working the ISS generated much interest

### Kudos and Suggestions

Below is a compilation of the feedback and comments I requested on what we did well and what we can do better next year.

- On SSB Site 200'+ from the CW/Digital Site and Antennas
- Simultaneous SSB and CW/Digital operation on the same band with no interference – let's do it again.
- Plenty of room at the SSB Site for wire antennas
- Antennas worked well after we repaired the “new” G5RV
- Need to operate with headsets next year, one for op and one for logger.
- Kibitz tent was too close to operations

Mark antenna ropes tied to the trees with yellow tape so we can find them to take the antennas down!

- Split Sites next year, if we can get the CRGC again
- Place Digital at the Trap Range for same band ops with CW and SSB.
- Need a Digital rig with good receiver to keep the CW signals out of the Digital receiver and a clean transmitter to avoid interfering with the co-located VHF station.

### General Comments:

- 72 sign-ins from 36 PART members and 36 guests, Total of 56 hams including members and guests.
- Guests commented on the value of the signs placed along the road.
- SSB & CW operated continuously for 24 hours and Digital came close.
- Great PR – Thank to Lela and Mark we had articles in multiple outlets including the Globe! Great information table and display.
- The wire beams worked well – 40M and the two tri-band wire beams. We will need another tri-bander and G5RV if we split Digital next year.
- We worked perches for sustained periods on both CW & SSB!
- Hooray for the ISS contact!
- The Traffic team did a great job finding and repairing a bad feed line and getting the messages through.
- Food team did an outstanding job with their extended duties.
- Honda generators worked flawlessly with no detectable RF noise.

- Charlie – K1PUB remembered to bring a good vacuum cleaner and vacuumed up after tear down.
- Use K3s everywhere next year as it has an excellent receiver for crowded bands and nearby RF.
- WiFi distribution didn't work well. Something to do better next year.

### **FD committees and chairs**

- Infrastructure Committees
- Finance and Signs: Alan-W1AHM. We spent \$1189.98 mostly on food.
- PR and Info Table: Lela – KC1ACV and Mark – K1MGY.
- Food: Charlie-W1ADL, Rick- W1RAG and Lela – KC1ACV
- Site: Joe – KB1SSA with help from Dale – KB1ZKD, Lawton – KG1M and Bob KB1SWZ
- Safety: Brian – W1BP who gave us excellent guidelines and helped us safely move from solar to generator operation.
- Score Compilation and Submission: Andy – KB1OIQ
- Traffic/Message Origination: Jon-N1ILZ, Anita – AB1QB, Rich – N1HY and Steve – N1BDA.
- Tool Box Talks: Bill – AA1O, Alan – W1CCE, Bob – W1IS, Steve – WA1KBE, and Andy – KB1OIQ
- WiFi Repeater: Alan – W1CCE and Dave KB1EDE. Good start.

### **Operations Committees**

- SSB: Andy – KB1OIQ
- CW: Bill – AA1O, Alan – W1CCE, Bob – W1IS, Charlie – K1PUB
- Digital : Steve – WA1KBE and Rich – AB1HD
- VHF: Allison – KB1GMX
- Satellite: Bob –KB1SWZ
- Logging SW – Although this was initially set up as a committee, each station set up their own SW.
- HF Antennas: Bob – W1IS, Steve – N1BDA, Alan W1CCE, Allison – KB1GMX
- Generators and Power Distribution & Operation: Steve – WA1KBE, Johan – K1ARG, Mark – K1MGY and Andy – KB1OIQ, Lyman –W1LKS and Brian – W1BP.
- Operations Coordinators: Bill-K1NS and Bob W1IS. Split site made this easier. Using a mobile rig to check bands worked well.
- Ambassadors: Andy – KB1OIQ, Joe – KB1SSA and Steve – N1BDA. Many others jumped in and did a great job too.
- Elmers: Dave – KB1EDE, Al – W1CCE and Charlie – K1PUB. We had so many mentors step up we probably don't need to name them next year.

Thanks to all who participated we were set-up and on the air before noon on Saturday and we tore down and left the site by 1600 Sunday. With outstanding support and teamwork we beat the aggressive schedule I put together, made a record number of QSOs, racked up 1190 bonus points, ate great meals together, and had a great time. FUN, FOOD & FRIENDSHIP!

My Photos from FD can be seen at: <https://www.icloud.com/photostream/#A35CmvASGA8ptC>

## Emergency Radio

### Westford's Emergency Advisory Radio System on the Air

- By Terry Stader-KA8SCP

A couple months ago, I sent out an email announcing the FCC's coordination of the frequency to be used in Westford for an AM broadcast transmitter to be used to send information to the residents ... here it is again

<http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/license.jsp?licKey=3533035> .

The Westford Eagle has a write up about this effort in this past week's edition:

<http://westford.wickedlocal.com/article/20140808/NEWS/140807148> (printer ready, text only version at

<http://westford.wickedlocal.com/article/20140808/NEWS/140807148?template=printart>)



Other stations like this one around the country can be found at

<http://www.theradiosource.com/resources/stations-alert.htm>

#### MASSACHUSETTS

- Bedford, City of - 1640 kHz (fixed ALERT AM station)
- Hull, Town of - 1680 kHz (fixed ALERT AM station)
- Natick, City of - 1630 kHz (fixed ALERT AM station; Flashing ALERT Sign)
- Peabody, City of - 1640 kHz (fixed ALERT AM station)
- Westford, Town of - 1630 kHz (fixed ALERT AM station)
- Worcester Public Health, County of - 1610 & 1670 kHz (8 portable/fixed RadioSTAT stations)

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE

- Derry, Town of - 1610 kHz (3 fixed ALERT AM stations)

Many state DOTs, parks, recreational facilities as well as the federal government use these low power stations to announce many things... like airport traffic instructions, highway construction or traffic delays.

The FCC provides a very nice search tool for these TIS (Traveler's Information Service) Stations at <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/travelers-information-stations-search>

When these stations first came on the air.... it used to be a popular "ut" (pronounced yoot, as in Utility) search for AM DXers! Growing up in the midwest., it was always fun because we could hear the east coast without too much of a problem, but those west coast stations were tough!

If you get a chance... maybe you can take a listen and tell me if you hear the Westford 1630 KHz radio station where you live? I'll use your call sign data as recorded with the FCC as the reception location unless you tell me otherwise.

Send your reports to me directly, NOT to the PART list, [ka8scp@arrl.net](mailto:ka8scp@arrl.net) if you would please.





## Icom announce D-STAR QSO Party for 2014

Icom has announced information for the **2014 D-STAR QSO** Party, an annual contest that promotes the Amateur (Ham) radio hobby around the world through D-STAR (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio)



## USS Iowa Celebrates the End of WWII

Japan surrendered ending WWII on AUGUST 14. VJ Day, the date the actual surrender documents were signed is SEPTEMBER 2. In recognition of THESE TWO DATES in history the Battleship Iowa will be on the air from 1600 to 2300 on EACH DATE. Look for us near 28361, 24961, 21361, 18161, 21261 or 7261.

We generally start with 10 meters depending on conditions and work our way down. NI6BB will also be on throughout the year(s) as operators become available. Specific QSL instructions are on QRZ.com.

Starting Date: 08/14/14

Ending Date: 09/02/14

## Weather Updates

### Hurricane Benchmarks

- By Steve Telsey-N1BDA

It's hurricane season and it is helpful to be aware of several recognized benchmarks. Remember, though, that these are not cast in stone and are points of reference based upon historical information. There have been and will be exceptions.

MEMA defines the first benchmark as south of 25N or east of 70W and represents Readiness Level 1. A storm in this area bears watching.

When a tropical storm or hurricane is in the Caribbean, you should receive a message letting you know about the storm. At this point you should be monitoring the storm via the National Hurricane Center

(<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>) and/or other sites. Although many sites contain projections about strength and path, remember that these are best estimates and the projected path is really a cone whose "error" or diameter increases with time. Remember also that although the majority of storms coming up the east coast curve eastward, some do not. Sandy is a case in point. One of the items on your checklist when a storm is in the Caribbean is to update your information in the ARES database ([https://secure.ema.arrrl.org/qilan/ares/EMA/ARES\\_member\\_login](https://secure.ema.arrrl.org/qilan/ares/EMA/ARES_member_login)). Especially important are your email address, phone number(s), and equipment.

The second benchmark is north of 25N and west of 70 W and represents a point of increased monitoring and potential landfall in New England within 36-48 hours. MEMA defines Readiness Level 2 to be north of 25N and west of 72W. Again, many meteorologists recommend using north of 30N and west of 75W, east of Jacksonville. Several meteorologists prefer to use 75W. This is a point east of



Eleuthera in the Turks and Caicos. Generally, storms that are east of this point very rarely hit the US. However, you should maintain a close watch on any storm south of 25N and west of 75W.

Besides monitoring the situation, you should begin preparations you and your family may need to make. If some preparations will take significant time, start making them. Remember that storms tend to increase in forward speed as they head north and can be moving at 50 knots by the time they reach New England. Also, the rain shield and increasing winds can be 12 hours or more ahead of the storm center.

MEMA defines Readiness Level 3 to be north of 35N and west of 72W, east of Cape Hatteras (35.25N, 75.5 W). Potential landfall in New England is within 36 hours, often less. Virtually all storms that hit this benchmark make landfall in the US.

The distance from Cape Hatteras to Boston is approximately 500 miles and storms rapidly increase their forward speed. At an average 30 mph, that equates to landfall in about 16 hours. Remember, though, that the wind and rain shields are often hundreds of miles in advance of the center. What this means is that all your personal and family preparations should be complete, furniture indoors, equipment tested, car tanks filled, hurricane net (14.300 MHz or EchoLink) and repeaters monitored.

Here are some representative tracks. Note that not all storms curve northeastward.

Arthur, 2014: <http://www.accuweather.com/en/hurricane/tracker>

Bertha, 2014: <http://www.accuweather.com/en/hurricane/tracker>

Bertha, 1996:

<http://www.wunderground.com/hurricane/atlantic/1996/Major-Hurricane-Bertha>

Bob, 1991:

<http://www.wunderground.com/hurricane/atlantic/1991/Major-Hurricane-Bob>

Carol, 1954:

<http://www.wunderground.com/hurricane/atlantic/1954/Hurricane-Carol>

Charley, 2004:

<http://www.wunderground.com/hurricane/atlantic/2004/Major-Hurricane-Charley>

Donna, 1960:

<http://www.wunderground.com/hurricane/atlantic/1960/Major-Hurricane-Donna>

Hazel, 1954:

<http://www.wunderground.com/hurricane/atlantic/1954/Major-Hurricane-Hazel>

Sandy, 2012:

<http://www.wunderground.com/hurricane/atlantic/2012/Major-Hurricane-Sandy>

## Amateur Radio News



From eHam.net News:

### **Making Contact In the 'Olympics' of Ham Radio:**

by onlyagame.wbur.org on August 10, 2014

Two by two, competitors representing 38 countries were called to the stage at the World Radiosport Team Championship, held last month in Westborough, Massachusetts. They're not identified by their names, which nobody knows anyway, but by their call signs. Clutching manila envelopes crammed with maps and instructions, the teams rushed out of the hotel banquet room. They're eager to set up for what they describe as the "Olympics of ham radio." Organizers had already chosen the sites and raised the antennas. "It's almost like we set the road course and now they're bringing their cars and drivers and now they see what they can do," said Randy Thompson, K5ZD, the co-chair of WRTC 2014. Teams would spend the rest of the day testing their equipment. The next morning at 8 a.m. sharp, they'd boot up their systems and begin broadcasting. For 24 hours, competitors tried to contact as many different people in as many different countries as possible. "There is no defense or offense in this particular case," Thompson said. "You just make as big a score as you can and hope you're better than everyone else."

### **Ham Antennas Can Be Taller In Poway:**

by utsandiego.com on August 10, 2014

POWAY -- Amateur radio antennas in Poway will no longer be limited to 35 feet in height under new rules approved by the City Council this week. For years ham radio operators in Poway had complained about the height restrictions which they say hindered their ability to communicate effectively with the outside world. The restrictions were designed to appease homeowners worried about taller antennas being unsightly and possibly bringing down property values in neighborhoods. But various court rulings across the country and Federal Communication commission rulings led Poway's city attorney last year to conclude that Poway must make "reasonable accommodations" for amateur radio operators and installations.

### **Club Makes Contact with International Space Station During Field Day:**

by dnews.com on August 9, 2014

The Charles County Amateur Radio Club meets 7 p.m. the first Friday of each month at the Charles County Rescue Squad, 2 Calvert St., La Plata. The club will hold a ham license exams 9:30 a.m. Sept. 6 at Waldorf West library, 10405 O'Donnell Place. To register, go to [www.k3smd.org](http://www.k3smd.org) and click on the "license exam" tab. For more information about the club, go to [www.k3smd.org](http://www.k3smd.org). Lee Flick likes to talk through satellites. As a member of the Charles County Amateur Radio Club, Flick, call sign N3YWZ, came prepared to do that during Field Day on June 28 and 29 -- a 24-hour nationwide drill sponsored by the American Radio Relay League. While he was monitoring his satellite tracking station, he saw that the International Space Station was far down range. He had the equipment set up, and there were people milling about. Flick figured he could give a quick demonstration. "Let me give it a try," Flick said, recalling the day. "A lot of people want to see how this stuff works." He pointed out "the quality of their signal is getting stronger," and "this is how you call them." He switched on the microphone and said, "November Alpha 1 Sierra Sierra," using the ISS call sign NA1SS. "And lo and behold they came back to me, [clear as] if they were sitting right next door to us," Flick said. They had made contact with astronaut Alex Wiseman who called back, "Greetings from the International Space Station."

### **Propagation Forecast Bulletin #32 de K7RA:**

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on August 8, 2014

We saw rising solar activity over the past week, with average daily sunspot number increasing from 107.7 to 136.7. Average daily solar flux went from 125 for the previous seven days to 149.6 for the current period, July 31 through August 6. Thursday, August 7 saw the sunspot number increase to 158 with solar flux at 136.

### **ARNewsline Report 1930 -- August 8 2014:**

by Bill Pasternak (WA6ITF) on August 8, 2014

The following is a QST. Targeted shortwave broadcasting may soon come to an end in the United States; the ARRL issues an update on the Amateur Radio Parity Act; a ham radio floater balloon completes a trip around the world; students get introduced to amateur radio in India and ham radio will again celebrate Hollywood this September. Find out the details are on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1930 coming your way right now.

### **Sap Interferes With Cell Reception:**

by designnews.com on August 8, 2014

When I put a metal roof on my house, the cellphone reception went from marginal to nearly nonexistent, so I bought a cellphone booster. My house is in a low area surrounded by trees. The system recommended by the manufacturer had an omnidirectional antenna. The installation instructions emphasized the importance of locating the outside antenna far from the inside antenna, so I put the antenna on the far end of the garage. The system ended up with 130 feet of co-ax from the outside antenna to the amplifier. The inside reception was now a little bit better than the outside reception, but still marginal. The location was well within the reception area on the Verizon coverage map. When I called Verizon customer service they said that I was in a marginal reception area. So I went to the Verizon store. The salesman said that my make and model phone was not the best for reception in weak areas so I bought one of the phones he recommended. Reception was slightly better, but still marginal. I called the cellphone booster company and got nowhere. Then winter came and reception improved slightly. At about that time, a co-worker got his amateur radio license, specializing in the 900 MHz band. That band is right next to one of the cellphone frequency bands, so I started picking his brain, after which another 900 MHz ham operator joined in. The signal loss in the 130 feet of co-ax was greater than the antenna gain. Based on their advice, I bought a directional antenna and mounted it closer to the amplifier. The new cable run was only 30 feet. They introduced me to the OpenSignal app, from which I found the direction to the nearest tower.

### **Next Step Toward Predicting Sun's Cycles:**

by ucar.edu on August 8, 2014

A leading goal of solar scientists is to improve predictions of the Sun's approximately 11-year cycle. The research is motivated in part by the costs of solar storms that eject massive clouds of charged plasma particles toward Earth, especially during and following peaks in the cycle. Severe solar weather can knock satellites and power grids offline and disrupt communications and navigational systems. A new study, led by scientists at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in collaboration with the Nordic Institute for Theoretical Physics (NORDITA), shows how solar predictions can borrow from weather forecasting techniques in order to predict the timing and extent of the solar cycle. For the better part of a decade, solar scientists have hypothesized that the solar cycle and related solar storms are largely influenced by a mysterious current of plasma, or electrified gas, that flows from the Sun's lower latitudes toward its poles. In 2006, a team of researchers led by NCAR scientist Mausumi Dikpati drew on their theory of solar cycle evolution, including this meridional circulation, to predict that the coming solar cycle would be delayed but stronger than average, producing a high number of sunspots and solar storms. Although the cycle did get off to a late start, it has been unusually weak.

### **DX News -- ARRL DX Bulletin #32:**

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on August 7, 2014

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by QRZ DX, 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 August 7, 2014

Just Ahead In Radiosport:

### **Early Efforts of 'The Amateur Radio Parity Act' H.R. 4969 Bearing Fruit:**

by The ARRL Letter on August 7, 2014

Initial efforts to secure additional co-sponsors for "The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014" -- H.R. 4969 -- are starting to produce results. As of August 5, 17 co-sponsors had signed onto the bill, which was introduced in the US House of Representatives with bipartisan support in late June. Additional co-sponsors are anticipated. H.R. 4969 would call on the FCC to apply the "reasonable accommodation" three-part test of the PRB-1 federal pre-emption policy to private land-use restrictions regarding antennas.

### **ARRL Board Names Award Winners, Honorees:**

by The ARRL Letter on August 7, 2014

The Board named award winners and honorees during its July 21-22 meeting in Hartford, Connecticut.

### **ARRL Board Lauds 'Unforgettable Milestone,' Formalizes Lotw Policy:**

by The ARRL Letter on August 7, 2014

The ARRL Board of Directors dealt with a variety of matters when it met in Hartford, Connecticut, on July 21 and 22. ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, chaired the session. Reflecting the afterglow of the ARRL National Centennial Convention that concluded a couple of days earlier, the Board commended and thanked the ARRL staff and Convention volunteers for "their devotion and service, contributing to a truly memorable celebration of this unforgettable milestone in the life of the ARRL." The resolution took note of the "countless" hours staffers spent, in addition to their routine responsibilities, preparing for and running the convention. The Board also cited the essential role of "many dedicated volunteers" before, during and after the convention.

### **ARRL RTTY Rookie Roundup Not Just For Newbies:**

by The ARRL Letter on August 7, 2014

The ARRL Rookie Roundup returns to RTTY Sunday, August 17, 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC. This event provides a unique opportunity for new operators (licensed 3 years or fewer) to gain RTTY contesting skills. Rookie Roundup events take place three times a year: SSB in April, RTTY in August, and CW in December.

### **SKYWARN Volunteers Muster as Severe WX, Tornado Hit Southern New England:**

by The ARRL Letter on August 7, 2014

When severe weather erupted in Southern New England on July 27 and 28, SKYWARN volunteers went on alert to help forecasters track conditions and, afterward, to assist authorities with assessing damage. A super-cell storm system organized over northern Norfolk County, Massachusetts, on the morning of July 28 and raced through



portions of northeastern Massachusetts, causing wind damage in sections of Needham, SKYWARN Coordinator and ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator Rob Macedo, KD1CY, reported.

### [W1AW Centennial Operations Relocate on August 13 \(UTC\):](#)

by The ARRL Letter on August 7, 2014

The ARRL Centennial W1AW WAS operations taking place throughout 2014 from each of the 50 states are now in Vermont (W1AW/1) and New Jersey (W1AW/2). They will relocate at 0000 UTC on Wednesday, August 13 (the evening of August 12 in US time zones), to Oklahoma (W1AW/5). Only one state will be active during the week of August 13-19.



Latest Amateur Radio News from around the world

URL: <http://www.southgatearc.org>

### [D-STAR Ham Radio Satellite Repeater Test](#)

A test of the D-STAR Parrot Repeater on the TabletSat-Aurora satellite is expected to take place during Monday, August 11 on 437.050 MHz (+/- 10 kHz Doppler shift)

### [When All Else Fails - Amateur Radio Continues](#)

What was set to be a standard afternoon's amateur radio operating at Chelmsford-based Sandford Mill Museum, took an unexpected turn courtesy of the British weather

### [SOTABeams release the Adventure Tuner](#)

Portable specialist SOTABeams has developed an antenna tuner kit. The Adventure Tuner is designed to be an easy-to-make construction project that will appeal to the amateur who enjoys the challenge and satisfaction of making their own equipment

### [ISEE-3 Presentation video now available](#)

Mario Lorenz DL5MLO and Achim Vollhardt DH2VA from AMSAT-DL Bochum gave a presentation on the ISEE-3 (ICE) spacecraft to the AMSAT-UK International Space Colloquium in Guildford on July 26, 2014

### [Ham radio users light up the airwaves at Loop Head](#)

A group of ham radio operators will wind back the clock at Loop Head Lighthouse this weekend 16th - 17th August when they attempt to communicate via radio and Morse code with hundreds of radio clubs throughout the world

### [Punta de Arinaga Lighthouse on the air for ILLW](#)

On 16 and 17 August, URE Las Palmas i Grupo DX Gran Canaria will be, as every year, on International Lighthouse Weekend under the callsign AO8LH from Punta de Arinaga Lighthouse on all HF bands (CW, SSB and RTTY)

### [DXCC Country/Entity Report](#)

According to the Amateur Radio Cluster Network for the week of Sunday, 3rd-August, through Sunday, 10th-August there were 221 countries active

## [IOTA news from OPDX](#)

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Weekly IOTA News - compiled by Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW, editor of the Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin

## [Russian HF radar in ham radio 20m band](#)

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The IARU Monitoring System reports on interference to the amateur radio 14 MHz band from the new Russian HF Over The Horizon Radar (OTHR) Container network

## [Radio ham responds to HR 4969 opponent](#)

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In the Las Vegas Review-Journal, radio amateur William Smith W8WS responded to HR 4969 opponent Barbara Holland, a property manager, broker and association manager

## [ICQPodcast](#)

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Series Seven Episode Sixteen of the ICQ Amateur / Ham Radio Podcast - Youngsters on the Air event and GA14CG has been released

## [History This Week](#)

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A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW

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## **Traffic Handling and Training Symposium**

New Hampshire Section Manager Pete Stohrer K1PJS has given permission to post the following. Note that the symposium is open to all, and I encourage Massachusetts hams to sign up. I plan to be there along with N1OTC and we hope to see some of you folks there too, whether you are new to traffic handling, interested in trying a new mode (ie CW or digital), or looking for a refresher. 73, Marcia KW1U

### **Attention Traffic Handlers and interested Amateurs**

A Traffic Handling and Training Symposium is scheduled in Concord (NH) for August 30th from 9A until 1p, the meeting location will be at Concord Bible Fellowship, 25 Rockingham St.

The meeting will discuss the basics of traffic handling, radiogram structure, CW and voice traffic net protocols, the National Traffic System (NTS) and the National Traffic System Digital (NTSD).

Traffic Handling is a skill all Amateurs should be familiar with. During emergencies you may be called to help pass messages when the regular communication infrastructure is down.

The ARRL had its formation around Traffic Handling and it is a skill as much needed today as then.

Lunch will be provided. The symposium is open to all. If you would like to attend send an email to [peter@k1pjs.com](mailto:peter@k1pjs.com)

### K1MAN Gone; New Ham Takes Lead On 14.313

- By WBORUR, on the scene

**VILLAGE HIGHLANDS, VT** – In the wake of the Federal Communications Commission's actions to invoke the "Red Light Rule" and [cancel the license and application for renewal of K1MAN](#), a rural West Cheshire County man has been tapped to take his place on the HF airwaves.

Richmond Smithpeters, amateur radio operator K1BOY, says he will take a few days off of work to get ready for the new gig.

"Right now, I'm developing a list of topics which will provide a good platform to launch my three-hour diatribes," says the mild-mannered elementary school teacher.

Combing his thinning dark brown hair and adjusting his horn-rimmed glasses, the teacher – who professes that besides ham radio "...cheese-making is another of my favorite pastimes" – says he'll very likely start with random QRMing on 14.313 MHz.

"It seems to be the logical first step. There's so much clatter on that frequency. I'll be able to 'dip a toe' in the water and if I don't get it right the first time, surely no one will notice and I won't be embarrassed," he shrugs.

In the coming weeks, he says he'll progress into controversial broadcasts about patriotism, immigration, one-world conspiracies and the difference between Roquefort and bleu cheeses.

If you have a topic suggestion for an upcoming K1BOY broadcast, simply send an email to his QRZ address.



### Radio Shack Offers Bold New Product Line

- By WBORUR, on the scene

**FT. WORTH, Texas** – In a move that has Wall Street analysts simultaneously scratching their heads in confusion while also applauding the bold steps taken to reinvigorate one of the country's most recognized consumer electronics brands, Radio Shack has announced they will carry a new product line of fried chicken.

Radio Shack CEO Joey Magna Carta says the company has been "foolin' around" with The Shack product assortment for several decades, but they got it "just right" this time.

"I'll admit it," Magna Carta explained to reporters at a recent news conference. "We didn't quite understand the hobbyist market when we got out of the business of DIY kits and components. We didn't understand the cell phone market when we put all our eggs in that basket. We got on the 'internet routers, cat 5 cables and Wi-Fi train' a bit late. And truthfully, we really screwed up when we started charging for catalogs. But if there's one thing that Radio Shack is going to be known for in the future, IT'S FRIED CHICKEN."

Magna Carta says customer feedback – particularly from the ham radio community – indicates most, if not all hams, eat fried chicken on a semi-regular basis.

He adds that several celebrity chefs have signed on to create "new and exciting" fried chicken recipes for the perennially beleaguered electronics chain.

"We are still working on details of exactly how to merchandise this new line," says the CEO. "For now, our 10 test markets are placing it in drawers between the radio controlled spiders and the iPhone 3G protective cases."

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

NOTE: You can LISTEN ONLY to this repeater audio by linking to this URL:

<http://www.radioreference.com/apps/audio/?feedId=10933> (effective 2/2012)

**442.450 D-Star Nets – There are a number of nets that are regularly scheduled.**

- Sunday 8:00 PM Ozark Mtn D-STAR Net – Reflector 001C
- Tuesday 8:00 PM New England Amateur D-STAR Net – Reflector 010C
- Friday 8:00 PM CanNet D-Star Net – XRF021B

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

## Monthly PART Breakfast

Don't forget the monthly PART breakfast the 1st Saturday of each month at the Westford Regency Inn at 8 AM. The full hot & cold buffet breakfast costs about \$15 (includes tip) per person, a cheaper, lighter fare is available for adults and children. **NOTE: PLEASE let the folks who are settling the bill with the staff know whether you had a full or continental breakfast!**

## Monthly Breakfast Pricing

The full breakfast is  $\$11.95 + 18\% + 6.25\% = \$15.00$  (rounded up slightly). This price has recently changed. Here is the math for completeness and full disclosure.

*Continental breakfast: \$9.00 (same price)*

*Full breakfast: \$15.00 (new price)*

*Kid's breakfast: \$8.00*



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Robert Schmeichel  
2011



Copyright WB1GOF,  
Robert Schmeichel  
2013



## Repeater Information

### Repeater Interference

The 146.955 repeater continues to see interference to existing conversations as well as at random quiet times throughout the day and night. The repeater interference committee needs your help in collecting data. If you hear any type of interference, please report the following info to **"repeater"** at **"wb1gof.org"**:



- Time: When did the event happen?
- Observing location: Where were you? Were you mobile?
- Frequency: Input only (146.355 MHz)
- What you heard: Voices, tones, kerchunking or whatever.
- Signal strength: Either by ear (noisy, quiet or full quiet) or S meter
- Radio: To get an idea of the reporter's radio situation.

\* Most important - what direction: How did you determine direction? This is the most essential piece of information. Even if it's an estimate as in "Roughly east" or "from the Northeast" it's useful. NEVER EVER reply or direct any thing to the sick person causing the interference. Because some of us have answered this person, he knows we are aware of him and that is what keeps him doing it. Also since you are communicating with a non IDing station you are operating just as illegally as he is. YOU ARE BROADCASTING! NEVER TALK ABOUT INTERFERENCE on air. NEVER

*If you are interested in assisting in helping us identify the sources of interference, contact Terry-KA8SCP.*

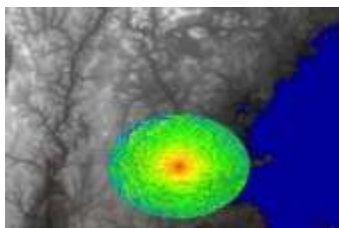
### EmComm events and repeater use

Most everyone knows that the 146.955 repeater is used during times of emergency situations, drills and exercises. Skywarn and the monthly EmComm drills are the normal events.

So what does this mean to those that are just looking for regular QSOs with other users? It means that if you are in a regular QSO and there is a significant weather situation that has been getting press/air-time lately, you can expect that if severe weather develops in our area, the folks from Taunton-WX1BOX may interrupt a QSO and ask anyone on frequency what may be happening weather wise. The BOX operator will probably ask for specific information, hail, wind damage, property damage from lightning or wind, etc. Please give him the information he needs or tell him that you've not heard of any such activity. You don't need to tell him it is sunny in Nashua!

There may come a time when an unexpected emergency situation arises. These will significant events that may affect life and property. This is where EmComm activity may step in. Usually an NCS will interrupt a QSO and announce the situation and ask for a QSO to cease or to be "aware" of the possibility of priority calls/traffic. Please make sure you leave breaks between transmissions so stations with traffic can get in between QSOs. If there is enough traffic, it may be necessary for your existing/interrupted QSO QSY to another frequency. You should use your best judgment or check with the NCS on what he feels is best.

If you have any questions, please feel free to correspond with either Hugh-N1QGE (Westford EmComm/Skywarn NCS) or Terry-KA8SCP (MEMA Region 1 Communications Officer and Skywarn NCS) . They will be more than happy to talk about these programs with you.



**R**epeater info is now available on the PART [website](#). Check out the links to the summit information as well as coverage and plot plans maps for the WB1GOF repeaters. Complete info on the site can be found at this [URL](#).

## PART Gear

The PART Quartermaster has lots of great PART-ware for sale including mugs and shirts. You can get information how you can obtain your PART-ware at the monthly club meetings.

Club members are also encouraged to obtain an official PART badge from [The Sign Man](http://thesignman.com/clubs/part.html) (<http://thesignman.com/clubs/part.html>) PLEASE NOTE: Please check with Hugh Maguire-N1QGE, [hulin127@verizon.net](mailto:hulin127@verizon.net), if you need a badge.



## EmComm

**Emergency Communications** – The WB1GOF 146.955 repeater is used on the first Monday of every month (except federal/state holidays) for an EmComm Net starting at 1930 local time. If you are interested in being part of the local emergency communications team in your community, feel free to contact any of the following folks:

Terry Stader – KA8SCP, MEMA Region 1 Communications Officer & Town of Westford

Bill Ohm – W1OHM, for the Town of Chelmsford

Darrel Mallory – K1EJ, North Middlesex ARES

- We need radio operators that can pass messages on to the local emergency management directors in several towns in northern Middlesex County.

**Skywarn** - The WB1GOF 146.955 repeater is also used for reporting significant weather events to the National Weather Service from our local spotters. We expect to have a local Skywarn training class in 2010, more information as it becomes available. You can provide valuable information even if you have not attended one of the training sessions. Listen to the Skywarn Net Control Station for reporting criteria, when you have information that qualifies, please advise him with your report.

**Situational Awareness** – Recently, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency has asked the Amateur Radio community to provide situational awareness and disaster intelligence information within your local community via EmComm nets and/or Skywarn stations. Significant events such as widespread power outages can be reported and by agencies such as MEMA to evaluate the scope of a blackout for example. Initially, you should try and contact the EmComm Net Control Stations on the Westford 146.955 repeater to pass this information. More on this new program will be forthcoming.

**PART Sunday Night Net** – The PART Net each Sunday night is an IMPORTANT part of our regional EmComm function. With each station that checks in from the surrounding communities, we test our ability to communicate vital information to the ham radio community. Sure we announce club info but we can also communicate regional disaster news and serve as a “hub” for news of situations in our communities. The repeater is on a generator, so even if we loose power in the region, an HT with a supply of batteries will reconnect you to other local hams.



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This month's editor: Terry Stader – KA8SCP

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Our forum is: <http://wb1gof.net/forums/>

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