

January 2016 *PARTicles*

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

Celebrating 40 years of public service 1975-2015

President's Column

- Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)

Between Christmas and New Years Day, I took a trip to ARRL Headquarters to give them Old Gus' (W1OG SK) transistorized CW QRP transmitter and Vibroplex bug from 1956. The museum curators were very pleased to receive this donation of Amateur Radio history. The original magazine article, coupled with other supporting documentation, tells the story well, and authenticates the bug and transmitter. They plan to create a display of these items to tell the story. I look forward to a future trip to ARRL Headquarters to see this display.

Bill (NG1N) has been working with students at Nashoba Valley Technical High School. Several students have expressed an interest in learning about Amateur Radio, and Bill has plans to teach them. However, he was in need of license manuals. He now has 10 of the spiral bound manuals and is eager to engage the students in learning about our hobby. Let's support Bill and the students to help them succeed with this endeavor.

For CW (morse code) lovers, the month of January is the Straight Key Century Club's (SKCC) K3Y special event. There are stations throughout the country with K3Y/0 - K3Y/9 callsigns, plus /KH6 (Hawaii), /KL7 (Alaska), /KP4 (Puerto Rico), and several other stations throughout the world. The goal is to make contact with as many stations as possible using CW and a straight key or a bug. A certificate is available to those who participate. The SKCC operators are great - they will adjust their speed to match your ability, no matter how slow. This year, I am a K3Y/1 operator, and the only one in Massachusetts, but there are 7 other operators in the /1 calling area. I look forward to hearing you on the bands. One need not be a member of SKCC to participate. For more information, check out their website here: <http://www.skccgroup.com/k3y/index.php>

At the January PART meeting, Greg (N1DAM) will give us a talk about solar power and batteries, and will give us highlights about the system in his shack. This is a subject that never gets old. One can learn a lot about

solar panels, battery chemistry and charging, power drain of your radios and accessories, fuses and battery safety, etc. For example, my entire shack runs on a 100 AHr battery and a boost regulator, allowing me to transmit a full 100W for several hours if needed. At lower power levels, the system would work for days without recharging. This is also an important element to keeping one's station on the air during an emergency. Come to the meeting and hear more, and it may motivate you to create such a system for your own shack.

Note that the Algonquin Amateur Radio Club is holding their annual flea market in Marlboro on Saturday, February 13, 2016. Go to their website for more information: <http://www.qsl.net/n1em>

To commemorate the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service, ARRL is sponsoring the "National Parks on the Air" special event. This event will last for the entire year of 2016. Similar to the popular "Summits on the Air" program, interested hams would get together and operate in a National Park. The goals are to expose the general public to the capabilities of Amateur Radio, promote the National Park Service, and encourage portable operation. For more information: <http://www.arrl.org/npota-rules>

K1P is a special event station that we have operated on Patriots' Day in April for the last several years. If anybody is interested in taking over this special event, please contact Andy (KB1OIQ): kb1oiq@wb1gof.org

Last but not least, I've been slow in getting elmers and students together. I will give folks the opportunity to meet and greet at the upcoming PART meeting. It is my hope that quick questions can be answered, and friendships can be formed for longer term elmering. Upon reflection, I think this is best done in person. If you are interested in finding an elmer, or in helping folks in the hobby, please come to the January meeting.

Have a lot of fun, and 73!

73 de Andy KB1OIQ

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 17- November '15 & 14-December '15 (As of 15-December '15)

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Repeater Fund</u>	<u>Checking Total</u>
Old Balance	\$ 2,924.99	\$ 3,823.72	\$ 6,748.71
Income	\$ 280.00	\$ 34.26	\$ 314.26
Expenses	\$ (55.77)	\$ 0.00	\$ (55.77)
Net	\$ 224.23	\$ 34.26	\$ 258.49
New Balance	\$ 3,149.22	\$ 3,857.98	\$ 7,007.20

PART Treasury between 1- January '15 & 31-December '15 (As of 15-January '16)

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Repeater Fund</u>	<u>Checking Total</u>
Old Balance	\$ 2,956.05	\$ 2,851.32	\$ 5,807.37
Income	\$ 2,470.00	\$ 1,040.63	\$ 3,510.63
Expenses	\$(2,338.31)	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,338.31
Net	\$ 131.69	\$ 1,040.63	\$ 1,172.32
New Balance	\$ 3,361.97	\$ 3,963.95	\$ 7,325.92

PART 2015 Membership as of 1-January '16

Individuals (= New for 2015 + Renew for 2015)			Households (= New for 2015 + Renew for 2015)		
Full (\$25)	47	(=11 + 36)	47	(=11+ 36)	
Senior (\$15)*	44	(= 7 + 38)	45	(= 7 + 38)	
Family (\$30)	23	(= 4 + 19)	11	(= 2 + 9)	
Student (\$15)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(= 0 + 0)	
Associate (\$10)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(= 0 + 0)	
Grand Total*	115	(= 22 + 92)	103	(= 20 + 83)	

ARRL members:* 103 / 89.6%

(Including ARRL Life members: 9)

NOTE: * Starred lines changed since 12-Dec '15

Latest new PART members:

John/K4LSX (Havard)
John/K1ZY (Concord, MA)

Silent Key:

John/N1MQ (ex-KB1HMQ)

PART 2016 Membership as of 15-January '16

Individuals (= New for 2016 + Renew for 2016)			Households (= New for 2016 + Renew for 2016)		
Full (\$25)*	15	(=1 + 14)	15	(= 1 + 14)	
Senior (\$15)*	18	(=0 + 18)	18	(= 0 + 18)	
Family (\$30)*	4	(=0 + 4)	11	(= 2 + 9)	
Student (\$15)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(= 0 + 0)	
Associate (\$10)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(= 0 + 0)	
Grand Total*	37	(= 1 + 36)	35	(= 1 + 34)	

ARRL members:* 32 / 86.5%

(Including ARRL Life members: 7)

NOTE: * Starred lines changed since 12-Dec '15

##To pay dues##

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

-or-

Club Meeting, Cameron Senior Ctr., 7:30PM, 3rd Tuesday

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

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

January 19th 2016

- PART Meeting, 7:30 -9 p.m. LOCATION: Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant St.

February 6th 2016

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

February 16th 2016

- PART Meeting, 7:30 -9 p.m. LOCATION: Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant St.

March 5th 2016

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

March 15th 2016

- PART Meeting, 7:30 -9 p.m. LOCATION: Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant St.

April 2nd 2016

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

April 19th 2016

- PART Meeting, 7:30 -9 p.m. LOCATION: Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant St.

Monthly PART Meetings and Social Events

- Every Sunday, 8 PM – PART Net on 146.955 repeater
- Every 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 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

Ham Fleas/Events

Links to hamfest websites (partial)

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

New England Area Ham/Electronic Fleas:

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

2016

6 Feb Springfield VT	CVFMA.org @VFW @8-12	Steve N1QDT 802 885 8110
6 Feb Windsor CT	VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor	John 860 673 0518 +
13 Feb Marlboro MA	AARC \$5@9A @MS	Tim KA1OS 508 916 6136 F+
27 Feb S Burlington VT	RANV @HI x14 I89	Mitch W1SJ 802 879 6589 W
27 Feb Augusta ME	AARA @Club Calumet	Bill K1NIT 207 512 0312 A+
28 Feb Hicksville NY	LIMARC @LevitHall	Richard K2KNB 516 694 4937 A+
5 Mar Chicopee MA	MtTomARA @MooseLodge @8:30 S@6:30	Mary KB1ME 413 222 1990
6 Mar Westford MA	Radio @Regency Antique	Bruce 603 772 7516
13 Mar Henniker NH	CVRC @Comm Sch	Donald N1ZIH 603 707 7996 A+



19 Mar Dayville CT ECARA @StJosephCh \$3@8A \$10/T Peter K1LNX 401 603 1485 +
 20 Mar Southington CT @HS \$5@8 \$20/T John WA1JKR 860 621 8791
 25,26 Mar Lewiston ME AARC ME Conv @Ramada @8 Ivan N1OXA 207 784 0350
 2 Ap Newton MA PHSNE Photographica Sat Only @AmLegion @9A John 781 592 2553 +
 9 Ap Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor/Out John 860 673 0518 +
 9 Ap Hampton NH PCARC @MasonLdg \$5@8 \$10/T@7 Mark K1RX 603 775 0220 F+ 10 April Framingham MA FARA
 @KeefeTech @9 \$25/T Eric KB1PJN 508 310 5913 +
 16 April Gails Ferry CT RASON Auction \$5@9 S@8 Stan KT1SS 860 376 3770 +
 16 Ap S Portland ME PAWA @Am Legion \$6@8 \$10/T@6:30 Bryce K1GAX 207 415 0498 W+
 17 Apr Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 +
 24 Ap Middletown NY OCARC Bruce K2ULZ 845 391 3620 A+
 29,30 Apr Deerfield NH NEARfest XIX @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235
 14 May E Greenbush NY EGARA @FireCo \$6@8 \$6/T@6 Tom KC2FCP 518 272 1494
 15 May Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 +
 4 June Hermon ME PSARA @8 @HS TG@6:30 Jerry K1GUP 207 848 3400
 11 June Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518 +
 19 June Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 +
 17 July Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 +
 13 Aug St Albans VT STARC @VFW \$5@8 Arn N1ARN 802 309 0666
 21 Aug Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 +
 26,28 Aug Boxboro MA FEMARA NE Conv Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235
 28 Aug Adams MA NoBARC @BoweFld 6:30sell 7:30buy Eric KA1SUN 413 743 9975
 10 Sept Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518 +
 17 Sept Forestdale RI RIAFMRS @VFW \$5/Sp@8 Pete AA1PL 401 639 4484 +
 18 Sep Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 +
 14,15 Oct Deerfield NH NEARfest XX @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235
 16 Oct Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 T+
 30 Oct Hicksville NY LIMARC @Levitt Hall Richard K2KNB 516 694 4937 A+
 12 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/S@7 Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422 +
 3 Dec Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518 +



Near-term local fleas

Algonquin ARC Flea Market
 Saturday, 13-Feb'15
 Buyers \$5.00, 9:00AM-1:00PM
 (<<http://www.qsl.net/n1em/2016flier.pdf>>)
 Marlboro 1st Lt. Charles W. Whitcomb (ex-Middle) School
 25 Union St. (Thresher Dr.)
<http://goo.gl/maps/kfLd9>



The PART monthly meetings
 are held at the Cameron
 Senior Center, 20 Pleasant
 Street in Westford.

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

First look: DV4mini

- Terry Stader, KA8SCP

I recently acquired (via www.wirelesshold.com) a DV4mini, a USB stick that acts as a UHF “hotspot” to the D-Star, C4FM (Yeasu’s Fusion), DMR as well as P25 modes. First of all... this is NOT a radio device that allows you to tune in to each of these modes via your PC/Mac, it is a gateway for your D-Star, DMR, Fusion or P25 radio to connect to others using these modes when a local repeater is not available to you.

Since there are local repeaters (to Westford anyways) for D-Star and DMR, I got this device to explore the Yeasu Fusion system. This device would complement my Yeasu FT1DR handheld. I also had a P25 Motorola mobile radio but have yet to give that mode a try.

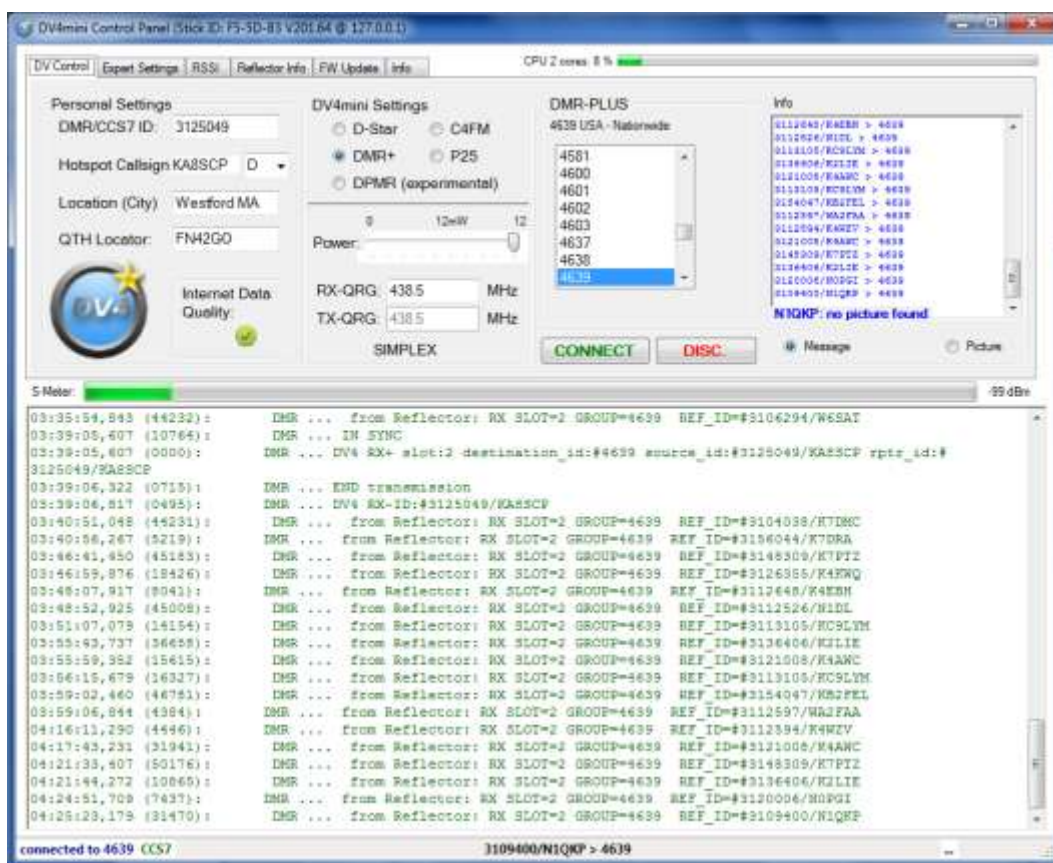
The free software interface, as shown to the right, is called simply enough the “DV4mini Control Panel” and provides the user interface to identify by callsign, DMR/CCS7 ID

(obtained at <http://register.ham-digital.net>), location and 6-digit grid square (found at <https://www.qrz.com/gridmapper>). The software is pretty intuitive if you understand the basic of DMR and D-Star. The software highlights fields in **RED** that need to be completed before you can begin using the device.

I set my DV4mini to a frequency of 438.5 for a simplex operation, something away from the popular repeater pairs, in the low-power bandplan (see band plan at <http://www.nesmc.org/docs/bandplans.pdf>).

I initially tried the D-Star mode since I was most familiar with that. I chose one of the “reflectors” (think conference room/node) that the WB1GOF D-Star repeaters are found on. I set my D-Star handheld to super-low-power on 438.5. Then I located the reflector in the list and hit CONNECT. Once I was connected, I confirmed that I showed up on the dashboard and when I keyed up, I was able to have a QSO without any adjustments what so ever, I was able to hear myself on another D-Star radio tuned to GOF. The log window displays data header information for both sides of the conversation.


The DMR side was just as easy. I chose a talkgroup (DMR lingo for conference room/node) that is available on the Acton VHF DMR repeater. (NOTE: Apparently, the DMR-MARC repeaters cannot be used because of that network’s “policy”). Once again, I was able to have a QSO without any adjustments



using my Connect Systems CS-700 handheld, using low-power. There is an option in the “Expert Settings” that allows the user to fine tune using the built-in tuning meter (shown to the right). If I talked too loud, it went into the red!

DMR

DMR - QRG Correction [HZ]:

Error Rate: 

choose nearest DMR Master:

Using the C4FM mode and my Fusion handheld, I connected to FCS001-24 (<http://fcs001.xreflector.net/>) and once again, the device did just as advertised, I was connected and had a QSO with the others in the “room”.

I am new to Fusion, and there are a couple of nearby Fusion repeaters. They are starting to be connected to the internet and will start carrying internet-based traffic, maybe they do and I am just not yet aware. Most of these repeaters are operating in multi-mode so they are capable of both C4FM and standard analog FM mode, so make sure you have the correct tone enabled on the OUTPUT so you don’t hear the “buzz saw” noise of digital!

I’ve seen where there are now cross-connect “bridges” that are connecting different digital disciplines like Echolink, D-Star, Fusion and DMR being connected together. The challenge in the past was making sure that the call sign information was being passed on to each end-node.

I am very pleased with this device. It is NOT a rugged device, multiple antenna connections and USB insertions, etc, may cause excessive flexing of the plastic housing, so take heed and use care in how you connect the external devices. This device is not designed to be connected to an outside antenna for ESD reasons. It is designed for a stubby duck antenna with little torque on that connection. Think wifi use.

Amateur Radio News



From eHam.net News:

Amateur Radio Class a Huge Success:

by oswegocountytoday.com on January 17, 2016

This class started out with nine inquiring applicants and settled with a group of five very interested and focused individuals. This group attended classes from September to December. The test date of December 7 was rapidly approaching and every one of the five tech candidates proved to be very dedicated to their goals, to pass the FCC test criteria. One student went on to take the challenge of the general test that night and passed. All five passed with flying colors due to the capable instruction and enthusiasm of their instructors, Rick Boutell WB2LBE, Fred Koch KA2hPG, and Dave Robinson N4UAR. The students have received their call signs from the FCC and are enjoying the skills they have acquired.

Cheap IRLP Amateur Radio:

by voiceobserver.com on January 17, 2016

This article is about setting-up a low cost solutions of communication that blends both the new as well as some older (yet far less expensive) communication equipment. The system can be used for music broadcasting, as well as emergency communication/relief work. It may be also used in developing countries where the communication infrastructure is censored. In this case, radio stations transmitting from a neighbouring country (or from the high seas) can make sure the information still reaches the population of these censored countries. It may also be used by land-based regular amateur radio-operators in countries that are not censored yet who do not have much means to make lengthy broadcasts themselves and/or have regular digital radio (DAB,...). In the latter case, they can use DRM or packet radio or even AM or FM (in case of AM/FM, at closer range).

Amateur Radio: Who Ya Gonna Call? Surrey Hams!

by thenownewspaper.com on January 16, 2016

SURREY -- If you felt the recent earthquake that hit B.C., you may have pondered the aftermath of a large disaster. Technology, as we know it, would likely be rendered useless. Our phones no more useful than paperweights. Our televisions and computers worthless without energy to power them. Enter amateur radio. Hams, as amateur radio operators are nicknamed, are often called on to help with emergency communications during disasters around the world when all other communications fail. We're in pretty good shape should we ever need to call on our Surrey

Hams. The club placed first in Canada and second in North America in their category in the annual North American Field Day last year. While there are tons of competitions, this one's their Super Bowl.

Ham Radio to the Rescue:

by nepalitimes.com on January 16, 2016

Amateur radio can be a vital source of information in the aftermath of future disasters: As phone lines were jammed and the internet went down in Nepal after last April's earthquake, the only way Manju Sunar could find out if her daughter was safe was to ask an amateur radio operator in France, where she worked, to contact another radio hobbyist in Nepal who then sent people out on motorbikes and found Sunar's daughter safe. Amateur radio enthusiasts, called ham operators, can speak to each other across the world through shortwave transmitters. The 2.5 million licensed operators communicate through voice or the Morse code, a method of sending messages in a series of electronic pulses. With additional equipment, operators can even attach files and send emails through radio signals alone. Though primarily taken up as a hobby, these devices become crucial in times of disaster when all other modes of communication fail as happened in Nepal, or during the Asian tsunami in 2004, when ham radio operators coordinated rescue. "We probably helped search and rescue over 400 people," says Pravin Joshi, a ham radio operator in Kathmandu.

Hams in Space: Project OSCAR:

by hackaday.com on January 15, 2016

In early December 1961, a United States Air Force rocket took off from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California carrying a special payload. The main payload was a Corona surveillance satellite, but tucked just aft of that spacecraft was a tiny package of homebrew electronics stuffed into something that looked like a slice of cake. What was in that package and how it came to tag along on a top-secret military mission is the story of OSCAR 1, the world's first amateur radio satellite.

ARRL Asks FCC for 'Minimal But Necessary Changes' To Correct Error:

by The ARRL Letter on January 14, 2016

The ARRL has petitioned the FCC to fix a "shortfall in available RTTY/data spectrum" the regulator created when it reapportioned 80 and 75 meters a decade ago. The League's January 8 Petition for Rule Making asks the FCC to shift the boundary between the 80 meter RTTY/data subband and the 75 meter phone/image subband from 3600 kHz to 3650 kHz. The ARRL's Petition points out that the proposed change has received strong support from the ARRL membership and was adopted as policy by the League's Board of Directors in July 2015. At that time the Board also agreed to seek RTTY and data privileges for Technician and Novice licensees within the portion of the 15 meter band where they now may operate CW and to do the same on 80 meters, contingent upon the 80/75 meter subband revision.

Subcommittee Chair, H.R. 1301 Sponsor Testify on Behalf of Radio Parity Act

by The ARRL Letter on January 14, 2016

During a January 12 Capitol Hill hearing, US House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Chair Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), called the Amateur Radio Parity Act "a commonsense bill" and urged his colleagues to support it. H.R. 1301 was one of four telecoms bills to come before his panel. Walden told the subcommittee that, as a ham, he's "acutely aware" of the passion Amateur Radio possess for the service.

ARRL President, N3KN, Concluding Nearly 3 Decades as a League Official:

by The ARRL Letter on January 14, 2016

Now completing her third term, ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, will be handing off the baton to her successor this week. The ARRL Board of Directors will elect the League's next president -- its 16th -- when it meets January 15-16. President Craigie said it has been her privilege to serve during the ARRL Centennial in 2014 and to help usher in Amateur Radio's second century.

UK Astronaut Tim Peake, KG5BVI, Notes Death of Space Oddity's 'Major Tom':

by The ARRL Letter on January 14, 2016

In his Twitter feed, UK/ESA Astronaut and ISS crew member Tim Peake, KG5BVI, tipped his space helmet to rock legend David Bowie, whose 1969 hit single "Space Oddity" was covered in space by Canadian Astronaut Chris Hadfield, VA3OOG/KC5RNJ. Bowie died on January 10. In the somber "Space Oddity," Bowie assumes the character of "Major Tom," an astronaut who becomes stranded in space.

New Section Manager Appointed In Missouri:

by The ARRL Letter on January 14, 2016

The ARRL's Missouri Section has a new leader. Cecil Higgins, AC0HA, of Pittsburg, Missouri, has been appointed as ARRL Missouri Section Manager, effective January 11. Dale Bagley, K0KY, had stepped down because of family commitments after having served as Missouri's SM since June 1999. Bagley recommended Higgins for the post.

First 'Principia Mission' ARISS Contact:

by The ARRL Letter on January 14, 2016

Meanwhile, a brand-new ham was the first to speak with Peake when students at Sandringham School in Hertfordshire, England, enjoyed a January 8 Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact.

National Parks On the Air Update:

by The ARRL Letter on January 14, 2016

Although the ARRL's year-long National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) event began just 2 weeks ago, Larry Burke, K5RK, of Alvin, Texas, already has confirmed more than 120 NPOTA units.



ARRL News

Outgoing ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, Honored with ARRL President's Award

January 16, 2016 - As both are on the threshold of departing their official positions with the League, ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, presented ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, with the ARRL President's Award. The presentation came during the ARRL Board of Directors' 2016 Annual Meeting, under way through January 16 in Windsor, Connecticut. She also recognized two Board members for their 50 years of League members...

Changing of the Guard: Rick Roderick, K5UR, Elected as ARRL's 16th President

January 15, 2016 - The ARRL Board of Directors has elected ARRL First Vice President Rick Roderick, K5UR, of Little Rock, Arkansas, as the League's next president. The Board took the action as it convened for its 2016 Annual Meeting in Windsor, Connecticut. Roderick, 63, will officially assume office for a 2 year term at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, which wraps up on January 16. He will become ARRL's 16th...

NASA Control Terminates Spacewalk by Two-Ham Astronaut Team

The K7RA Solar Update

January 15, 2016 - Trends over the past week were just the way we like them, with average daily sunspot numbers and solar flux increasing, and geomagnetic indices lower, compared to the previous seven days.

Why do we like these numbers? When solar flux and sunspot numbers are higher, this increases the likelihood that there will be openings on HF. Lower geomagnetic indices suggest lower absorption.

ARRL President Bestows President's Award on AMSAT's Tom Clark, K3IO

January 14, 2016 - The ARRL has honored veteran AMSAT personality and Amateur Radio digital pioneer Tom Clark, K3IO (ex-W3IWI), with its President's Award. ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, presented the award plaque to Clark at a January 10 meeting of the Potomac Valley Radio Club in

Blacksburg, Virginia. The plaque, which bears a likeness of ARRL Co-Founder Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, recognizes Clark's 60 years o...

[ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, Concluding Nearly 3 Decades as a League Official](#)

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["Cows Over the World" CW DXpeditions Planned](#)

January 12, 2016 - Tom Callas, KCoW, has announced the all-CW "Cows Over the World" DXpeditions for 2016. All call sign suffixes will contain "COW." The schedule calls for a summer departure to (in this order): American Samoa, Samoa, Tokelau, Solomon Islands, Temotu Province, and Bangladesh. He may add Nepal and Bhutan. There will be no time frame for operation from each entity.

[AMSAT Takes to the Water for Space Symposium 2016](#)

January 12, 2016 - **AMSAT-NA** will take to the water for its 2016 AMSAT Space Symposium. The event will take place November 10-14 aboard a Carnival Cruise Lines ship that will depart from and return to Galveston, Texas. The voyage will include 2 full days at sea and a 1 day port stop at Cozumel, Mexico.

[Amateur Radio Parity Act HR 1301 to Get House Subcommittee Airing](#)

January 12, 2016 - HR 1301, the US House version of the Amateur Radio Parity Act, will be among four communications-related measures set for a legislative hearing on January 12 before the House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology. Chairing the panel is US Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI, an Oregon Republican.

[ARISS Says Commemorative SSTV Event Update May Happen on January 16](#)

January 11, 2016 - Slow-scan television transmissions marking the 15th anniversary of the first Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (**ARISS**) contacts have now been tentatively rescheduled for Saturday, January 16. The transmissions will be in PD120 mode.

The ARISS event had to be postponed in late December due to “complications in planning,” ARISS announced at the time.

[New Section Manager Appointed in Missouri](#)

January 11, 2016 - ARRL's Missouri Section has a new leader. Cecil Higgins, ACoHA, of Pittsburg, Missouri, has been appointed as ARRL Missouri Section Manager, effective January 11. Dale Bagley, KoKY, had stepped down because of family commitments after having served as Missouri's SM since June 1999. Bagley recommended Higgins for the post.

[UK Astronaut Tim Peake, KG5BVI, Notes Death of Space Oddity's “Major Tom”](#)

January 11, 2016 - In his Twitter feed, UK/ESA Astronaut and ISS crew member Tim Peake, KG5BVI, has noted the passing of rock legend David Bowie, whose 1969 hit single “Space Oddity” was covered in space by Canadian Astronaut Chris Hadfield, VA3OOG/KC5RNJ. Hadfield also remarked on Bowie's death on January 10. In the somber “Space Oddity,” Bowie assumes the character of astronaut “Major Tom” in the song's narrati...

[Texas Ham Becomes First to Confirm 100 NPOTA Units](#)

January 11, 2016 - Larry Burke, K5RK, has jumped into the ARRL's National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) year-long operating event with both feet. Burke, of Alvin, Texas, became the first to confirm 100 NPOTA units. The accomplishment took him less than 10 days.



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

[VIOANZAC to try again](#)

VIOANZAC from Casey Base in the Antarctic will try to hold another activation this month as bad weather caused the event, part of the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) ANZAC 100 program, to be postponed in August

[YOTA 2016 Austria - Call for applications](#)

Lisa Leenders PA2LS, Chair of the IARU Region 1 Youth Working Group reports the next YOTA event which will take place in Austria

[Signal reports requested from IO-86 FM transponder test](#)

The FM transponder aboard IO-86/LAPAN-ORARI was activated for testing, and was available for amateur radio use on 14 November between 01:35 - 03:40 UTC

[The Afrikaans Amateur Radio Dictionary](#)

The South African Radio League (SARL) has received excellent feedback from interested radio amateurs following a call to compile an Afrikaans amateur radio dictionary

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

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

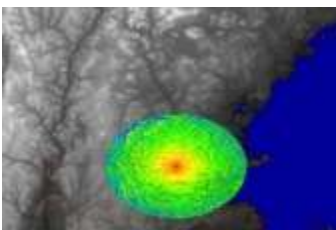
EmComm events and repeater use

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 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, 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. 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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