



PARTicles



The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

Celebrating 40 years of public service 1975-2015

President's Column

- Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)

The colder weather is upon us, and I hope you finished your fall antenna projects. Dealing with the trees is much easier once the leaves are gone. I had the pleasure of helping Steve (W1KBE) erect a new wire antenna on a recent breezy morning after the monthly club breakfast. His first QSO was with a ham in Japan. I guess it works!

The PART Christmas/Holiday Party is coming up soon! Tuesday, December 20th, that's the date! The Yangtze River Restaurant in Littleton, that's the place! The START time is 6:00 PM. If you are attending, be very sure to send an email to Hugh (N1QGE) to make your reservation, as there are a finite number of chairs. Also, please note the recent email from Bill (K1NS) with the rules for the Yankee Swap that will take place on the same evening. There will not be a normal club meeting in December since the party takes its place.

For you CW fans, you might be interested in an upcoming operating event. The SKCC holds its annual K3Y event, where hams try to contact K3Y/0 through K3Y/9, and several similar DX stations as well. This year, as in the past, I will be one of the K3Y/1 operators. One need not be an SKCC member to participate. For more details:

<http://www.skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y.php>

If a month long event is too much for you, perhaps you'd consider a one day

event: <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>

The idea of a kit building event this winter is still being actively pursued. While there are no final plans as yet, please stay tuned for more information.

I just discovered that January 2017 will be my 10 year anniversary as an amateur radio licensee. Wow...time flies! I'll have more to say about that at our January PART meeting, and perhaps Particles as well.

I've always designed my own QSL cards, and printed them on my own printer. They were OK, I guess, but I finally reached a point where I wanted to get some cards printed professionally. I obsessed for weeks about what to put on the card, and finally, it hit me! I sent my design ideas to Randy (KB3IFH), who cleaned up the design, and printed the cards for me. I couldn't be more pleased with the result! My first card was mailed to Rob (KB1VUU). He is learning CW and I was pleased to be his 4th CW contact. We enjoyed a 20 minute QSO, and he sends CW very well. Way to go, Rob!

For folks who would like to talk to Santa, there are several elves who help Santa get on the air at various times between now and Christmas. Listen for OF9X and the other "helper" stations, but remember, Santa won't talk to naughty hams, so I hope you've been nice this year!

Have a lot of fun, and 73!

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 18-October '16 & 14-November '16 (As of 15-November '16)

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	\$ 3,285.43	\$ 4,529.95	\$ 7,815.38
Income	\$ 70.00	\$ 54.26	\$ 124.26
Expenses	\$ (55.71)	\$ 0.00	\$ (55.71)
Net	\$ 14.29	\$ 54.26	\$ 68.55
New Balance	\$ 3,299.72	\$ 4,548.21	\$ 7,883.93

PART 2016 Membership as of 1-December '16

Individuals (= New for 2016 + Renew for 2016)			Households (= New for 2016 + Renew for 2016)		
Full (\$25)	48	(=7 + 41)	49	(= 7 + 41)	
Senior (\$15)	45	(=3 + 42)	45	(= 3 + 42)	
Family (\$30)	19	(=1 + 18)	8	(= 0 + 8)	
Student (\$15)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(= 0 + 0)	
Associate (\$10)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(= 0 + 0)	
Grand Total	112	(= 11 + 101)	101	(= 10 + 91)	

ARRL members: 103 / 92%

(Including ARRL Life members: 13)

NOTE: No lines changed since, 6-Nov '16

##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

December 2016

- *Holiday Dinner @ 6:00 -9:00 p.m. LOCATION: Yangtze River, 584 King St., Littleton, MA 01460*

Jan 7th 2017

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

Jan 17th 2017

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

Feb 4th 2017

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

Feb 21st 2017

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

Mar 4th 2017

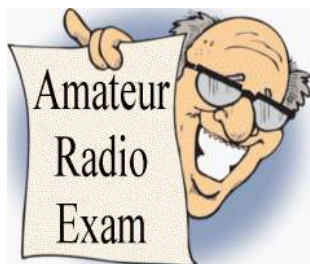
- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$15/\$9; kids: \$8 – see note below)

Mar 21st 2017

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

Monthly PART Meetings and Social Events

- Every Sunday, 8 PM – PART Net on 146.955 repeater, 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.borboro.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.fcrc.org/news.htm
Worcester MA	WPI ACM	http://acm.wpi.edu/swapmeet/



New England Area Ham/Electronic Fleas:

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

2017

21 Jan Whitman MA WARC 9AM@KoC Rt18 Chris 781 523 5010 F+
4 Feb Springfield VT CVFMA @VFW @8 B/Free \$5/T Dave K1ZS 603 446 7312 +
18 Feb Marlboro MA AARC \$5@9@MidSchool \$20/T Tim KA1OS 508 919 6136 F+
25 Feb Chocorua NH WMARC @Runnels Hall Greg KB1EZJ 603 759 6671 A+
26 Feb Hicksville NY LIMARC @LevitHall Richard 516 694 4937 A+
5 Mar Nashua NH NEARC RadioXLVIII antique \$10@8@ Marriott 603 772 7516 F+
11 Mar Chicopee MA MtTomARA @Castle \$5@8:30 S@6:30 Brian KC1BDF 860 478 6790 F+
31 Mar Lewiston ME AARC ME Conv @Ramada @8 Ivan N1OXA 207 784 0350 W
8 Ap Newton MA PHSNE Photographica Sat Only @AmLegion @9A John 781 592 2553 +
8 Ap Hampton NH PCARC @Masonic \$5@8 \$10/T@7 Mark K1RX 603 775 0220 F+
8 Apr LaSalle PQ MARC @RC Legion \$5@9 \$10/T@8:15 Jim VE2VE 514-990-1965 R+
15 April S Portland ME PAWA @AmLegion Bryce K1GAX 207 415 0498 A+
16 Apr Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
Third Sunday April thru October
22 April Gales Ferry CT RASON @FireCo auction Darryl WA1DD 860 443 7799 +
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+
21 May Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
18 June Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
16 July Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
20 Aug Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
17 Sept Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
8,10 Sept Boxboro MA FEMARA NE Conv Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235
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+
28 Oct Gales Ferry CT TCARC @FireCo auction Darryl WA1DD 860 443 7799 W+
11 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/S@7 ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422 +



Near-term local fleas

Whitman ARC WinterFest 2017

Saturday, 21-Jan'17

K of C Hall, 1195 Bedford St. (Rt. 18), Whitman, MA Buyers \$5.00, 9:00AM-1:00PM

<http://www.wa1npo.org/WinterFest2017.pdf>

Drive time from I-495 exit 32: 55-75 minutes.





Members and a spouse / guest are invited to:
The PART winter holiday Dinner

Tuesday December 20 2016

Cocktail Time Begins at 6:02pm

Buffet Dinner from 6:36 – 7:58 pm

Gift Swap from 8:01pm to 9:15pm

Yangtze River Restaurant

<http://www.yangtzeriverlittleton.com/>

584 King Street (Route 110) Littleton, MA 01460 Phone: (978)
486-0500



Yes this is the third Tuesday of the
month.
This holiday dinner event takes the place of our
regular December club meeting.

\$20.00 per person (Cash Please) at the door for buffet - Cash Bar

To participate in the K1NS gift swap:

Please bring 1 Yankee Swap <http://www.yankeeswap.com/> gift per person. See your e-mail for this year's theme.

NOTE: Space is limited and Advance reservations are needed... so we can give the restaurant a headcount. Please reply with (number of persons attending) by or before December 13 2016

Reply to ... Hugh Maguire N1QGE , E-Mail: hulin127@verizon.net

PART Holiday Dinner ***Yankee Swap*** Rules 2016

- *Bill Principe–K1NS*

1. Buy a gift for *\$15 or less* and wrap it as a holiday present, one gift per person or one gift per couple, whichever you like. Yankee Swaps are always more fun when the gifts are interesting and desirable. *Makeit/FUN!/*
2. No wine, liquor, beer or other alcoholic beverages, please.
3. When you arrive at the holiday party, leave your wrapped gift on the table and take a numbered ticket. Keep half and deposit the other half of the ticket in the box.
4. The order of play will be determined by drawing the tickets one at a time.
5. When your number is drawn, go to the gift table and take a gift. Open it in front of the crowd and show it to everyone.
6. NOW, you have two choices.
 - a. You can keep your gift and sit down, and the round is over.
 - b. Or you can swap it with anyone else who has already drawn a gift.
7. If someone swaps with you, you have the same two choices.
 - a. You can keep your new, swapped gift and sit down, and the round is over.
 - b. Or you can swap it with someone else who has already drawn a gift.
8. Except the last round, there are a maximum of 3 swaps per round. The last round continues until someone chooses not to swap. In each round, no person can swap more than once.
9. Players are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to swap. After all, the name of the game is Yankee Swap.
10. NO HARD FEELINGS if someone takes your gift. It's all for fun.
11. Your opened gift must be visible at all times./No hiding!/*

Remember, it's all for fun. Have a great time, and may the best swapper win!

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.



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.



Digital Voice via OpenSPOT

- Terry Stader-KA8SCP



I recently acquired a SharkRF OpenSPOT to go with some of the other “hotspot” devices like the DV4mini. While this is not intended to be a review of the two products, I’ll have some comparisons.

The OpenSPOT supports DMR (Brandmeister, DMRplus), D-

Star (DCS, REF/DPlus, XRF/DExtra, XLX), System Fusion (FCS, YSFReflector) networks. More supported networks and features will soon be available. See screen shot to the right for options on “Connectors” for this release.

The OpenSPOT seems to have the most ambitious development going, with updates/upgrades coming every couple of weeks. It connects via a CAT5 to your network and you access/configure it via your browser. It is powered via a USB wall wart. There is some promise of a device revision that will support a wifi connection versus the hardwired LAN cable in 2017. The unit I have is hardware version 1.1.

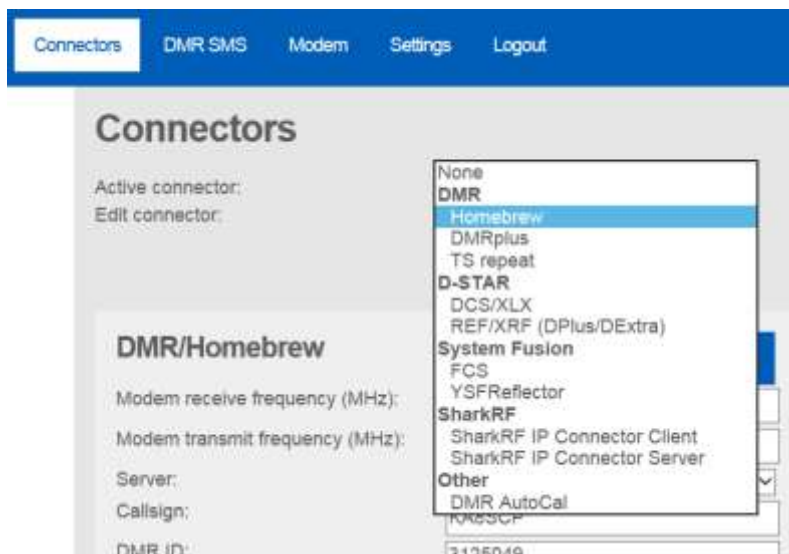
I initially followed the user guide/setup/installation instructions as found at <https://www.sharkrf.com/products/openspot/manual/>. Upgrading the firmware was a cinch. Then I web’d in to the device from my laptop using the <http://openspot.local> URL, found it pretty quickly. Setup is done by selecting a couple of tabs and start filling in the information for your setup. You’ll need your CCS7 number which is required. The CCS7 system was a numbering system developed for the Amateur Radio community to use when using commercial radio systems like DMR, NXDN, IDAS as well as some of the D-Star new reflector systems. Amateur Radio call signs are NOT used with MotoTRBO and similar commercial radio systems.

So I thought I’d first play around with the DMR side of this device. One thing that became very apparent in my “rush” to talk to someone via the OpenSPOT, using DMR requires a “calibration” process. DMR uses two “slots” on an assigned frequency. This is the key piece that allows a DMR repeater to have two simultaneous conversations going on at the same time. The Auto Calibrate is a 2 minute that you need to do.

Once I was calibrated, I added the need



talkgroups to my DMR radio on its unique frequency, not to compete with any UHF repeaters, I used at 433.x frequency. Then I programmed one of the channels in a Zone I called OpenSPOT labeled OS.MA.SW.3125 (see photo). This is the talkgroup assigned in the DMR network as Massachusetts Statewide. It is bridged to the



Control Center NO1A

start time	duration	source peer alias	source radio alias	Bridge Group	RSSI (dBm)	Site name	Loss rate
18:56:10.917 Dec 11	1.5	3125049	KA8SCP - Terry - Westford Massachusetts USA -- 3125049	IP-ST-Massachusetts	0.000	DMRX-P	0.0%

Brandmeister/Brandmaster 315 which allows internet based devices like OpenSPOT, DV4mini and others to talk to RF based MotoTRBO repeaters like NO1A in Acton. So when I keyed up on the OpenSPOT frequency with my ht on the 3125 talkgroup, while monitoring the "netwatch" on the NO1A C-Bridge, I see my call routed thru my own CCS7 ID, 3125049 programmed in my OpenSPOT.

I have not yet tried System Fusion (Yaesu's digital mode) nor did I try D-Star just yet. That will be my next foray for the OpenSPOT. The OpenSPOT does not at this time support P25 or the NXDN/IDAS digital modes, but I expect they will. I also have not yet tried the cross-mode function... which means that I should be able to use my DMR radio to talk to a Fusion network reflector and vice-versa. That should be fun to try too.

I am relatively happy with this purchase and would recommend this hotspot device, especially if you have a digital mode portable radio on one mode or another and want to be able to talk to an rf-based repeater through a reflector/talkgroup. This device does not connect directly to the WB1GOF D-Star repeater, but it will connect to any reflector WB1GOF is connected to. This is NOT a downside, since our GOF D-Star systems are almost always connected to one of the reflectors reachable by the DV devices like this one.

Fun stuff!

Amateur Radio News



From eHam.net News:

[News from KA6LMS Last Man Standing:](#)

by tom Medlin (W5KUB) on December 11, 2016

This week on Amateur Radio Roundtable, Katie's guest will be Hope Lea, KM4IPF, 10 year old Extra class. They will be talking about Hope's operation of KA6LMS from the set of Last Man Standing.

[Amateur Logic Christmas Episode is Released:](#)

by peter berrett (VK3PB) on December 11, 2016

Peter has tips for taking tests. Emile makes a HF J-Pole antenna. Tommy revives a laptop with ShackBox. George has suggestions on Gifts for Ham Buddies. We sample New Orleans CheeWees. Our Canadian correspondent Mike, VE3MIC is back with some Kristmas Karaoke. Plus we give away prizes and more.

[Historic Transatlantic Contact:](#)

by RSGB on December 11, 2016

On 11 December 2016 a special amateur radio event will commemorate the 95th anniversary of the first transatlantic shortwave reception between Greenwich, Connecticut, and Ardrossen, Scotland. On that day in 1921, a radio signal transmitted from a Radio Club of America (RCA) test station -- located in a small shack on the property of Minton Cronkhite, 1BCG in Greenwich -- was received in Ardrossen as part of a series of ARRL transatlantic tests. The special event will begin at 1200 on Sunday 11 December and end at 0300 UTC on 12 December. It will include an attempt at a two-way contact between N1BCG (the commemorative call sign being used in Greenwich) and GB2ZE, operated by Jason O'Neill, GM7VSB, in Ardrossen. It is hoped the contact will take place during the afternoon of 11 December on 20m, if conditions allow.

[Mysteries at the Museum: Sending Code, Victorian Style:](#)

by jacksonvilleprogress.com on December 11, 2016

On display in your Vanishing Texan Museum is a Vibroplex Telegraph Key. It is number 65,000 of over 300,000 that have been made and was used in the Jacksonville, TX train depot sometime in 1913. Although the key is over 100 years old it is in superior to excellent condition. We'll tell you more about Samuel Morse, the inventor of Morse Code, in a column next year. For now, let's start on May 4, 1844 when Morse transmitted the message "What Hath God Wrought?" from Washington D.C. to Baltimore, MD. This was the beginning of what many today call the "Victorian Internet." For the first time in history worldwide communications were possible at a speed never before imagined. The telegraph key that was to send Morse's message was invented earlier in 1844 by Alfred Vail, an associate of Morse, and was called the "Vail Correspondent." It was basically a switch with a knob mounted on a spring-loaded lever. The design evolved until a more reliable key (called the Triumph Key) was invented and patented by Jesse Bunnell in 1881.

Australia Ends Major Shortwave Broadcasts:

by WIA on December 11, 2016

Radio Australia will turn off its shortwave service to the Pacific and Papua New Guinea on January 31, in favour of more localised FM radio outlets and internet streaming. The independent international media organisation is part of the government-funded public Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC). The ABC International shortwave services will be replaced by a more robust FM transmitter network and an expanded content. While shortwave has served audiences well for many decades, it was now nearly a century old serving a very limited audience.

New Satellites on the Horizon:

by satprnews.com on December 10, 2016

Recent International Amateur Radio Union satellite coordination requests provide new details on several satellites expected to launch before the end of the first quarter of 2017. The first satellite expected to launch is UBAKUSAT. UBAKUSAT, developed by Istanbul Technical University along with TAMSAT, GUMUSH, and ERTEK Ltd. is a 3U CubeSat with a Mode V/u inverting linear transponder, CW beacon, and a digital telemetry downlink. The transponder downlink frequencies will be 435.200 MHz – 435.250 MHz with an uplink of 145.940 MHz – 145.990 MHz. The CW beacon frequency will be 437.225 MHz and the digital telemetry downlink will be 437.325 MHz. UBAKUSAT will be delivered to the International Space Station aboard the JAXA HTV-6 resupply mission, scheduled for launch on December 9, 2016, for future deployment. The mission is expected to last 6-12 months.

Foundations of Amateur Radio -- #79:

by Onno Benschop (VK6FLAB) on December 9, 2016

When did you last upgrade your car license or get admonished for not yet driving a Formula- 1 Car? Amateur Radio is full of the "upgrade now" brigade, but is that really required, or is there another way to enjoy your hobby?

Marshall Islands and Amelia Earhart SOS's Recreation:

by Norman Greene (K1YTG) on December 9, 2016

Hi, my name is Les Kinney and I am a retired federal agent and historical researcher. I am part of a group that will be traveling to a remote atoll in the Marshall Islands in mid-December. Our research concerns the theory that Amelia Earhart ran out of gas and landed wheels down next to a small island at Mili Atoll. There were three local natives who witnessed this landing during the late morning of July 3, 1937. We have found aircraft artifacts on this small island which we believe may have come from Earhart's Lockheed 10E.

MacLoggerDX Version 6.06 Released:

by Don Agro (VE3VRW) on December 9, 2016

Dog Park Software is pleased to announce that version 6.06 of MacLoggerDX has been released.

Amateur Radio Newsline Report 2041, December 9 2016:

by James Pastorfield (KB7TBT) on December 9, 2016

The following is a QST. The holiday spirit is in the air with two special radio events. Amateur radio devotes a day to welcoming the disabled -- and our top story, remembering a promising ham shot to death earlier this month in Chicago. All this and more as Amateur Radio Newsline Report 2041 comes your way right now.

Communicating Through the Amateur Radio Service:

by millardccp.com on December 9, 2016

During the early years of the last century, the advent of radio technology spawned activity among amateur enthusiasts. The early applications of wireless communication provided contact with ships at sea long before their arrival in port. As the level of activity increased, applications of the new technology became the object of government regulation so that today we have a variety of services, including the Amateur Radio service, licensed through the Federal Communications Commission. Collectively, amateur radio operators pursue various interests engaging in local contacts through hand-held radios, or in long-distance communication by signal propagation around the earth, by links through satellites, or by reflection off the Moon. Depending on their licensed privileges, they may choose from a variety of modalities (for example, Morse code, digital, and voice). They communicate casually as conditions permit or by prior arrangement on an organized local, regional or national basis. Operators may join organized services to provide backup communications in emergencies to public agencies and private entities.



ARRL News

[ARRL Vows Continued Pursuit of the Amateur Radio Parity Act in the 115th Congress](#)

December 09, 2016 - The Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R. 1301, died an unbecoming death as the 114th Congress of the United States drew to a close today. After having passed the House of Representatives on a unanimous vote, the bill stalled in the Senate due to the intervention of only one member, Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL).

Over the course of the past year, Sen. Nelson has received thousands of e-mails, letters, and p...

[Radio Amateurs Assisting in Wake of Indonesian Earthquake](#)

December 09, 2016 - Radio amateurs are providing emergency communication support during the response to a December 7 magnitude 6.5 earthquake in Indonesia's Aceh Province. The death toll is reported at 100, with nearly 300 injured.

The IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee's Dani Hidayat, YB2TJV, reports that it took 2 hours for the ham radio group from the Indonesian Amateur Radio Organization (**ORARI**), A...

[60 Meter News from Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Dominica](#)

December 09, 2016 - The 60 Meter DX Group reports that Swedish Post and Telecom is issuing temporary (6-month) "experimental" licenses for access to 5,351.5-5,366.5 kHz, replacing four channels, 5,310, 5,320, 5,380, and 5,390 kHz. There is a fee. The WRC-15 recommendations regarding 5 MHz have not yet been implemented, but that may happen by January 2018, when the next national band plan is released. In the interi...

[Bouvet Island 3Y0Z DXpedition Identifies Landing Zone](#)

December 08, 2016 - The **Bouvet Island 3Y0Z DXpedition Team** reports that it has found "a suitable landing zone on Bouvet Island" and identified the apparent "best operating location in the area" for the early 2018 venture. The proposed site is approximately 600 feet above sea level on the Slakhallet Glacier on Bouvet's northeastern quadrant, the DXpedition team said in a December 7 news release. An on-site inspecti...

[Chinese, Turkish Amateur Radio Satellites Near Launch Dates](#)

Thursday, December 08, 2016

[IARU Continues Preparations for World Radiocommunication Conference 2019](#)

December 08, 2016

[Ofcom Declines to Act in Nightmare Neighbour Next Door Ham Radio Episode](#)

December 07, 2016 - UK telecommunications regulator Ofcom has declined to act on formal complaints about an October 27 episode of the Channel 5 television program *Nightmare Neighbour Next Door*. That episode focused on 75-year-old Armando Martins, MOPAM, of Kent, whose neighbors had made unsubstantiated claims that RF radiating from his 30-foot vertical antenna was detrimental to their health.

[ARRL Transitioning to New Digital Publishing Platform](#)

December 07, 2016 - ARRL is moving to a new digital publishing platform! The January 2017 digital edition of *QST* will be the first produced using *PageSuite*. ARRL Publications Manager Steve Ford, WB8IMY, said the transition from the current *NxtBook* platform to *PageSuite* not only will improve members' reading experience, it will be more convenient.

“*PageSuite* provides a sleek, modern design that runs on desktop brows...

[Emergency Communication Exercise Uses “Hamsphere®” to Introduce Youth to Virtual Ham Radio](#)

December 07, 2016 - Fifty students in Dominica were introduced to ham radio on November 23, in the form of a simulated emergency drill conducted via the virtual Amateur Radio platform ***HamSphere***. W1AW at ARRL Headquarters monitored the exercise. *HamSphere* is a virtual Amateur Radio transceiver, available for iOS and Android devices. Under supervision, selected youth teams competed for speed and accuracy in a hurric...

[Use of New Web Log Upload App Encouraged for ARRL 10 Meter Contest Participants](#)

December 07, 2016

[Elves at OF9X Bring the Spirit of Christmas to Ham Radio](#)

December 07, 2016 - As in past years, Santa Claus will be spreading the spirit of Christmas via Amateur Radio, but this year the elves are taking over the show. Twelve elves are operating OF9X (“Old-Father-Nine-Christmas”) for the entire month of December, each with a 3-letter identification. Radio amateurs can work OF9X on all bands and modes, from 630 meters (where authorized) to 70 centimeters. Each contact is ...

[Transatlantic Reception Anniversary Special Event Set for December 11](#)

December 07, 2016 - An Amateur Radio special event on December 11 will commemorate the 95th anniversary of the first transatlantic shortwave reception between **Greenwich, Connecticut**, and Scotland. A school near the original site is hosting the event. ARRL, the Radio Society of Great Britain (**RSGB**), and the Radio Club of America (**RCA**), are partnering in sponsoring the activity. The Greenwich Historical Society will...

[Rare Polar Openings Reported on 630 Meters](#)

December 06, 2016 - John Langridge, KB5NJD/WG2XIQ, reports that “extremely rare polar openings” have been occurring the past three nights on 630 meters between a number of North American stations and Rolf Torvik, LA2XPA, in Norway.

“This path is straight through the auroral oval, and quiet geomagnetic conditions have allowed signals to traverse the polar regions,” Langridge told ARRL. He said LA2XPA has “an amazing...

ARRL Bulletins



- 2016-12-01 [ARLB044](#) ARRL Issues Urgent Last Call to Press for Senate Passage of Amateur Radio Parity Act
- 2016-11-23 [ARLX019](#) SKYWARN Recognition Day On-the-Air Event is Saturday, December 3
- 2016-11-18 [ARLB043](#) NCVEC Question Pool Committee Seeks Comments on the Technician Question Pool
- 2016-11-18 [ARLX018](#) Southern Florida Assistant Section Manager Ray Kassis, N4LEM (SK)
- 2016-11-17 [ARLB042](#) ARRL Calls on Members to Press for US Senate Passage of Amateur Radio Parity Act
- 2016-11-15 [ARLB041](#) IARU Region 1 Monitoring Service Reports an Apparent Success
- 2016-11-15 [ARLX017](#) ARRL Honorary Vice President, Director Emeritus Tod Olson, K0TO (SK)
- 2016-11-11 [ARLX016](#) Reminder: 630 Meter Berlin Treaty Commemorative Special Event is Sunday, November 13 (UTC)
- 2016-11-07 [ARLB040](#) W1AW 2016/2017 Winter Operating Schedule
- 2016-11-03 [ARLX015](#) ARRL President Emeritus Jim Haynie, W5JBP (SK)
- 2016-10-27 [ARLB039](#) Rule Making Petition to FCC Calls for Vanity Call Sign Rule Changes
- 2016-10-20 [ARLB038](#) Georgia Section Manager Changing on November 1
- 2016-10-14 [ARLX014](#) King of Thailand Bhumibol Adulyadej, HS1A (SK)
- 2016-10-12 [ARLB037](#) Current Rules Holding Hams Back from Adopting State-of-the-Art Technology, ARRL Says
- 2016-10-07 [ARLB035](#) Sarratt and Tiritilli Declared Elected in ARRL Southeastern Division
- 2016-10-07 [ARLB036](#) Interim Section Manager Appointed in Eastern Pennsylvania
- 2016-10-07 [ARLX013](#) Former ARRL DXCC and Awards Manager Bill Moore, NC1L (SK)



Latest Amateur Radio News from around the world

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

[Tewkesbury balloon launch on Monday](#)

A group from Leicester University AstroSoc and Leicester Hackspace plan to launch their first High Altitude Balloon from Tewkesbury on Monday at 11am. The group would welcome tracking help for their balloon which will transmit on 434.475 Mhz 50 baud RTTY

[Ham Radio and the Lack of D-Star Repeaters](#)

D-Star is one of the modern digital communications modes which are gaining pace in the Ham Radio world. Call routing GPS location and data transfer are three benefits to the new radio ham with an interest in digital communication

[Looking at an HF OTH radar](#)

Daniel Estévez EA4GPZ was inspired by Balint Seeber VK2FUNK's talk in GRCon16 to learn more about HF Over The Horizon Radars

[Accreditation sustainability](#)

Jo Hinchliffe MW6CYK highlights the risk of losing namely structures and accreditation that enable us to do cool stuff

[Pictorial Review of Special Events 2016](#)

Under the artistic guidance of Martin MoJEA and following his presentation at the Club a couple of weeks ago we have created a short video as a pictorial review of our Special Event and Contest operations throughout 2016



[TARG Training in 2017](#)

Since 2013, Thames Amateur Radio Group has provided formal training. TARG's experienced Training Team delight in helping newcomers into the wonderful world of Amateur Radio

[Youngsters use Virtual Ham Radio](#)

The ARRL reports an Emergency Communication Exercise used 'Hamsphere®' to introduce Youth to virtual amateur radio

[EURAO Party - Autumn 2016: give PSK31 a try](#)

The European Radio Amateurs' Organization announces a new party on the air, this time with the motto: 'give PSK31 a try'

[The Geminid meteor shower is underway](#)

Earth is entering a stream of gravelly debris from 'rock comet' 3200 Phaethon, source of the annual Geminid meteor shower

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

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



Repeater Nets

146.955 Nets – There are a number of nets that are regularly scheduled on the 955 repeater.

- Sunday night at 2000/8:00 PM [Sunday Night PART Net](#) – every
- Sector 1C Emergency Communications Net – this net occurs the 1st Monday or every month (except when it is a holiday).
Skywarn and ARES Nets – these nets are spontaneous when local conditions warranted.

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

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

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

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

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

Monthly PART Breakfast

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

Monthly Breakfast Pricing

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

Continental breakfast: \$9.00 (same price)

Full breakfast: \$15.00 (new price)

Kid's breakfast: \$9.00(new price effective March 2015)



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2011



Copyright WB1GOF,
Robert Schmeichel
2013

Repeater Information

Repeater Interference

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



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

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

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

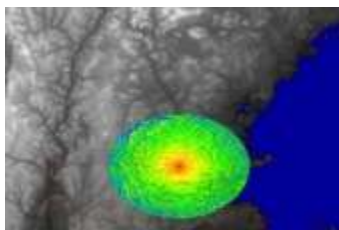
EmComm events and repeater use

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

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

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

If you have any questions, please feel free to correspond with Terry-KA8SCP. All requests for repeater use can be initiated by email to info@wb1gof.org.



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

PART Gear

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

Club members are also encouraged to obtain an official PART badge (the first one is FREE to new members). We use The Sign Man of Baton Rouge as our official supplier, and you can browse the club's design at:

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



EmComm

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

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

Bill Ohm – W1OHM, for the Town of Chelmsford

Darrel Mallory – K1EJ, North Middlesex ARES

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

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

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

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



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This month's editor: Terry Stader – KA8SCP

PART official mailing address is:
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