



# *PARTicles*

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

March 2014

## President's Column

### - *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*

Well, I finally got back on the air after too many life distractions. I surely picked a good evening to do it.. Around 11 PM, I was on 20m and picked up two stations from Israel, one from Russia (UA9), and one from the South Pacific (FW5JJ), all on SSB, and when the grey line came through those areas. I heard Alaska loud and clear but uncharacteristically couldn't break the pileup before the operator signed off. I was running 100 watts into a resonant center fed vertical dipole antenna made of copper wire, the base of which is about 6-8 feet off the ground.

Today, I did some fox hunting after hiding my own fox. It took me 2-3 hours to find the KB1MGI 2m fox, but during that time, I stopped to purchase the conservation trail guides for Westford and Carlisle. Now, armed with detailed maps, it should be easier to find the future hidden foxes. With the weather getting better, I encourage folks to use this as a great excuse to walk in the woods. At one point, before I purchased the maps, I knew I was close to the fox. After consulting the maps, once I found the fox, I was in fact much closer than I first realized. Most people find the fox more rapidly, so I'll have to keep practicing to hone my technique.

The K1P special event station will be on the air again this year as part of the Patriots' Day holiday. The details are still being finalized, so stay tuned for more information. This will be on April 19th and 20th, 2014. We typically operate on SSB on both days, for perhaps 6-8 hours each day, as operators desire. We have a K1P QSL card that is sent to people upon request.

We are starting to make plans for Field Day 2014. At our monthly group meeting, we'll conduct a survey to see what we should do for this year's Field Day activities. We've been invited back to the Concord Rod & Gun Club, a great facility where we've held Field Day for the last couple of years. I know our resident chef is already excitedly making plans for our meals during that weekend (thanks, Charlie W1ADL).

At our next PART montly meeting, we'll discuss Field Day, but additionally, our speaker will be Dave (KM3T) Pascoe, who will give us an update on WRTC2014, which takes place in July 2014. I'm pretty sure that Dave is still looking for volunteers, so if you are interested, please contact him directly.

I've recently replaced the 2m/70cm mobile antenna on my car. The nut holding the antenna to its mount was loose, probably causing dropouts or other anomalies in my transmissions. Many thanks to Steve (WA1KBE) and Allison (KB1GMX) for their help with this problem and its solution. I encourage signal reports via email, especially if there is a problem, just in case it is interference (which shouldn't be discussed on the air).

I've been working really hard lately on some Linux / ham radio software. I'm writing a Free Software program for the Byonics TinyTrak3 with help from Byonics. It should be released in a month or so. I'm also revising and am nearly ready to release an updated version of "Andy's Ham Radio Linux", available on SourceForge.net (search for KB1OIQ). Stay tuned for more info in the coming days/weeks.

73 de Andy KB1OIQ

**Next PART meeting: Tuesday March 18<sup>th</sup>**

@1930 – Westford Police station

## Treasurer's Report

### PART Treasury between 28-January '14 & 24-February '14 (As of 25-February '14)

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Repeater Fund</u>	<u>Checking Total</u>
Old Balance	\$2,839.78	\$2,261.71	\$5,101.49
Income	\$ 758.00	\$ 99.41	\$ 857.41
Expenses	\$ (90.97)	\$ 0.00	\$ (90.97)
Net	\$ 667.03	\$ 99.41	\$ 766.44
New Balance	\$3,508.81	\$2,361.12	\$5,867.93

### PART 2014 Membership as of 4-March '14

	Individuals (= New for 2014 + Renew for 2014)		Households (= New for 2014 + Renew for 2014)	
Full (\$25)*	31	(= 6 + 25)	31	(= 6 + 25)
Senior (\$15)*	26	(= 0 + 26)	26	(= 0 + 26)
Family (\$30)*	17	(= 0 + 17)	8	(= 0 + 8)
Student (\$15)	1	(= 0 + 1)	1	(= 1 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	0	(= 0 + 0)	0	(= 0 + 0)
Grand Total*	75	(= 7 + 68)	66	(= 7 + 59)
ARRL members:*	69			
ARRL Life members:	8			

NOTE: \* Starred lines changed since 12-February '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:

Niece/KA1ULN (Andover)  
Jason/KC8JXS (Littleton)  
Dave/KB1WOD (Wakefield)

## Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

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

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

### April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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

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

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

### May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

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

### May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014

- Apple Blossom Parade

### May 20<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

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

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

#### **2014**

23 Mar Henniker NH CVRC @CommSch Don N1ZIH 603 651 8000 W+  
28,29 Mar Lewiston ME AARC ME Conv @Ramada @8 Ivan N1OXA 207 784 0350  
6 Apr Framingham MA FARA @Keefe Tech \$5@9 \$25/T@7:30 Bev N1LOO 508 626 2012 +  
12,13 Apr Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553 F+  
12 Apr Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518 +  
12 Apr Montreal PQ MARC @StIgnatiusCh \$5@9 \$8/T@8:15 James 514 990 1965 W+  
19 April S.Portland ME PAWA @AmLegion \$6@8 \$10/T@6:30John W1JLB 207 776 2288 W+  
20 Apr Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+  
Third Sunday April thru October  
26 Ap Gales Ferry CT RANSON Auction @FireHs \$2@9 Gary WT1SND 860 884 4218 W+  
26 Apr Brookline NH NEARC Antique \$5@8:30 \$10@7:30 Bruce 603 772 7516 F+  
27 Ap Middletown NY OCARA @CommCtr \$7@9 \$12Sell Neil AC20 914 490 2001 F  
2,3 May Deerfield NH NEARfest XV @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 R+  
10 May E Greenbush NY EGARA @FireCo \$6@8 \$6/T@6 Tom KC2FCP 518 272 1494 W+  
18 May Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+  
31 May Goshen CT SBARC @FG Rt63 Marc K1CTT 860 672 2659 A+  
1 June Bethpage NY LIMARC @Briarcliffe Dave AK1NS 516 312 8745 A+  
7 June Hermon ME PSARA @8 @HS TG@6:30 Jerry K1GUP 207 848 3400 W+  
7 June Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518  
8 June Queens NY HoSARC Stephen WB2KDG 718 898 5599 A+  
15 June Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+  
21 June Newington CT NARL @StMarySch Quentin KB1EWM 860 383 8203 A+  
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+  
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  
20 Sept Forestdale RI RIAFMRS @VFW \$5/Sp@8 Pete AA1PL 401 639 4484 T+  
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 +  
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

July 17-20, 2014 -- Hartford, Connecticut



#### **In the News**

- [ARRL Centennial Convention](#) (PDF)
- [ARRL Plans Centennial Celebration in Hartford in 2014](#)

## ARRL Hamfests and Conventions



### Hamfest/Convention

04/06/2014 | [FARA Spring Flea & Exams](#)

**Location:** Keefe Tech HS, 750 Winter St., Framingham

**Type:** Club Hamfest and Exam

**Sponsor:** Framingham Amateur Radio Association

**Website:** <http://www.w1fy.org/Flea.aspx>



### Hamfest/Convention

07/17/2014 | [ARRL NATIONAL CENTENNIAL CONVENTION](#)

**Location:** Hartford, CT

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** American Radio Relay League

**Website:** <http://ARRL2014.org>

[Learn More](#)

## Area Events

### USA ARDF Championships in Boston June 5 - 8

*Joe Moell K0OV USA ARDF Coordinator*



USA's national ARDF championships will return to the northeast this year. Radio-orientees of all skill levels will gather in Boston, Massachusetts for four days of intense competition on the first weekend of June. The events will be open to any fan of on-foot hidden transmitter hunting, with or without a ham license. Visiting competitors from outside USA

are welcome.

Classic five-transmitter competitions will take place on June 7-8, two meters on Saturday and 80 meters on Sunday. Prior to that will be the optional competitions in sprints and foxoring on June 5-6.

Organizing and hosting these championships will be Vadim Afonkin KB1RLI, one of USA's most accomplished radio-orientees. He will be assisted by members of Cambridge Sports Union. Winners of



the 2014 USA championships will be under consideration for membership in ARDF Team USA, which will travel to the mountains of Kazakhstan for the 17th ARDF World Championships in September.

Registration is now open, with a deadline of May 1. Go to the Boston ARDF Web site ([www.bostonardf.org](http://www.bostonardf.org)) to register online and get more information. For the latest updates, subscribe to a special group mailing list for participants and others interested in these championships by sending a blank e-mail to [usa2014ardf-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:usa2014ardf-subscribe@yahoo.com). Information about the sport of ARDF and ARDF Team USA is at [www.homingin.com](http://www.homingin.com).

## [You can be part of the "Ham Radio Olympics"](#)

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*Doug Grant, K1DG writes:*

The World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) will be held in Massachusetts July 12-13, 2014. Like the Olympics or the Boston Marathon, this event draws the "best of the best" from around the world. Fifty-nine two-operator teams will be set up with Field-Day-style stations on 16 properties around the Route 495 corridor, from Pepperell in the north to Plymouth and Taunton in the south.

The international teams will compete to see which team can make the most contacts with the most countries and take home the gold medal. This Olympic-style world championship will be widely covered in the local, regional, and national media and provide excellent publicity for amateur radio.

The WRTC2014 organizers need volunteers to help with this once-in-a-lifetime event. The biggest need at the moment is for people to help set up and keep an eye on the stations and provide local transportation for the teams between the headquarters hotel in Westborough and the sites.

Several clubs in the area have "adopted" one or more sites. Perhaps your club would be interested in doing this as a club project. We'd be happy to send someone to your next club meeting to provide more details.

Please visit [www.wrtc2014.org/volunteer](http://www.wrtc2014.org/volunteer) to sign up and tell us how you would like to help make this exciting event a success.

Learn more about WRTC2014 at <http://www.wrtc2014.org>.  
73, Doug Grant, K1DG

## [Walk for Hunger, May 4, 2014](#)

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*Eric Horowitz, KA1NCF writes:*

Attention Boston area hams: It is that time again... Public Service season is here. We are now looking for help for this year's Project Bread Walk for Hunger on Sunday, May 4th, 2014.

This will be the 46th running of the event. We need people to provide communications support for the Project Bread Staff and volunteers along the 20 mile walk.

If you are interested in helping out this year, go to <http://www.mmra.org/wfh/> to log in and fill out the signup form.

If you have questions please send an email to: [wfh14@mmra.org](mailto:wfh14@mmra.org)

73,

Eric - KA1NCF

Walk For Hunger 2014

Amateur Radio Communications Coordinator

Email: [wfh14@mmra.org](mailto:wfh14@mmra.org)

## PARTers in the media

### A World Class Contest Station

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- *Anita and Fred on Ham Nation 138*

Hosts: [Bob Heil \(K9EID\)](#), [Gordon West \(WB6NOA\)](#), [George Thomas \(W5JDX\)](#), [Don Wilbanks \(AE5DW\)](#), and [Dale Puckett \(K0HYD\)](#) and Cheryl Lasek (K9BIK).

Guest: [Fred\(AB1OC\)](#) and [Anita\(AB1QB\)](#)

Anita and Fred's world class contest station, Green County Hamfest, measuring coax impedance, and more.

Download or subscribe to this show at <http://twit.tv/hn>. Link to the show is at <http://twit.tv/show/ham-nation/138>



## D-Star

### D-STAR Tidbits

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- *Terry Stader KA8SCP*

Local D-Star goings on:

- The Walpole D-Star repeater is on the air with a frequency of 446.4375 (minus 5 MHz) using the WA1PLE call sign. The repeater site is at their 475 Old Post Rd in Walpole. Program your radios with WA1PLE-B in RPT1, and WA1PLE-G in the RPT2 location. No internet at the site today, but that is in the future.
- I just heard that there will be a D-Star presentation at Deerfield this year from 10-11 AM on Saturday. Hope you can make it.
- If you are headed north from Westford along the coastal I-95 route, try the K1HBR D-Star repeater in Hampton Beach on 145.44 and 449.475. In the same area is also KB1TIX on 145.400 in Kensington, NH. A little further to the north try KC1ALA on 147.150 in Biddeford, Maine and then the KS1R system in Brunswick, Maine on 447.575
- Still looking a D-Star training/new user meeting to be held somewhere in eastern Massachusetts. Details are yet to be ironed out. Topics to be included are radio programming, linking and unlinking, common user questions and practices. Lots of time for Q & A.



## Study Confirms QRMers Are Bad People

- *By K5KVN, on the scene*

**NEWINGSTEAD, Vt.** — Results of a worldwide study have confirmed what many ham radio operators have suspected all along: people who purposefully interfere with other transmissions are psychopaths.

The study, conducted over the course of one week by the National Radio Retransmission Legion (NRRL), was released yesterday. "It became immediately clear what kind of people we were dealing with. One week was all we needed to determine that people who QRM are just terrible, nasty trolls," said Bruno Harlingturn, NRRL Deputy of Scientific Studies.



The research sought to determine exactly why people engage in malicious interference. QRMers were identified by NRRL interns, who used "inexpensive direction finding equipment" to pinpoint the location of the interference. Many were found on 14.313 MHz in the United States. The interns then sent written surveys to those identified as the source of the interference.

When asked why they QRM, respondents said, in part:

- "I'm actually making it more fun for the hams, by making it more challenging to hear the rare DX through my whistling."
- "The longer I press on my J38 key, the more pleasure I receive."
- "I enjoy the audio characteristics of belching, particularly when 20 meters goes long late in the day."
- "The more beautiful the SSB signal is, the more satisfying it is to corrupt."

Researchers say these answers point to narcissism (egotism and self-obsession), psychopathy (the lack of remorse and empathy) and sadism (pleasure in the suffering of others).

"Let's not mince words here. These fools are certifiable nutcases," said Harlingturn. He said the study was so successful, the NRRL plans to replicate the methodology on a future study. "I think we can soon determine why so many hams use phonetics on two meter repeaters," Harlingturn said.

Ham Hijinks will report on that study when it becomes available.

### hamhijinks.com

## Repeater Nets

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

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

NOTE: You can LISTEN ONLY to this repeater audio by linking to this URL:  
<http://www.radioreference.com/apps/audio/?feedId=10933> (effective 2/2012)

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

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

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

## Monthly PART Breakfast

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

## Monthly Breakfast Pricing

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

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

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

*Kid's breakfast: \$8.00*



Copyright WB1GOF,  
Robert Schmeichel  
2011



Copyright WB1GOF,  
Robert Schmeichel  
2013

## Amateur Radio News

[ARRL to FCC: "Grow Light" Ballast Causes HF Interference, Violates Rules](#)  
[FCC Invites Public Comment on Petition Affecting 10-10.5 GHz Band](#)  
[The K7RA Solar Update](#)  
[The Old Man: Rotten Reasons](#)  
[New SATERN Emergency Disaster Services Ham Station May Be Remotely Controlled](#)  
[ARES Group Joins Forces with Delaware State Police](#)  
[ARES Group Joins Forces with Delaware State PolicePicture](#)  
["Ham Video" Transmits Live Images of Astronaut Mike Hopkins, KF5LJG, From the ISS](#)  
[Amateur Radio Played Role in Missing Airliner Response](#)  
[FCC Cites Ham's "History of Compliance" in Reducing Fine for Unlicensed Broadcasting](#)  
[Up, Up, and Away: NPA Students Explore Boundary to Space:](#)  
[2013 Dunn County ARES/RACES Year End Report:](#)  
[Come in, Space Station, this is Cambie:](#)  
[MARS -- Partner in Preparedness:](#)  
[Richmond Students Use Amateur Radio to Speak to Astronaut:](#)  
[FCC Grants VHF TV Spectrum Experimental Licenses:](#)  
[U.S. Amateur VLF Transmissions Cross Atlantic:](#)  
[Wireless Electricity? It's Here:](#)  
[Propagation Forecast Bulletin #11 de K7RA:](#)  
[ARNewsline Report 1909 -- March 14 2014:](#)

### [New frequencies for French radio hams](#)

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The minutes of the March 7 meeting between the French National Society REF and the communications regulator ARCEP have been published

### [UKHASnet a UHF Mesh Network](#)

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Radio amateurs are involved in the development of UKHASnet, a UHF mesh network using low power licence exempt wireless modules in Repeaters, High Altitude Balloons, etc

### [Central States VHF Society Conference - Call for Papers](#)

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The Central States VHF Society's 48th Annual CSVHFS Conference will be held on 25-27 July, 2014 in Austin, Texas

### [National Science and Engineering competition results](#)

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Radio amateur and Gadget Show presenter Jason Bradbury 2EOJAB was one of the judges for the UK Young Scientists and UK Young Engineers of the year

### [Take on the RaDAR challenge](#)

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Are you ready for an exciting amateur radio challenge? Deploy as a portable station, make five contacts, walk one kilometre, deploy again and make five contacts. Continue for the four hour period

### [New SARL electronic voting system](#)

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At the 2013 AGM, council was tasked with the development of an for election of SARL councillors. Such a system has been developed by the SARL Webmaster, Peter Hers, ZS6PHD. The system is now available online as a demonstration

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

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There are various small to mid sized sunspots visible with Sunspot AR2002 having a complex magnetic field and harboring enough energy for X-class solar flares

### [Up, Up, and Away: NPA Students Explore Boundary to Space:](#)

by [azdailysun.com](#) on March 16, 2014

A burst of excited chatter filled the air as around 90 students from Kaci Heins' sixth-grade Northland Preparatory Academy science classes waited for their launch window outside Hangar X3 at the Flagstaff Pulliam Airport. Heins and her eight-member launch crew carefully held the giant, helium-filled weather balloon and its payload: a small, airtight box decked out with a GPS device, cameras, a radio transmitter, temperature and pressure sensors, ultraviolet-measuring beads, a parachute, student artwork and a tiny plastic Lego astronaut. "Let it go, let it go," sang a boisterous group of students. "We've had months of planning trying to make this happen," Heins said. Science Foundation Arizona provided a grant for Flagstaff students to conduct weather balloon launches for three years, but when the grant ran out, Heins had to find another funding source. She was able to get a grant from NASA Explorer Schools to pay for the balloon and the full tank of helium it would take to carry it into the stratosphere.

### [2013 Dunn County ARES/RACES Year End Report:](#)

by [chippewa.com](#) on March 16, 2014

Dunn County's volunteer ARES/RACES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service/ Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) communications team had another active year in 2013. Conservatively, 1071 volunteer man hours were logged over more than 59 events. The category break-down follows:

### [Come in, Space Station, this is Cambie:](#)

by [richmond-news.com](#) on March 16, 2014

On Thursday morning Richmond high school students boldly went where no students had gone before -- outer space. Well, kind of. Students from Cambie secondary school, along with their teachers, partnered with the American Radio Relay League to have their school become just the fourth in the province to host the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station event. Setting up the communication system was the Richmond Amateur Radio Club. The stage was set. Star Trek's theme song blared over the gymnasium speakers and at 10:05 a.m. about 1,500 students from across the school district bore witness to verbal communication with International Space Station commander Koichi Wakata, a Japanese engineer and veteran astronaut, who is fulfilling the role Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield did in 2013. The space station orbits the earth 15.5 times a day at an average speed of 27,600 km/h. The radio club and students had but a mere seven minutes to make contact and ask questions as the station flew 400 kilometres above British Columbia and the Arctic. Grade 12 Cambie student Nica Gatchalian was tasked to make contact with the space station.

### [MARS -- Partner in Preparedness:](#)

by David J. Trachtenberg on March 15, 2014

The national planning coordinator of Air Force MARS surveyed the mission and capabilities of all three MARS branches for a comprehensive presentation to security-concerned business executives, academics and government officials last week in Hershey, Pa. Excerpts follow.

### [Richmond Students Use Amateur Radio to Speak to Astronaut:](#)

by [ca.news.yahoo.com](#) on March 15, 2014

Richmond high school students became the first in Metro Vancouver and the fourth in B.C. to use home-made radios to speak with an astronaut on board the International Space Station on Thursday. More than a thousand students at H. J. Cambie Secondary School watched a handful of their peers ask questions of Japanese astronaut Koicho Wakata as he travelled 430 kilometres above earth. "It is not every day you can speak to astronaut," said Grade 12 student Nica Gatchalian. The connection was very weak, and only allowed for a few seconds of conversation, in part because it had to be made as the ISS was above the school. Travelling at a speed of about 28,000 kilometres per hour, that window lasted only about seven to nine minutes. Youth's interest in space skyrocketed when astronaut Chris Hadfield became the first Canadian to command the ISS -- a milestone that happened one year ago on Thursday. "I saw his music video in space and all the videos he did answering people's question. It is so appealing to me because it is the sort of job where you don't have to sit at a desk," said Grade 12 student Richard Marohn. Thursday's event seemed to have a similar impact.

### **FCC Grants VHF TV Spectrum Experimental Licenses:**

by tvtechnology.com on March 15, 2014

Boeing Okayed for military radio testing in Ch. 2-6 broadcast space: Last week the FCC issued its list of experimental licenses granted from Jan. 1 to Feb. 1, 2014 and while there was only one that fell within broadcast spectrum, there were a few others that will likely be of interest to ham radio operators using the shared 420-450 MHz band. Boeing received experimental license WG2XZQ to operate in the 54-72 MHz (TV Channels 2-4), 76-87 MHz (TV channels 5 and 6) and 173.28-173.40 MHz bands for radio testing. According to Boeing's application, the testing will use military ARC-210 and URC-200 radios and consist of a simple "Check One, Check Two" radio test between two attached radios at any two frequencies in these bands. Testing will take place "on the flight line" in St. Louis, Mo. In its application Boeing said this license would replace STA WG9XIE. Ham radio operators in the area north of Denver may notice transmissions from Detect, Inc. on 449 MHz in connection with the testing of wind profiler radar and remote sensing technology mobile around Longmont, Colo.

### **U.S. Amateur VLF Transmissions Cross Atlantic:**

by tvtechnology.com on March 15, 2014

29 kHz signals heard in the United Kingdom and Germany: While frequencies near the upper end of the RF spectrum--60 GHz up to the terahertz range -- are gaining attention due to their ability to transmit extremely high data rates, a group of ham radio operators operating with FCC experimental licenses are exploring frequencies near the lower end of the RF spectrum, using extremely low data rates. Last week, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) said a very low frequency (VLF) signal from a ham radio experimenter in New York was heard in the United Kingdom and Germany. The test was transmitted by Bob Raide, W2ZM, at 29.499 kHz and consisted of a very slow speed CW signal. A U.K. amateur operator, Roger Laphorn with station call sign G3XBM, said, "In recent weeks a number of amateur tests have been running from the U.S.A. to Europe around 74 kHz and at 29.499 kHz using several hundred Watts to large antennas. As far as I know, these 29.499 kHz VLF signals are the first amateur VLF [transmissions] to span the Atlantic--fantastic results by well-equipped stations using suitable receivers and good software." (The signals on 74 kHz were "well copied," but reception of the 29.499 kHz signal was a surprise.)

### **Wireless Electricity? It's Here:**

by cnn.com/ on March 15, 2014

Katie Hall was shocked the second she saw it: a light-bulb glowing in middle of a room with no wires attached. Looking back, it was a crude experiment, she remembers: a tiny room filled with gigantic cooper refrigerator coils -- the kind you'd see if you cracked open the back of your freezer. She walked in and out between the coils and the bulb -- and still the bulb glowed. "I said: 'Let's work on this. This is the future.'" Don't worry about getting zapped: Hall assures that the magnetic fields used to transfer energy are "perfectly safe" -- in fact, they are the same kind of fields used in Wi-Fi routers. In the house of the future, wire-free energy transfer could be as easy as wireless internet.

### **Propagation Forecast Bulletin #11 de K7RA:**

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on March 14, 2014

This week saw sunspot numbers and solar flux decline. Average daily sunspot numbers declined from 199.3 to 138.7, while solar flux dropped from 162.9 to 149.7.

### **ARNewsline Report 1909 -- March 14 2014:**

by Bill Pasternak (WA6ITF) on March 14, 2014

Ham radio is called to play a part in the Malaysian Airlines mystery; the DARC says the number of German ham radio operators is declining; a new GPS system forces the closure of a pair of amateur television repeaters; steps 1 and 2 of the commissioning of the new ISS Ham Video transmitter considered a success, lots happening on the FCC enforcement scene and FEMA introduces a new wireless alert frequently asked questions web page. Find out the details are on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1909 coming your way right now.

### **65th Lake Constance Convention and the Ham Radio 2014:**

by WIA on March 14, 2014

The 65th Lake Constance Convention and the HAM RADIO 2014, both organised by DARC, Germany's most prominent amateur radio club, will take place from Friday, June 27th until Sunday, June 29th, 2014 in Friedrichshafen on Lake Constance. Please note that on June 28th and June 29th there will be also a MAKER WORLD exhibition at the same location. We very much hope that many representatives of the IARU member societies will be able to join us this year. As in previous years we have been able to obtain a discounted rate for you

at the "Seehotel". Further details can be found in the attachment. You can register and also make a hotel reservation by emailing or faxing the attached registration form to Mrs. Simone Blümer at DARC.

### [FCC Agents Trace Radio Interference to Doorbells, Videogames, Blankets:](#)

by [online.wsj.com](#) on March 14, 2014

When Signals Interfere With Cell Towers or Radio Broadcasts, Agents Crack Down: A federal agent who shows up unannounced at a building along a Texas highway might be looking for any number of things: illicit drugs or immigration violations, say, or illegal firearms. Or fluorescent lights. Which was what the agent had in mind who walked into the Perfect Cuts salon in San Antonio last July. The lights were violating communications regulations.

### [Edinburgh Festival Show to Be Sent to Outer Space:](#)

by [scotsman.com](#) on March 14, 2014

AN Edinburgh Festival show will be heading into space for the first time this summer as part of the UK's biggest celebration of visual art. Glasgow artist Katie Paterson will be sending a morse code version of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata all the way to the moon and back from the Jupiter Artland sculpture park near Edinburgh Airport. Her installation is part of the programme for this summer's Edinburgh Art Festival, which will also include an artist in a week-long residency in a bakery, an exploration of the links between art, theatre and magic, and the creation of a new sonic soundtrack for Calton Hill, where a new gallery is opening its doors.

### [DX News -- ARRL DX Bulletin #11:](#)

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on March 13, 2014

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by JA1TRC, NC1L, QRX DX, the Weekly DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.



*The 46th Annual (2014) Apple Blossom Parade – Saturday May 17*

We have once again been asked to provide communications for the Westford Apple Blossom Parade this year on Saturday, May 17th, 2014.

The parade starts around 10 AM and will start near the junction of Graniteville Rd and Main St. and ending at Abbot School. You will need to be available from 8:30/9:00AM until 11:00AM/noon at the latest. You will need to bring a 2 meter walkie. We need about a dozen operators for this event.

Most volunteers will be assigned to "shadow" various members of the Parade committee. We will also be manning the Net Control Station at the Police station. Our actual duty will not start till about 9:00AM but we need to get into the center of town before the roads are closed and we need to establish our assignments by 8:30 AM or so.

Please contact Terry-KA8SCP (@WB1GOF.org) if you are interested and can assist or need more information. If someone would like to assist in organizing this year's event, that would be great!

## Repeater Information

### Repeater Interference

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



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

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

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

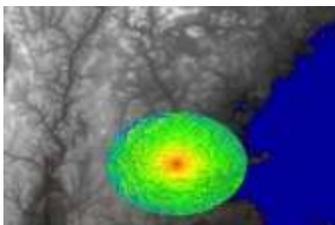
### EmComm events and repeater use

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

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

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

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



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

## PART Gear

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

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



## EmComm

**Emergency Communications** – The WB1GOF 146.955 repeater is used on the first Monday of every month (except federal/state holidays) for an EmComm Net starting at 1930 local time. If you are interested in being part of the local emergency communications team in your community, feel free to contact any of the following folks:  
Terry Stader – KA8SCP, MEMA Region 1 Communications Officer  
Hugh Maguire – N1QGE, for the Town of Westford  
Bill Ohm – W1OHM, for the Town of Chelmsford  
Darrel Mallory – K1EJ, North Middlesex ARES

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

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

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

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



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Follow us on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/wb1gof](http://www.twitter.com/wb1gof)  
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