



# *PARTicles*

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

July 2014

## President's Column

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### - *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*

There is no question in my mind that this year's Field Day event was absolutely FANTASTIC! The weather was perfect! Spreading out the stations worked VERY well in terms of eliminating interference. Two separate tents at the SSB station also worked well to meet the needs of the operators and those wanting to watch. Insects did not seem to be a major problem, even at night, despite the one tick removal which I witnessed.

The SSB operating tent was setup on the edge of an open field, and had all of the comforts of home. There were two fans for those very warm mornings in the sun, battery powered LED lighting, chairs, a table, and refreshments. The 3 antennas worked very well (G5RV, 3-band wire beam on 10/15/20m, plus an all band vertical). Many people said that we had a loud, strong signal, and with the cacophony present on the bands, that is indeed quite a compliment. We also had two youth operators make successful SSB contacts. Congratulations to Henry (age 10) and Hyatt (age 11)!

The VHF station was setup in a small building about 100 yards from the main lodge. A handful of contacts were made on 6m and 2m to the "usual suspects". Unfortunately, there were no band openings.

The digital and CW stations operated out of the main building of the Concord Rod and Gun club, with accommodations that were posh by comparison to those of the SSB and VHF stations. :-)

I was pleasantly surprised that both the CW and SSB stations were operated for 24 continuous hours. Many thanks(!) to those operators who stayed up into the wee hours of the morning.

As usual, we were very well fed! Our food crew of Lela (KC1ACV), Rick (W1RAG), and Charlie (W1ADL) once again did a most excellent job! I found the cake decorations to be especially pleasing.

Bob (KB1SWZ) had setup his satellite station and made contact with the International Space Station (ISS) operating under our Field Day callsign. Peter (KC1BGT) also made contact. There is a 5 minute YouTube video of these contacts.

It was my pleasure to give our ARRL Section Manager, Phil (K9HI) Temples a tour of our Field Day operation. He took several photos and showed us a copy of the proclamations by our state politicians. Phil

appeared to enjoy his visit to PART. In addition, we were visited by the ARRL Eastern Massachusetts club coordinator Bo (WA1QYM).

I look forward to telling and hearing the stories of Field Day 2014 at the July PART meeting. At an upcoming club meeting, Rick (W1RAG) will present a humorous view of Field Day with his "silly slideshow", which has been a big hit in previous years.

Many people worked very hard to make the PART Field Day successful, but special thanks and appreciation are hereby extended to our Field Day chairman Bob (W1IS). This is Bob's third consecutive year as our chairman, and he has done an outstanding job in this role. Thanks, Bob!!!

Following Field Day, I quickly became engulfed in operating during the 13 Colonies special event from July 1 to 6. Charlie (K1PUB) once again did a great job of coordinating the operators representing Massachusetts. QSOs were made in CW, digital, and SSB modes, and were met with large pileups. This special event gets more popular each year, and is a great way to learn how to operate under such conditions.

WRTC2014 is under way as I write this article. Several PART members are actively participating at the sites from which the contenders are operating. I look forward to reporting more about WRTC2014 in the next PARTicles.

Next on my radar is the ARRL Centennial Convention in Hartford, CT, which takes place in just a few days. Fred (AB1OC), Scott (NE1RD), and I will be speaking at this convention. I'm scrambling to get my presentation finished, and am eagerly looking forward to this event.

After the convention, I'll don my QSL manager hat and finish processing the logs for Field Day and the 13 Colonies event. There is also a large pile of envelopes at my house containing QSL card requests for K2H. I will soon be looking for volunteers to fill out those cards. If you've never done it before, this is a great chance to learn.

As one can see, this is a very busy and exciting time of year in the ham radio hobby. I hope all of you enjoyed Field Day, K2H, WRTC2014, in whatever way you've chosen to participate.

Have a lot of fun!

73 de Andy KB1OIQ

**Next PART meeting: Tuesday July 15<sup>th</sup>**

@1930 – Westford Police station

## Treasurer's Report

### PART Treasury between 20-May '14 & 16-June '14 (As of 11-July '14)

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Repeater Fund</u>	<u>Checking Total</u>
Old Balance	\$3,766.69	\$2,387.12	\$6,153.81
Income	\$ 85.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 107.00
Expenses	\$ (51.34)	\$ 0.00	\$ (51.34)
Net	\$ 33.66	\$ 22.00	\$ 55.66
New Balance	\$3,800.35	\$2,409.12	\$6,209.47

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

	Individuals		Households	
	(= New for 2014 + Renew for 2014)		(= New for 2014 + Renew for 2014)	
Full (\$25)*	37	(= 8 + 29)	37	(= 8 + 29)
Senior (\$15)*	36	(= 1 + 35)	36	(= 1 + 35)
Family (\$30)	23	(= 2 + 21)	11	(= 1 + 10)
Student (\$15)	1	(= 1 + 0)	1	(= 1 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(= 0 + 0)
Grand Total*	97	(= 12 + 85)	85	(= 11 + 74)

ARRL members:\* 87

(including ARRL Life members: 8)

NOTE: \* Starred lines changed since 4-June '14

##To pay dues##

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

-or-

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

### Latest new PART members:

Jim-WA1EJW (Westford)  
Ken-KC1ADB (Lexington)

## Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

### July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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

### August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Monthly PART Meetings and Social Events

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

## Ham Fleas/Events

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

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

#### **2014**

18,19 July Hartford CT ARRL Nat Conv 100th Anv. W+  
20 July Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+  
9 Aug Milo ME PARC @AmLegion George WA1JMM 207 441 6112 A+  
9 Aug St Albans VT StAARC @VFW Arn N1ARN 802 309 0666 A+  
17 August Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+  
24 Aug Adams MA NoBARC @BoweFld \$5@9 \$10S@8 Eric KA1SUN 413 743 9975 F+  
6 Sept Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518  
6 Sept Gander NF @MasonicLodge Ira VO1IRA R+  
6 Sept Windsor ME AARA @FG Bill K1NIT 207 512 0312 A+  
7 Sept Ballston Spa NY SCRACES @FG \$10@7 Darlene N2XQG 518 587 2385 W+  
14 Sept Newtown CT CARA @TownHall\$5@8:30 \$10/TG \$15/T Ron AB1RJ 203 938 7007 +  
20 Sept Forestdale RI RIAFMRS @VFW \$5/Sp@8 Pete AA1PL 401 639 4484 T+  
20 Sept Riverview NB MAARC @Lions \$5@10 S@8 Charles VE9CEL R+  
21 Sept Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+  
27 Sept Brookline NH NEARC Antique \$5@8:30 \$10@7:30 Bruce 603 772 7516 F+  
5 Oct Queens NY HoSARC Stephen WB2KDG 718 898 5599 W+  
10,11 Oct Deerfield NH NEARfest XVI @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 +  
12 Oct Meriden CT Nutmeg @Sheraton was Wallingford John N1GNV 203 440 4973  
18,19 Oct Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553 +  
18 Oct Longueuil PQ CRA-RS \$10/T@7 \$7@9 Martin VE2DNF 405 466 2810 R+  
19 Oct Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F  
25 Oct Gales Ferry CT TCARC Auction @FireCo @10 Darryl WA1DD 860 443 7799 T  
26 Oct Hicksville NY LIMARC @Levittown Hall Richie K2KNB 516 694 4937 A  
8 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/S@7 Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422  
29 Nov Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518



## **Your Call EXPIRED?**    **How to avoid losing your license...**

The USA Callsign database contains about 750,000 listings and at any given moment, approximately 30,000 of these callsigns are expired! Over 1,000 old callsigns are returned to the unused pool each month! <http://www.qrz.com/expired/>

## Beam Team

- *By Mark Richards K1MGY*

A breeze swished through the tall midsummer grass. In it I could smell my youth, a place with acres of farmland, green and gold. Among the wind and rushes came a voice I could not place. She teased my ears, defying concentrated effort to catch her meaning.

This old orchard path, with a soft green median bisecting its ruts, led me to an enormous open field. Here is a place where towering trees, morning sky, and evening moon, will make men seem so small. Here, they will come to reach.



From Estonia, and Canada, and Serbia, and Tunisia, and America they will come to reach. Beneath the sky, using the antennas I will help build, these extraordinary human beings will reach.

Our team assembled in the newly-cut grass. Here, I thought, is our own Field of Dreams. We will build it, and they will come. Indeed, thousands. How strange that I should never meet them.

“Our number one task today is safety. Towers and antennas are expendable. You are not.” Our team leader grounded my thoughts to the here, and now. His indefatigable energy and encouragement permeated everything. This, I thought, is going to be a remarkable day.

With such an excellent start, we deployed to our tasks. Some assembled the tower. My job, as it was during last years’ practice run, was to build a beam antenna. Matching colors and a pictorial guide reduced the task to an unimaginative, almost mundane practice. Within the first few step-by-steps the trap clarified: “Stay focused,” I told myself. “Complacency lends itself to error”.

A videographer arrived. “Would you mind if I filmed you at work? Just describe what you’re doing, please”. What am I doing? “I am helping extraordinary human beings to reach”. So began a brief monologue on how the magic radio waves have no respect for borders. “They do not care about political divides. They are not a respecter of ideologies. Their only nationalism is found within the tribal marking of each call sign. ‘I am of this country’, they say, and little else. The rest happens between two minds and hearts.”

In story I brought my interviewer back to the hotel where all the many nations had gathered. “I stood in the entryway for a while, and just listened,” I told him. “I heard six different languages, and I saw the hope of all people. For in this one space - gathered from all the reaching - connections over thousands of kilometers were reduced to centimeters. Morse code keys, radios, microphones, and antennas? These are instruments leading to the greatest form of communications possible: eye-to-eye.”

“In this technology we talk about resonance,” I said, thankful that such a small contemplation lead to a recognition that resonance was exactly what I had been privileged to witness.



Three sites later and the day ending, I stood in the field and just listened. The wind washed above the grass, wound its way among the lattice of our tower, and gently flexed the beam. Her voice was now clear. She spoke peace.



Author (2d from right, rear) at WRTC Site Heald Street West with members of the Beam Team. Competitors and Judge ES5RY, Tom Soomets of Estonia (front, red shirt), VE3EJ, John Sluymer (front, yellow shirt), and K9VV, Fred Kleber (front, black shirt).

## USA ARDF Championships

Can you spot the PARTer in this picture?



USA's fourteenth annual championships of on-foot direction-finding took place near Boston, Massachusetts on the first weekend of June, 2014. There were formal competitions on two meters and 80 meters on Saturday and Sunday, June 7-8, plus optional sprint and foxoring events on the two prior days.

### Unofficial Results: N6MJ and KL9A Walk Away With WRTC-2014 Gold; Other Top Standings in Limbo

July 13, 2014, 1:14:00 PM It's *unofficial* at this point, but the US K1A team of Daniel Craig, N6NJ, and Chris Hurlbut, KL9A, appears to have taken the gold medal at the World Radiosport Team Championship (**WRTC-2014**) competition in New England. The top team never seemed in doubt; Craig and Hurlbut led the pack of 59 competing teams literally from the start, managing to work up an insurmountable lead of more than 7.5 mill...

### ARRL Public Relations Manager Talks Up Ham Radio on WTIC

July 12, 2014, 11:41:00 AM ARRL Public Relations Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, was interviewed on the morning of July 12 by WTIC radio's Steve Parker concerning Amateur Radio in general and the upcoming ARRL Centennial Convention in Hartford.

WTIC is a 50 kW broadcast station covering much of New England, not to mention its national and global Internet streaming audience.

Click **here** to download and listen to an MP3 off-air au...

### HAARP Death Sentence Stayed, But Facility Being Dismantled Piece by Piece

July 11, 2014, 6:10:00 PM The US Air Force has given the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) facility in Gakona, Alaska, a death row reprieve of sorts. The Secretary of the Air Force told Alaska Sen Lisa Murkowski July 2 that it is "willing to slow the closure process and defer irreversible dismantling of the transmitter site" until May of 2015. Those pushing for HAARP to remain open as a scientific r...

### International: New Ham Radio Regulations in Place in Thailand, Germany Gets 4 Meters Briefly

July 11, 2014, 3:33:00 PM - Thailand's 247,000 radio amateurs will be getting new Amateur Radio **regulations** that provide significant new privileges The Radio Amateur Society of Thailand (**RAST**) has reported that the *National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC)* has been *working on the new regulations for nearly 3 years. They will permit operation on 6 meters, will expand the 2 meter band by 500 kHz (to 146...*

### Reminder: Youth Attend ARRL National Centennial Convention Free of Charge!

July 11, 2014, 3:23:00 PM - Youth (age 21 and younger) may attend the **ARRL National Centennial Convention** free of charge. Information in *The ARRL Letter* for July 10 may have suggested otherwise. The 100th anniversary celebration of the League's founding takes place July 17-19 at the Connecticut Convention Center.

**Online registration** is now limited to 2-day adult (\$25) and youth (free) tickets, good for Friday and Saturday ...

## [Astronauts Andy Thomas, VK5MIR, and Dave Leestma, N5QWC, Retire from NASA](#)

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July 11, 2014, 1:49:00 PM - Astronauts Andy **Thomas**, VK5MIR/ex-KD5CHF, and Dave **Leestma**, N5WQC, have announced their retirements from NASA. Both operated on ham radio from space, and Thomas, as the last US astronaut to complete a duty tour onboard the Russian *Mir* space station, conducted several contacts with students on Earth as part of the SAREX program, the predecessor to **ARISS**.

A native of Australia, Thomas, 62, became ...

## [ARRL Teachers Institute: Controlling a Robot from Orbit](#)

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July 10, 2014, 5:59:00 PM - This week, as part of the Teachers Institute hosted at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, teachers were shown a number of ways to use Amateur Radio to captivate students and spark their interests in technology.

Instructor Mark Spencer, WA8SME, demonstrated how it was possible to control the movement of a robot via data packets sent through the International Space Station (ISS) digipeat...

## [In Brief: Scout Sets up Ham Station in Florida Firehouse, plus News Shorts from All Over](#)

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July 09, 2014, 6:22:00 PM - **Scout Sets Up Firehouse Ham Station for Back-Up Communication:** Florida TV station Bay News 9 **has reported** that an Eagle Scout project turned into an “Everyday Hero” nomination for a Pinellas County teenager. According to Bay News 9, Parker Mitchell, KI4YAV, of Clearwater, Florida, the 18-year-old ham decided to create a backup communications system for a Palm Harbor fire station. “I decided sin...

## [Reminder Concerning QST iOS App](#)

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July 09, 2014, 3:36:00 PM - Repeating a story first published June 27, the ARRL has been notified by the *QST* iOS app vendor that a serious defect has been discovered that may cause the app to stop functioning. ARRL is in discussions with the vendor to alleviate the problem. Until a solution has been found, however, members are urged to avoid updating their *QST* iOS apps.

This issue does **not** impact *QST* Android app users.

## [Grassroots Campaign Underway to Promote Co-Sponsorship of “Amateur Radio Parity Act”](#)

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July 09, 2014, 1:51:00 PM - A grassroots effort is underway to encourage radio amateurs to promote co-sponsorship of **HR.4969**, the Amateur Radio Parity Act. The measure, introduced in the US House with bipartisan support on June 25, would call on the FCC to apply the “reasonable accommodation” three-part test of the **PRB-1** federal pre-emption policy to private land-use restrictions regarding antennas.

## [ARRL, FEMA to Sign Memorandum of Agreement at National Centennial Convention](#)

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July 09, 2014, 1:39:00 PM - The ARRL and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (**FEMA**) will sign a *Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)* at the **ARRL National Centennial Convention**, which takes place July 17-19 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. ARRL President Kay Craigie,



N3KN, will join FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, KK4INZ, on Friday, July 18, at 4:15 PM, in signing the MOA, which is aimed at fostering increas...



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

## [SARL Winter QRP Contest](#)

The QRP contests are intended to be fun activities to promote QRP operation between radio amateurs using homebuilt equipment or operating as a portable or field station and using temporary antennas, however this is not a requirement

## [IARUMS Newsletter released](#)

The IARU Monitoring System (IARUMS) newsletter reports on action against illegal Brazilian Hanglider and Paraglider communications on 144-148 MHz and a French intruder on 40m

## [15th IARU Region 1 Youth ARDF Championships](#)

On the IARU Region 1 site Kai Pastor DGoYT reports on the 15th Youth ARDF Championships (EYAC)

## [Youth Net to become a regular event](#)

The SARL Youth Net on Sunday 6 July at 15:00 was well supported. It will now be a monthly event on the first Sunday of every month

## [Ham radio society receives award](#)

The Surrey Electronics and Amateur Radio Society (EARS) have received the Special Interest Society of the Year award

## [New board member at NCDXF](#)

At the June 29, 2014, quarterly board meeting, Craig Thompson, K9CT, was elected to the board of directors

## [A social networking club powered by radio waves](#)

The Indian Express provides an insight into the Ham radio community, a social networking club powered by radio waves

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

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the expected solar activity will be at moderate levels





### Horrible Field Day Reported By Local Ham Radio Operator

- *By WBORUR, on the scene*

**JOHNSON, Montana** – A local ham radio operator says he had a “terrible and horrific” Field Day this year, all due to his lack of planning.

Dick Longfellow, a ham radio operator since 1963, says it’s not the emergency preparedness training or the radio operating which excites him.

“I go for the food. And I like to make a day out of it. I top off the fuel tank in the F-150 and I visit a minimum of five or six local amateur radio club Field Day operations so I can treat myself to a smorgasbord of flavorful goodness. I travel all over the state.”

“I go for the food,” says Longfellow, seen here on his way to the food tent at the Creek County Communicators field day event.

But this year, Longfellow – who weighs in at well over 300 pounds – says he left the loose leaf binder with his food plan somewhere in his shack and couldn’t find it when it came time to depart. So he set out on his annual pilgrimage with only memory to guide him.

“My first stop was at the Golden Spike Amateur Radio Club set up in Glacier National Park. They had just set out the salad table fixin’s when I arrived. So that’s a great way to start the day. Not everyone likes macaroni salad at 9 a.m., but I’m not really adverse to it.”

The day took a sour turn, says the retired oil pipeline supervisor, when he got to his second stop.

“Upon arriving at the Big Sky Amateur Radio Club event just outside of Butte, I knew something was wrong. It was 11 a.m. and they only had desserts out. I intended to align my arrival with the cooking of burgers and brats, but I was about two hours too early. It was only then I realized the shocking truth: I was supposed to be in Missoula.”

Longfellow says it was “physically impossible” to get back on schedule after his travel faux pas; particularly disappointing was his last stop of the day – Bozeman, Montana – just as the last slice of meatloaf was being eaten.

“I have no one to blame but myself,” he admits. “Good Field Day execution relies on weeks of planning followed by flawless execution. I dropped the ball, plain and simple.”

Longfellow says he may have found a solution for next year’s Field Day.

He will be setting up a GOTA station next to the chocolate fountain at the Golden Corral in Bozeman.

“I can visit with people between the banana pudding and the ‘endless’ beef tips. I think it will be a great way to attract new people into the hobby,” he declares.

### HamHijinks.com



(Thanks to Bill Principe – K1NS for the link)

## Repeater Nets

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Monthly PART Breakfast

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

## Monthly Breakfast Pricing

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

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

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

*Kid's breakfast: \$8.00*



Copyright WB1GOF,  
Robert Schmeichel  
2011



Copyright WB1GOF,  
Robert Schmeichel  
2013

## Repeater Information

### Repeater Interference

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



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

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

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

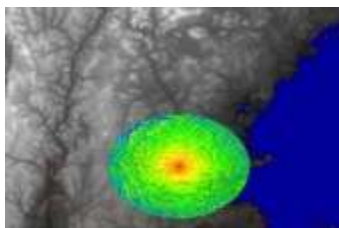
### EmComm events and repeater use

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

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

There may come a time when an unexpected emergency situation arises. These will be 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 to QSY to another frequency. You should use your best judgment or check with the NCS on what he feels is best.

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



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



## PART Gear

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

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



## EmComm

**Emergency Communications** – The WB1GOF 146.955 repeater is used on the first Monday of every month (except federal/state holidays) for an EmComm Net starting at 1930 local time. If you are interested in being part of the local emergency communications team in your community, feel free to contact any of the following folks:  
Terry Stader – KA8SCP, MEMA Region 1 Communications Officer & Town of Westford

Bill Ohm – W1OHM, for the Town of Chelmsford

Darrel Mallory – K1EJ, North Middlesex ARES

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

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

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

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



PARTicles © 2013, a publication of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

This month's editor: Terry Stader – KA8SCP

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PART, PO Box 503, Westford, MA 01886

Our website is: <http://wb1gof.org>

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

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