



PARTicles

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

February 2013

President's Column

- *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*

Whew! I just finished digging out from the Blizzard of 2013! I had no less than 18 inches of snow in the driveway. Fortunately, I never lost power, and all of the trees are intact. While sitting at the computer, my battery powered HT was monitoring the WB1GOF repeater. Prior to the storm, I had checked the generator and charged the ham radio batteries. Thankfully, I didn't need any of these things, but it is always good to be prepared.

I've given my CW key a rest for the last couple of weeks. I made a lot of contacts as K3Y/1 in January, as did Charlie (K1PUB). I never got the station in Asia, but I got all of the others, most of them QRP and on several bands. It was definitely a lot of fun, and I look forward to K3Y next year.

That reminds me! K1P will be coming up in April. This is the annual special event station commemorating Patriots' Day in Massachusetts. We typically operate one radio in sideband mode, and have several eager operators. This is a great opportunity, especially for those with little experience on HF. Stay tuned for more details as the event approaches.

Field Day planning has already started. I'm chatting with a couple of people about the potential Field Day site, as well as our potential Field Day chairman. I'll make more details available as things solidify, but definitely keep the last weekend of June available on your calendar. PART's Field Day is a great event that you won't want to miss.

We recently held our club kit building activity. Many thanks to Scott (NE1RD) for being the event organizer. There were about 8

kit builders, and several folks who visited to see what we were doing, and to offer their support. I built the L/C Meter II and I was very happy with the result. I don't recall each kit that was built, but it seemed to me that a good time was had by all. Many thanks also to Dave (W11R) for getting us permission to use the hall at the church.

I put that new meter to immediate use with another project. Do you remember the USB dongle that I showed at the January Show 'n Tell meeting? I used it as an inexpensive SDR receiver. You may also recall that its lower receiving limit was 50MHz. Well, that's why upconverters were invented! I built an upconverter and used the new meter to measure the values of my homebrew inductors. It works quite well, and I'll try to remember to bring it to the meeting. I can now successfully listen to signals on the ham and shortwave bands using that SDR dongle and the upconverter. This was my 2nd attempt to build something using ugly construction, so I'd be interested in any constructive feedback.

If you're working on a project, why not write a short article for PARTicles? A few paragraph and maybe a photo or two might be just the thing to inspire somebody else.

At our February meeting, Scott (NE1RD) Andersen will give us a talk about the Buddipole antenna system. Scott has also written a book about the Buddipole, and if you bring your copy, and offer many \$\$\$ of bribe money, he might autograph it for you! :-)

73 de Andy KB1OIQ

Have a lot of fun, and 73

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

February 19th, 2013

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

March 2nd, 2013

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$14/\$9; kids: \$8 – see note below)

March 19th, 2013

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

April 6th, 2013

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$14/\$9; kids: \$8 – see note below)

April 16th, 2013

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

May 4th, 2013

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$14/\$9; kids: \$8 – see note below)

May 21st, 2013

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

Monthly PART Events

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

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 18-December '12 & 15-January '13 (As of 15-January '13)

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	\$2,582.92	\$1,931.38	\$4,514.30
Income	\$354.00	\$117.19	\$471.19
Expenses	(\$58.77)	(\$0.00)	(\$58.77)
Net	\$295.23	\$117.19	\$412.42
New Balance	\$2,878.15	\$2048.57	\$4,926.72

PART 2012 Membership as of 5-February '13

	Individuals (= New for 2013 + Renew for 2013)	Households (= New for 2013 + Renew for 2013)
Full (\$25)*	18 (= 2 + 16)	18 (= 2 + 16)
Senior (\$15)*	22 (= 0 + 22)	22 (= 0 + 22)
Family (\$30)*	9 (= 0 + 9)	4 (= 0 + 4)
Student (\$15)	0 (= 0 + 0)	0 (= 0 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	0 (= 0 + 0)	1 (= 1 + 0)
Grand Total*	49 (= 2 + 47)	44 (= 2 + 42)
ARRL members*:	44	
ARRL Life members*:	4	

NOTE: * Starred lines changed since 5-Jan'13

##To pay dues##

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

-or-

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

New England Area Ham/Electronic Fleas:

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

2013

16 Feb Marlboro MA AARC @MidSc \$5@9 \$20/T@7 Timothy KA1OS 508 919 6136 T+
17 Feb Westford MA NEARC RadioXLIV @Regency @8 Antique Bruce 603 772 7516 F+
23 Feb S Burlington VT HAM-CON @HI I89x14 \$8@8 \$15@6 Mitch W1SJ 802 879 6589
2 Mar Feeding Hills MA MtTARA @TurnverneinCib Mary N1TOY 413 222 1990 +
3 Mar Hicksville NY LIMARC @LevitHall Richard K2KNB 516 694 4937 A+
10 Mar Henniker NH CVRC @CommSch @8 Donald N1ZIH 603 651 8000 W
16 Mar Dayville CT ECARA 8A @StJosephCh Paul KE1LI 860 928 5147 W+
16 Mar N Conway WMARC @CommCtr Greg KB1EZJ 603 759 6671 A+
23 March Laval PQ CRAL-L @VanierHS B\$6@9 S!0/T@7 514-708-8033 R+
29,30 Mar Lewiston ME AARC ME Conv @Ramada Ivan N1OXA 207 784 0350 +
7 April Southington CT SARA @HS \$5@8 \$20/T@6:15 Norm W3IZ 860 584 1403 +
7 April Framingham MA FARA @KeefeTech \$5@9 \$25/T@7:30 Bev N1LOO 508 626 2012 +
13,14 April Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553 +
14 Ap Middletown NY OCARA @CommCtr Neil AC2O 914 490 2001 A+
20 April Gales Ferry CT RASON Auction@ FireHS Gary WT1SND 860 884 4218 A+
20 April Portland ME PAWA @AmLegion \$5@8 \$10/T@6:30 John W1JLB 207 776 2288 W
21 April Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F+
Third Sunday April thru October
3,4 May Deerfield NH NEARFest XIII @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 T+
11 May Dartmouth MA SEMARA @Clubhouse \$2@9 S\$10@8 Eric N1WCO 508 295 2468 W
11 May E Greenbush NY EGARA @FireCo \$6@8 S\$6/T@6 Thomas KC2FCP 518 272 1494 W+
19 May Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F+
1 June Hermon ME PSARA @HS \$5@8 Jerry K1GUP 207 848 3400 +
1 June Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518 +
15 June Newington CT NARL @StMarySch \$5@8 \$15/T Vinnie W1VJA 203 987 2108 +
16 June Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F+
21 July Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F+
18 Aug Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F+
7 Sept Ballston Spa NY SCRACES @FG @7 Darlene N2XQG 518 587 2385 +
7 Sept Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518 +
8 Sept Newtown CT CARA @TownHall \$5@8:30 \$10/TG \$15/T Joe AB1DO 203 938 4880 +
15 Sept Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F+
21 Sept Forestdale RI RIAFMRS @VFW \$5/Sp@8 Rick K1KYI 401 864 9611 +
13 Oct Meriden CT Nutmeg @Sheraton was Wallingford John N1GNV 203 440 4973 +
20 Oct Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F+
19,20 Oct Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553 +
26 Oct Gales Ferry CT TCARC Auction @FireCo @10 Darryl WA1DD 860 443 7799 +
9 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/S@7 Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422 +
30 Nov Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518 +

Near-term local fleas

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

Algonquin ARC Flea Market

Saturday, 16-Feb'13

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

Marlboro 1st Lt. Charles W. Whitcomb (ex-Middle) School

25 Union St. (Thresher Dr.)

<http://www.qsl.net/n1em/w013flier.pdf>

NEARC Greater Boston Antique Radio Show XLIV

Sunday, 17-Feb'13

Buyers \$10.00/family, 8:00AM-12:00 noon

Westford Regency Inn

219 Littleton Rd. (Rt. 110)

<http://www.nearc.net/swapmeetinfo.htm>



Mount Tom ARA Hamfest

Saturday, 2-Mar'13

Buyers \$5.00, 8:30AM-2:00PM

Springfield Turnverein Club

176 Garden St., Feeding Hills, MA

http://www.mtara.org/images/pdf_files/hamfest/2013_mtara%20flea%20market%20flyer.pdf

Contoocook Valley Radio Club Flea Market

Sunday, 10-Mar'13

Buyers \$3.00, 8:00AM-2:00PM

Henniker Community School

15 Western Av., Henniker, NH

http://k1bke.org/Flea_Market_Flyer_2013.pdf

For Sale or Give-A-Ways

Several PARTers have the following items:

George Allison, K1IG - I've got QSTs from 1963 (most in binders) that I'm willing to donate as a set.

Richard Bohne, KB1AXE – Yeasu FT-530 w/speaker-mike, no charger, best offer (contact KA8SCP)

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

NOTE: The Port B node (442.450) is connected to [REF010C](#) Mon – Fri from 10:00 am until 3:30 pm. **CHANGE!!** - The Port C node (145.330) is connected to [XRF038A](#) Mon – Fri from 07:00 am until 11:00 pm. Users can LISTEN ONLY to D-Star Reflector 10C by linking to this URL: <http://www.radioreference.com/apps/audio/?feedId=5031>

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 \$14 (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 $\$10.95 + 18\% + 6.25\% = \14.00 (rounded up slightly). This price is unchanged. Here is the math for completeness and full disclosure.

Continental breakfast: \$9.00 (new price)

Full breakfast: \$14.00 (same price)

Kid's breakfast: \$8.00

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2011



PART Tech Events

PART Kit Build: Solder and smiles

B. Scott Andersen, NE1RD

Groundhog Day, 2013. The winter months force even we hearty New Englanders to spend most of our time indoors. And, though Punxsutawney Phil informed us, more or less, that we can expect an early spring, there is still time to get a few of those shack improvements completed before it is time again to return to antenna work.

A group of PART builders assembled in the United Methodist Church of Westford to build a new gizmo, or perhaps to finish one. This is the third event in recent club history, the second in two years, and is quickly becoming a member favorite club activity.

Two kits were suggested this year. The first was the Almost All Digital Electronics digital LC meter. This device can directly measure capacitors and inductors. This piece of measurement equipment is second only to the digital volt-ohm-milliammeter (DVOM) as the most handy thing any builder can have on their bench. Andy, KB1OIQ, finished his unit in record time and tested it on various pieces Allison, KB1GMX, had rattling around in her junk box.



[kneeling] Mike, WB1AAT, Allison, KB1GMX, Alan, W1AHM. [Standing] Steve, WA1KBE, Andy, KB1OIQ, Rick, W1RAG, Ken, W1OTA, Scott, NE1RD.

The second suggestion was the K1EL Winkeyer CW keyer kit. Both Steve, WA1KBE, and Scott, NE1RD, assembled these units. The Winkeyer is an electronic keyer that can operate in stand-alone mode where buttons on the top of the unit can be use to send memorized messages, or in tethered mode connected to

a computer. Most logging programs, especially contest logging programs, support the keyer. Even before the board is fully populated the assembly instructions ask that the unit be connected to a computer to test the USB communication. Power is also supplied over the USB connection (no cluttering power cords!). When I connected mine it chirped with a resounding • – • (R). FB!

As stated, this year we had only “suggested” kits and, as with previous years, members were welcome to bring any kit or repair work they desired. Alan, W1AHM, brought a DVOM kit. Rick, W1RAG, returned with his Idiom Press audio filter to finish it off. Mike, WB1AAT brought a kit used to connect his FT-817 to a computer for satellite work. Ken, W1OTA, had a QRP transceiver. And Allison, KB1GMX, well, she had a little of everything!

The now annual PART kit build is an excellent example of the hands-on nature of club events. Operating events like Field Day, K1P Patriots Day special event station, the 13 Colonies special event, get us on the air. The winter kit build is just one more way club members come together to learn, share, and enjoy the hobby off the air.

NEW Feature Column!

Scanner/Public Safety Page

- Ron Knight (KB1UXT)

These are unique and interesting times we live in. I remember as a child, the first time I got interested in radio. I was 5 years old and Santa gave me a crystal radio. No batteries, no fancy charging system, and no Bose speakers to listen too. This was an old style, prior to the circuit boards we know and love today, peg board with some electronic components, a copper wire and an oversized earphone. You would take the copper wire and wrap it around the steam heater or a metal pipe. I was able to tune in am stations near and far. Audio quality was not the greatest and often the signal would fade in and then fade out, however I caught the bug.



The next year is when my bug turned into a slight fever. I was spending the summer with family in Germany and was introduced to Shortwave (SW), Longwave (LW) and Medium Wave (MW aka AM). Europe was a great place to listen on all 3 bands. I could hear stations from all over the world. I heard stations from Europe, North and South America, Asia, and Africa. I would spend hours listening to Radio Moscow, Radio Switzerland, Voice of America, Deutsche Welle and many more stations. Occasionally I would pick up individuals having conversations. I could tell they were from different parts of the globe by their broken English and the accents they had while talking. Looking back, I wish I wrote down some of the call signs they were throwing out. I would spend hours listening to that Telefunken Receiver. It was an oldie but a goodie. The receiver was size of a modern day microwave. At the end of that summer my grandparents gave me a smaller Grundig Receiver to take home with me. It was a used receiver, worked on D batteries, and was big and bulky. I loved that radio and got many years out of it.

The next step of radio I was exposed to was a scanner. The fever turned into a pandemic. I was 6 at the time and saw what was a smaller box with 10 little red lights on it. The red lights would blink and alternate. If someone was talking then the red light would become solid until the conversation had ended. What really interested me was I could hear police and fire people talking. Both my uncle and grandfather were longtime members of public safety, I had always had an interest in their stories of catching bad guys and helping others in need. I remember thinking how cool is this radio. I asked Santa for one and I got a Regency Scanner for Christmas. It had ten channels but only 2 of them had crystals. Lowell Police and Lowell Fire were the only thing I could listen to and it was to this 6/7 year old that was gold.

So, as the years went on I have upgraded to new and better radios. We have gone from Crystals to Self Programmable radios. We have seen radios go from having 10 channels to 100 to 1000 and now radios

that have many thousands of frequencies. These days some of the radios come preprogrammed with trunking systems from the various states. You can update them by plugging in a usb cord to the computer and downloading from various sites updated frequency information. Gone are those days of going to Radio Shack and picking up the recent Police Call Frequency Book.

With all the technology updates there has been a slight negative impact to the hobby. We have seen the number of manufacturers dwindle. We have seen manufacture's such as Cobra, Regency, RCA, and most recently GRE get out of the scanner business. People bought scanners because they wanted to know what was happening now. They did not want to read about it in the newspaper on the next day. These days with 24/7 news and social media people can know about what is going on in their neighborhood before the public safety folks arrive. You can download an APP for your smart phone and listen to a virtual scanner feeds from all over the world. Call me a sentimental I still have my radios as do a good number of people out there. Over the years I have listened to everything from local public safety heroes doing their duties, Presidential Security, Utility Companies turning the power back on, Plow Jockeys cleaning up the streets after the big storm, Military Aircraft deploying overseas and downlinks from International Space Station.

It has become more challenging to monitor public safety. Their technology has grown by leaps and bounds. Most public safety agencies are still analog, some have/are switching over to digital. They follow the APCO P25 Digital Standard. Some of these agencies are taking it a step further, they are going full time encryption. Once an agency goes encrypted there is no more listening. FCC regulations do not allow it and there is nothing you can go out and buy at your local Radio Shack that will do the job.

So going forward with what I hope to be a regular contribution to PART we will talk about public safety communications. Talk about listening in the PART area and slightly beyond. Share new frequencies, updates on migration to new systems, occasional product review, occasional top ten list and other scanner related activity. I will not be publishing any non-published law enforcement frequencies. I will also not respond to email requests for them. Having a public safety background I feel strongly about the need for these frequencies to be kept non-published and not shared. Law Enforcement has a tough job and we need to respect what they do and not add to the risk of their safety.

I do not have the newest and greatest of radios. Over the years I have learned to really look at a new release and see if it will benefit me and my hobby. I utilize the following rigs on a regular basis: Uniden BCS 396XT, Uniden BDC 996XT, PRO 2003, PRO 34, PRO 96 and PRO 2096. Uniden Radios are from the blood line of Bear Cat scanners and PRO radios are from Radio Shack and these models were made by GRE.

My Top Ten Listening List:

- Merrimack Valley Radio (MVR) 463.500 pl 186.2 Great for Fire/EMS Related Notifications Lowell Area
- Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) 155.745 pl 100.0
- Northeast Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC) 482.6875 pl 146.2
- Boston Area Police Emergency Radio Network (BAPEREN) 470.7875 pl 131.8
- Northeast CMED 462.950 pl 123
- UMASS Lifeflight 155.160 pl 118.8
- Boston Medflight 460.800 pl 103.5
- District 6 Fire 460.0375 pl 131.8
- Pelham NH Fire 158.745 pl 210.7/NAC 652
- Fire Radio System 464.900 pl 151.4 Great for Boston Metro Events and a Sometimes some humor from the famous Car 9

In closing for this month's column I will be assigning some homework. If you are an active listener send me your Top Ten or Top Five Frequencies. Please include PL/ DPL or NAC . You can send them to KB1UXT@comcast.net . Until we meet again happy monitoring and stay safe. 73's



SEMARA Tailgate Flea Market, May 11, 2013

The Annual SEMARA Tailgate Flea Market on Saturday, May 11, 2013. Set-up will begin at 8:00AM and open to the all from 9:00 AM to 2:00PM.

Admission is as follows: Vendors, \$10.00 per table; general admission: \$2.00; club members and children under 12 attend for free. Talk-in will occur on the 147.00

Dartmouth PL 67.0 and the 224.800 repeater PL 67.0. For further information, contact Eric, N1WCO at <n1wco@aol.com>.

Framingham Amateur Radio Association Spring Flea Market and Exams

Sunday, April 7, 2013

Keefe Technical School

Doors open at 9 am



Amateur radio equipment, electronics and computer hardware and software.

- Admission for buyers: \$5 (under-12 free with adult)
- Door prizes -- grand prize a new two meter/440 HT
- Tables: Six-foot table, paid in advance, \$20 or \$25 at the door
- Seller setup starts 7:30 a.m. Sunday. Free coffee and donuts! Load/unload help available!
- License exam sessions

For information on tables, e-mail [Steve Hewlett](mailto:Steve.Hewlett@KB1NIV), KB1NIV or call him at 508-872-9336 before 9 pm or go to to our online table reservation form. For information on exams, contact Jim W1EQW 508-435-6487.

Talk-in: 147.15 repeater

[Get directions to Keefe Tech, 750 Winter St., Framingham.](#)

117th Boston Marathon - April 15, 2013

To sign up, please visit <http://marc.mmra.org>.

IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ THIS NEXT PART:

Sometime around January 8th, you will may receive an email or postcard from the Boston Athletic Association directing you to register on the BAA website. PLEASE DISREGARD this email or postcard! The only registration you should do is at the MMRA web site (address above). If you register on the BAA system, this will only cause confusion. The BAA automatically sends out notices to all 10,000+ volunteers that helped in the last few years. Because of the special qualifications for the amateur radio positions, please register ONLY on the MMRA website.



**Minuteman
Repeater
Association**

Positions are available to shadow race officials at the start, positions along the route, and finish line.

ARRL News

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is the national association for amateur radio, connecting hams around the U.S. with news, information and resources. URL: <http://www.arrl.org>



[The K7RA Solar Update](#)

February 08, 2013 - The average daily sunspot numbers hardly changed from last week and the week prior, but the average daily solar flux bounced back to about the level it was from two weeks ago: The average daily sunspot numbers were down 5 points to 50.7, while the average daily solar flux was up 7.7 points to 106.4. Sunspot numbers for January 31-February 6 were 47, 65, 54, 79, 30, 41 and 39, with a mean of 50....



[Surfin': APRS Finder](#)

February 08, 2013 - By Stan Horzempa, WA1LOU, Contributing Editor

This week, Surfin' repositions an airplane finder app to APRS-equipped vehicles. I downloaded a free app for my iPhone: **Plane Finder AR**. You simply point the iPhone camera at an airborne airplane and the app displays the plane's flight number, aircraft registration and distance from your location. A \$2.99 version of the app displays more information inc...



[IARU Region 2 Seeks Input on HF Band Plan](#)

February 07, 2013 - The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) **Region 2** conference will be held later this year in Mexico. The Region 2 conference -- held every three years -- is attended by delegations from the national Amateur Radio societies in the western hemisphere that are members of the IARU. The ARRL is the IARU Member Society for the US.



[Host a Real-Time Conversation with Crewmembers Aboard the ISS](#)

February 06, 2013 - Proposals are now being accepted from US schools, museums, science centers and community youth organizations to host an Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARIS) contact between November 1, 2013, and May 1, 2014. To maximize these radio contact opportunities, US ARIS program partners -- the ARRL, AMSAT and NASA -- are looking for organizations that will draw large numbers of par...



[New International Reply Coupon Introduced](#)

February 06, 2013 - The Universal Postal Union (UPU) has introduced the **newest model of the International Reply Coupon (IRC)**: The Doha model -- so named for the 25th Universal Postal Congress that took place in Doha, Qatar in October 2012 -- will replace the current model, known as the **Nairobi model**. Although the US Postal Service (USPS) **no longer sells IRCs**, they are still available in other countries and post of...



[Ride the Wave in the 2013 ARRL International DX CW Contest](#)

February 06, 2013 - CW DXing and contesting take center stage the weekend of February 16-17, as the **2013 ARRL International DX CW Contest** takes to the airwaves. If you've never operated the CW contest, now is the time to start. "You can work a lot of DX with 100 W and a simple dipole or vertical antenna," explained ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. "Many such stations -- with some perseverance -- have..."



[ITU Offering Free Download of 2012 International Radio Regulations](#)

February 05, 2013 - The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is offering an **electronic version of the 2012 International Radio Regulations** at no charge. These regulations incorporate the decisions of the World Radiocommunication Conferences of 1995 (WRC-95), 1997 (WRC-97), 2000 (WRC-2000), 2003 (WRC-03), 2007 (WRC-07) and 2012 (WRC-12), including all Appendices, Resolutions, Recommendations and ITU-R Recomm...



[ARRL in Action: What Have We Been Up to Lately?](#)

February 05, 2013 - Compiled by S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, ARRL News Editor, news@arrl.org

This feature -- including convenient web links to useful information -- is a concise monthly update of some of the things the ARRL is doing on behalf of its members. This installment covers the month of January.

The ARRL Board of Directors held its **2013 Annual Meeting** January 18-19, 2013 in New Orleans, Louisiana, under the chair...



[New QuickStats Poll Now Available on ARRL Website](#)

February 05, 2013 - Four new poll questions have just been published on the **QuickStats page** on the ARRL website. Let your voice be heard! Questions in this month's QuickStats poll:

- Is your primary HF antenna fed with open wire/ladder line or coaxial cable?
- When operating voice, do you mostly use a hand microphone, desk microphone, a microphone on a boom or a headset microphone?
- Do you use a difficult to see "stealth..."



[Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić Does Not Hold Personal Call Sign](#)

February 04, 2013 - In a **news item** posted on the ARRL website on August 1, 2012 and published in October 2012 *QST*, it was reported that Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić held the call sign YU1YU. The ARRL has learned that although Prime Minister Dačić was a radio club member and passed the examination for an Amateur Radio operator license, and while YU1YU was suggested to him as a call sign for which he could app...



[QST Video Contest Deadline Approaching](#)

February 03, 2013 - Grab your cameras! You only have until March 1 to send your entry for the 2013 *QST* Video Contest.

Your video can be up to 5 minutes in length and the topic can be anything that illustrates the excitement of Amateur Radio. The first place winner will receive \$500; the second place prize is \$250 and the third place prize is \$100. (Winners of the 2012 competition are ineligible.) The winning videos...



[2013 Field Day Packet Now Available](#)

February 02, 2013 - It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for ARRL Field Day, June 22-23, 2013! ARRL's flagship operating event -- always held the fourth full weekend in June -- brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun. Field Day packets are now **available for download** and include the complete rules, as well as other reference items such as forms, ARRL Section abbrevi...

Dixie Regional Adds Amateur Radio to its Back Up Communications Systems:

by stgeorgeutah.com on February 10, 2013

ST. GEORGE -- On Wednesday, Intermountain Healthcare Southwest Region's Dixie Regional Medical Center completed installation of two special antennae on the building that serve as a part of its backup communications system powered by amateur radio. "We're pretty pleased with this," said Bob Vosper, technical manager for Washington County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (WCARES). Much of Intermountain's communications system is Internet-based, Vosper said. If the web goes down, a possible communications blackout could occur. To counter this potential problem, the hospital arranged for WCARES to install an amateur radio broadcast system as a back up that can function without the aid of the Internet or local radio repeaters. The system will also be able to broadcast large blocks of text over amateur radio bands.

100 Plus Years of Amateur Radio Broadcast:

by iowastatedaily.com on February 9, 2013

Amateur radio began more than 100 years ago at Iowa State. With its first transmission of Morse code in 1911, the event led to the existence of WOI radio and ultimately changed the history of broadcast. The history of ISU amateur radio, also known as ham radio, is described as a technological revolution by Jeff Stein, who is an Iowa broadcasting historian, author and a former lecturer at Iowa State's Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication. "The fact that Iowa State was one of the first places to pay attention to this technology that ultimately revolutionized our lives in the 20th century is important because it shows that Iowa State has consistently been dedicated to being first in developing communication technologies," Stein said. For Wyatt Hagen, president of the Cyclone Amateur Radio Club, the significance of the radio history is great. "I think it's a big deal for the campus because it's 100 years of the campus working toward and celebrating the early achievements that Iowa State made in developing radio communication," Hagen said. The communication systems were quickly evolving and Iowa State was one of the pioneers in the amateur radio development.

Amateur Radio Enthusiasts Looks for Ways to Give Back:

by savannahnow.com on February 8, 2013

Bryan County Probate Judge Sam Davis spends much of his personal time sitting in front an electronic bank of lights, sounds and receivers listening to and talking with people he has never met. Davis is one of about 15 people who belong to the Coastal Amateur Radio Team, a group of local ham radio enthusiasts. Also known as amateur radio, ham radio is a designated band of radio frequencies used for non-commercial message exchange. In the case of local CART members, the team started as a way to give back to a group of local veterans known as Wounded Warriors. The Wounded Warrior Project is a national nonprofit organization whose goal is to "honor and empower wounded warriors" of the United States Armed Forces. Wounded warriors are military members wounded in combat anywhere in the world. Davis said local ham radio enthusiasts became involved with the project in 2011, when the Fort McAllister Sport Fishing Club arranged to take some Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Wounded Warriors sport fishing as a way of showing their appreciation for the warriors' sacrifices. "We offered to provide communications for them, just in case they needed them for emergencies or other needs," he said. From that, Davis said, the idea grew to expand the club's offerings to providing back-up communications during weather-related and other emergencies.

Draper Ham Radio Operators Answer the Call:

by draperjournal.com on February 8, 2013

The message came in loud and clear: during an emergency, cell phones might fail and people could find themselves without a way to call emergency responders and city public works crews for help. So city officials and local volunteers are planning for the worst-case scenario during an emergency by working out a backup communications system, with help from the members of the Draper Ham Radio Association. "One of the biggest [emergency preparation] issues we have here in Draper is communication," Draper resident Col. Gary Vaughn said. "Cell phones don't work very well up here because of the hills. [Ham radio] is a very reliable technology, in case everything else goes down." Vaughn, a long-term resident of Suncrest and retired member of the U.S. Marine Corp, is the current chairman of the Draper Ham Radio Association. The all-volunteer group is made up of licensed operators that are working with the Draper Police Department and city officials to organized a "public safety net," or communication network for use in the event of a public emergency.

ARNewsline Report 1852 -- Feb 8 2013:

by Bill Pasternak (WA6ITF) on February 8, 2013

The following is a Q-S-T. New Zealand to take a fresh look at its 70 centimeter bandplan; Italian amateurs regain temporary access to the pan-European 70 MHz band; an update on ham radio assistance in the flooding down-under and radio helps solve another mystery of the universe. Find out the details are on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1852 coming your way right now.

Need 13 Colonies VA Operator!

by Ken Villone (KU2US) on February 8, 2013

The 13 Colonies special event is looking to add more operators for this years July special event. As of now, an operator is needed from the state of Virginia! (K2B).

Southgate Amateur Radio News

February 2013

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

[IARU Region 1 Vienna 2013 - Papers now available](#)

[ARISS switches to Ericsson radio after experiencing problems with the Kenwood D700](#)

[Mid-West USA high altitude balloon launch on February 16](#)

[Ham Radio 100 years old at ISU](#)

[UK Amateur Radio Exam Course Notes](#)

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[Propagation de K7RA](#)

[The World's First Smartphone In Space](#)

[IARU Monitoring System Newsletter](#)

[Chip Margelli, K7JA joins InnovAntennas](#)

[AMSAT-UK at National Student Space Conference](#)

[Largest ARISS contact at the South Florida Science Museum](#)

[7th grader Lauren reaches space](#)

8 February

[RAC Director Election / Appointments](#)

[IARU Region 2 seeks input on HF Band Plan](#)

[ARISS contact with The Hospital for Sick Children on IRLP and Echolink](#)

[STRaND-1 amateur radio smartphone CubeSat to launch Feb 25](#)

[Southern Peninsula Amateur Radio Club at the Rosebud KiteFest](#)

[Dave Raycroft's ICPO Bulletin](#)

[DX News from the ARRL](#)

[Ofcom-RSGB Forum meeting January 23](#)

[Draper ham radio operators answer the call](#)

[Ham radio enthusiasts look for ways to give back](#)

[Lottery grant to preserve wartime Ashdown Forest radio transmitter](#)

[Ham radio team activate PJ2T](#)

Repeater Information

Repeater Interference

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



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

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

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

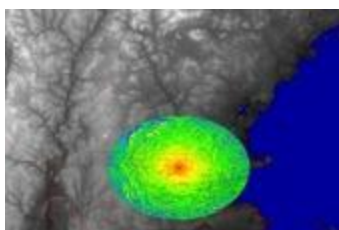
EmComm events and repeater use

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

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

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

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



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

PART Gear

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

Club members are also encouraged to obtain an official PART badge from [The Sign Man](http://thesignman.com/clubs/part.html) (<http://thesignman.com/clubs/part.html>) PLEASE NOTE: There is a new PART badge available if you'd like to order one. Price for badge is \$15 which includes shipping and handling.



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
Hugh Maguire – N1QGE, for the Town of Westford
Bill Ohm – W1OHM, for the Town of Chelmsford
- 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

PART official mailing address is:
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Our forum is: <http://wb1gof.net/forums/>
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