



PARTicles



The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

Celebrating 40 years of public service 1975-2015

President's Column

- **Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)**

Halloween has come and gone. I had one trick-or-treater at my house, thus I have a lot of leftover candy. Many thanks to the people who participated in the PART Pumpkin Patrol. We look forward to hearing the stories at the upcoming PART meeting.

Many thanks to PART Founding member Bo (WA1QYM) for his years of service as the ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator for Eastern Massachusetts Section. Bo will be stepping down from this role to take a much deserved break.

Last week, it was my pleasure to meet and have dinner with a relatively new ham who was visiting the area from Italy. Stefano (IU0DFT) has had his license for 2 years and is very enthusiastic about the hobby. He visited a couple of local clubs, but unfortunately had to leave before our PART meeting. Stefano was amused by the slides from our "Field Day Retrospective" (a.k.a. The Silly Slideshow), and hopes his local club will pick up this tradition. He commented on the outgoing and friendly nature of the hams he's met, both here and in Italy.

It has been fun to watch and participate in the excitement shown by the new hams in our club. Elmering is a time honored tradition in our hobby, and I hope you will take advantage of any opportunity presented to you to help new hams. Recently, I helped a new general class licensee obtain his first HF transceiver, and offered advice for his first antenna. He has built the antenna and is almost on the air! I look forward to our first chat on HF.

Joining a club has many advantages, as you know. It is a great way to find folks who are knowledgeable and supportive. All ham radio

clubs need to concern themselves with attracting and retaining new members, as well as offering technical support to the newcomers. Without new members, a club will eventually wither away. By putting some focus on the newcomers and making them feel welcome, we secure our own future, and continue the traditions of the hobby.

I'm not much of a contester, but the CQ World Wide DX (CW) Contest is coming up on the last weekend of November. I am a handful of confirmed contacts away from the DXCC CW award, and I hope to participate in this contest for a couple of hours. It is definitely possible to achieve DXCC with 100 watts and a wire, especially during a contest like this. More details can be found here: <http://www.cqww.com>

At our November PART meeting, Brian (W1BP) gave a short talk about vertical antennas for the low bands. George/K1IG discussed PART Field Day 2016, Steve/W1KBE spoke about crystal radio receivers and Alan/W1AHM on repairing an intermittent in a high-current USB car charger. If you are interested in presenting in the future, please contact me via email: kb1oiq@arrl.net

The annual PART Christmas / Holiday party will take place on the 3rd Tuesday of December. On that evening, we won't have our usual meeting. The party will be held at the Yangtze River restaurant in Littleton. More details will be available via email and at the November PART meeting. Many thanks to Hugh (N1QGE) for once again stepping up to run this event.

Have a lot of fun, and 73!

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 20-September '16 & 17-October '16 (As of 18-October '16)

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	\$ 3,341.14	\$ 4,505.69	\$ 7,846.83
Income	\$ 0.00	\$ 24.25	\$ 24.26
Expenses	\$ (55.71)	\$ 0.00	\$ (55.71)
Net	\$ (55.71)	\$ 24.25	\$ (31.45)
New Balance	\$ 3,285.43	\$ 4,529.95	\$ 7,815.38

PART 2016 Membership as of 6-November '16

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

ARRL members: 103 / 92%

(Including ARRL Life members: (13))

NOTE: Starred lines changed since, 13-Oct '16

New Members:

Jay/Al1EE

Silent Key:

Larry/W1ESR (ex-KB1ESR)
http://www.badgerfuneral.com/sitemaker/memsol.cgi?user_id=1871167

##To pay dues##

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

-or-

Club Meeting, Cameron Senior Ctr., 7:00PM, 3rd Tuesday

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

PART's official mailing address is:

PO Box 503
 Westford, MA 01886

Our website is: <http://wb1gof.org>
 Our forum is: <http://wb1gof.net/forums/>
 Contact us at: info@wb1gof.org
 Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/wb1gof
 Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wb1gof

PART Officers:

President: Andy (KB1OIQ) Stewart
 Vice President: Rich (AB1HD) Crisafulli
 Secretary: Rick (W1RAG) Green
 Treasurer: Alan (W1AHM) Martin
 Director-At-Large: Steve (W1KBE) Rimsa

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

November 15th 2016

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

Dec 3rd 2016

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

Dec 20th 2016

- NO PART Meeting. Holiday Dinner, 6:00PM-9:00 PM. LOCATION: Yangtze River, Littleton

Jan 7th 2017

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

Jan 17th 2017

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

Feb 4th 2017

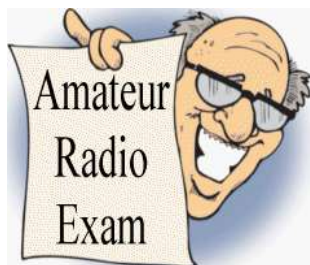
- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$15/\$9; kids: \$8 – see note below)

Feb 21st 2017

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

Monthly PART Meetings and Social Events

- Every Sunday, 8 PM – PART Net on 146.955 repeater, Echolink Node 380799
- Every 3rd Tuesday, NEW TIME - 7:00 PM – PART Meetings at Cameron Senior Center
- Every 1st Saturday, 8 AM, Regency Inn Westford – PART Monthly Breakfast
- Every Wednesday, 6 AM, Owl Diner Lowell – Breakfast



The Billerica BARS VE team conducts VE Sessions on 2nd Thursday of every month, EXCLUDING January 2017. They are held in the church hall of The Chelmsford Bible Church, 128 Gorham St, East Chelmsford at 7pm. New license and upgrade tests. Walk-Ins, not a problem. No Reservations needed. For more information, contact: Bruce W1LUS at 978-851-2886 [Email Bruce W1LUS](mailto:Bruce.W1LUS@arrl.org) or Gary W1GFF at 978-453-1100 [Email Gary W1GFF](mailto:Gary.W1GFF@arrl.org).

Ham Fleas/Events

Links to Massachusetts hamfest websites (partial)

Cambridge MA	Flea at MIT	http://www.swapfest.us
Boxborough MA	NE ARRL Conv	http://www.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
Feeding Hills MA	MTARA	http://www.mtara.org
Framingham MA	FARA	http://www.fara.org & http://www.n1em.org
Marlboro MA	AARC	http://www.qsl.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

3 Dec Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518 +

2017

21 Jan Whitman MA WARC 9AM@KoC Rt18 Chris 781 523 5010 F+
4 Feb Springfield VT CVFMA @VFW @8 B/Free \$5/T Dave K1ZS 603 446 7312 +
18 Feb Marlboro MA AARC \$5@9@MidSchool \$20/T Tim KA1OS 508 919 6136 F+
25 Feb Chocorua NH WMARC @Runnels Hall Greg KB1EZJ 603 759 6671 A+
26 Feb Hicksville NY LIMARC @LevitHall Richard 516 694 4937 A+
5 Mar Nashua NH NEARC RadioXLVIII antique \$10@8@ Marriott 603 772 7516 F+
11 Mar Chicopee MA MtTomARA @Castle \$5@8:30 S@6:30 Brian KC1BDF 860 478 6790 F+
31 Mar Lewiston ME AARC ME Conv @Ramada @8 Ivan N1OXA 207 784 0350 W
8 Ap Newton MA PHSNE Photographica Sat Only @AmLegion @9A John 781 592 2553 +
8 Ap Hampton NH PCARC @Masonic \$5@8 \$10/T@7 Mark K1RX 603 775 0220 F+
8 Apr LaSalle PQ MARC @RC Legion \$5@9 \$10/T@8:15 Jim VE2VE 514-990-1965 R+
16 Apr Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
Third Sunday April thru October
5-6 May Deerfield NH NEARFest XXI @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 W+
13 May E Greenbush NY EGARA @FireCo Tom KC2FCP 518 272 1494 A+
21 May Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
18 June Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
16 July Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
20 Aug Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
17 Sept Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
8,10 Sept Boxboro MA FEMARA NE Conv Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235
15 Oct Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
28 Oct Gales Ferry CT TCARC @FireCo auction Darryl WA1DD 860 443 7799 W+
11 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/S@7 ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422 +



Near-term local fleas

Whitman ARC WinterFest 2017

Saturday, 21-Jan'17

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

<http://www.wa1np0.org/WinterFest2017.pdf>

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

Ham Radio Classes

The Nashua Area Radio Club will be giving weekend Ham Radio Licensing Classes this fall. Here is their schedule:

~~September 24-25 Technician Class~~

~~October 22-23 General Class~~

December 2-4 Amateur Extra Class

Classes are held at Dartmouth Hitchcock Nashua, 2300 Southwood Drive in Nashua.

You can find more information on our website at

<http://n1fd.org/2016/08/14/fall-2016-ham-radio-license-classes/>



This is your pre-meeting reminder to add something to your weekly shopping to bring to the next meeting. Watch your e-mail for specific needs this month.

PART member donations have been greatly appreciated in the past and we hope to continue this great community service at every meeting.



The PART monthly meetings are held at the Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant Street in Westford. **NOW STARTING AT 7 PM**

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

RigExpert Battery Problems

- *Bob Glorioso—W1IS*

I have owned a RigExpert antenna analyzer for three years and every time I go to use it the battery is nearly dead. Finally, a few weeks ago after sitting for only a short time it barely worked. Time for a new battery!

Array Solutions sells a replacement battery that looks like the original 1800 MAH battery for \$20 plus a very high shipping charge way beyond any reasonable cost for an overpriced battery pack that probably

has the same poor batteries that came with the RigExpert.

But before I ordered batteries, I had to get the battery case opened. It turns out the battery case is easily opened and just requires a small jewelers screwdriver or two. You can pry the case open by wedging a screwdriver in between the two slots on the side of the case or wedging a screwdriver between the halves from the end and prying them apart by working your way around the case until it pops open. Using two screwdrivers, one to hold it open and the other to pry may help as you work your way around the case. See the photos for details



on where to start prying. My case popped open almost immediately.

Once the case was opened I began the quest for a better battery. I bought a pack rated at 2200 mAH that turned out to have slightly larger diameter batteries than the original and it didn't fit into the case. But, the best solution was right there on my rig table - the spare Eneloop 1900 MAH batteries for my KX3. Eneloops hold charge for a longer period of time than most other NiMH batteries and they fit nicely into the RigExpert battery case. (Costco and Amazon usually have them at a reasonable price.) So, I made a four-cell pack by soldering wires to the cells connecting them in series. It's easy to solder to the positive terminal and a light sanding of the bottom makes that terminal easy to solder. Use light wire especially for positive and negative wires out of the pack as they need to be dressed out of the way so you can close the case halves together. There's no need to put large shrink-wrap over the cells to hold the batteries together where one wrap of electrical tape does the job. Carefully unsolder the old battery case wires putting a piece of tape on the first one you remove to prevent shorting. Also note that the inside terminal of the battery case is positive. I put a plus sign in red ink next to the positive terminal just in case! Then solder the new battery wires to the terminal being careful not to short the wires as you do this. A piece of tape on one of the wires helps prevent shorts. Put a small piece of electrical tape around the terminals on the case after soldering to protect against a short to the battery terminals. Set the batteries into the terminal side of the case and press the halves together making sure the wires are not in the way.

Charge the batteries overnight with the RigExpert charger. They probably don't need a longer charge as the Eneloops come with a nearly full charge and don't lose their charge as quickly as other NiMH batteries.

An Inexpensive 2 Meter J-Pole

- *Bob Glorioso—W1IS*

As the ARES Emergency Coordinator for Stow, I was trying to get hams on the air in our many neighborhoods to cover the town in an extended power emergency when, as all Hams know, "All Else Fails".

Several inactive hams and a few new hams who want to be part of our W. Middlesex ARES group have purchased inexpensive handhelds that come with a rubber duck antenna. They work but don't cover the town well and some can't communicate with our new Fire Station and EOS at the former Pompositticut School. The solution I came up with is the simple J-pole made from TV twin lead. Several articles have been published on this kind of design in QST and other publications but I think it may be helpful for others to see what I have come up with for that old design.

Since many want to use this antenna inside their homes, I selected Leviton clear 300 ohm and purchased a 50'. I measured the velocity factor, VF, of the cable to determine the correct length and built and tested the following design. The VF of this twin lead is about .88 versus the published number of .83 for typical twin lead. (I'll write another short description on how to measure the VF of cable some other time.)

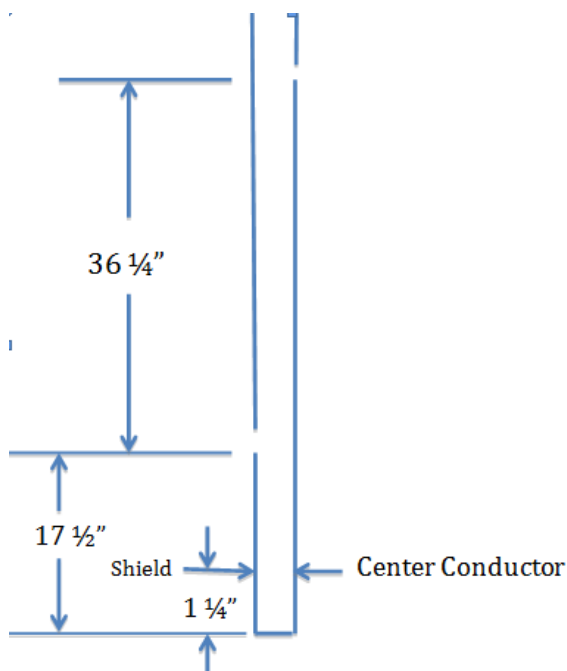
Since folks tend to mount them in a window, I made the wire length longer than needed and drilled a hole at the top where I threaded a loop made from a 6" tie wrap to hang it on a push pin stuck in the top of the window frame. This keeps the top of the antenna clear of the frame and any metal hardware there to accommodate curtains or drapes. Jerry, K1GOI, who lives in a condo, helped buy the clear twin lead, even disguised his by hanging it in a tree outside his window.

There are several of these antennas on the air around Stow now and the results for our simplex W. Middlesex ARES net have been quite good. A few of the folks using them are even getting into WB1GOF with their Baofeng HTs from Stow.

2 Meter J-Pole Vertical for Indoors our Outdoors

The dimensions are for Leviton semi-transparent 300 ohm Twin Lead with a velocity factor of 88%.

1. Cut 58" of twin lead. Drill 5/32 hole in the top of the twin lead for mounting.
2. Start at the bottom and clean and strip about 1/2" of wire and solder.
3. Using a sharp hobby knife clean 1/4" of insulation off the edges starting at 1 1/4" from the bottom and up on each side of twin lead and tin carefully.
4. Cut a 1/4" starting 17 1/2" going up.
5. Cut another 1/4" notch 36 1/4" from the bottom of the last notch on the other side of the twin lead as shown.
6. Solder 50 ohm coax to the 1 1/4" tinned wires and tape the coax to the bottom of the twin lead for strain relief. The shield can go on either side. Tape the coax along the bottom 1/1/4" for strain relief.
7. Put a cable tie through the hole at the top and make a loop to use to hang the J-Pole.



8. The antenna has less than 1.5:1 SWR across most of the 2-Meter band creeping up to 2:1 at each end and has the radiation pattern of a one-half wave vertical dipole.

Member Contribution

Ham Radio and RVing; It's about communications not propagation / Small Group of HF Ops Try D-STAR to stay in touch!

- *By Ernie Bauer – N1AEW*

Many of you are aware that since we retired Madaline and I have been traveling extensively throughout the US towing our 30 ft. Airstream with a Chevy Silverado truck. We have met a lot of new friends and enjoyed visiting most of the lower 48 states. We have made a lot of friends in our travels and because of our active membership in the WBCCI (Airstream Owners Club) Amateur Radio Club a major portion of those new friends are Hams. The club sponsors a USA wide radio club (about 350 members) that includes any amateur with an RV or an interest in RVing and runs regional daily RV Service Nets on the HF bands. (40 meter Eastern RV Service Net; meets daily on 7191Khz. 0700-0900 EST every day except Field Day Sunday!

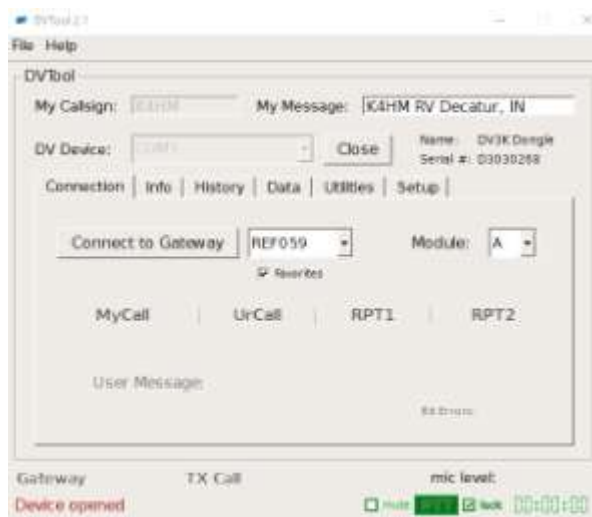
With propagation on 40 really bad some mornings a small group of very loyal HF Net Members recently decided to try their hand D-Star. The original proposal was to form a new US wide RV Service net on D-Star– but since everyone in our radio club is new at D-Star and the group is so small we decided to keep it an informal round table. We pass the conversation around "trying" to keep it in the same order, but it often gets out of sync when someone new "checks in". So far the roundtable format is working just fine. In fact, the informality is one of the things we like about the new D-STAR group. We are helping each other get acquainted with the new mode, the hardware, the software and especially all the station/system choices. This is a great way to get started, meeting some friends who are all enjoying a new mode of communications.

We are currently utilizing DPlus Reflector 059A located in St. Louis, Mo. Fred (KOQMR) originally researched this reflector and was given permission for our regular usage. In the beginning, the group was typically on from about 9:45 till 10:15 EST and then moved to another round-table on 40 Meter SSB. However, since there are now more of us we have been getting on as early as 9:15 and those not qsy'ing to 40 meters sometimes stay beyond 10:15. The original participants were Jack (AA8Q), Fred (KOQMR), and Jack (K8JXG); operations started in March 2016. Since then Hank (K4HM), Ernie (N1AEW), and Bill (KI4OCN) have become regulars. We have had frequent weekend participation from Brian (KA9QJT) in Raleigh, NC who is not available on weekdays and we have also seen Steve (AA1RV) on the REF059A user listing but he has always been-and-gone long before 9:15. Hank is usually connected and listening by 9:30 - 7 days a week unless driving or involved in local events that prevent his participation. Most of the group is checking in Mon-Sat.

The D-Star Reflectors we use are like digital conference bridges (virtual conference rooms) and most are running on computer servers located in high bandwidth data processing facilities throughout the world. Because D-Star is still experimental ham radio there are currently 4 separate types of D-Star Reflectors (DPLUS or REF, DExtra or XRF, DCS, and XLX); in this discussion we will focus on the DPlus Reflectors. Each DPlus Reflector has 5 modules (or rooms) labeled A thru E. Each module is independent and can connect many repeaters, access points, and hot spots. Module E (ECHO) is special and is used for station/link testing via a digital echo response. You can connect to it, make a transmission, release the mike button; it plays back what it heard. End to end signal report! And that can be a long distance; for example your QTH to St. Louis and back. Click on the "REF059 dashboard" in the morning (<http://ref059.dstargateway.org/>) and you can see who is connected. If their call sign is colored you can click on it and plot their current location on a map. Try the D-STAR info page (<http://www.dstarinfo.com/reflectors.aspx>) for a list of the DPlus Reflectors. Click on the net info page (<http://www.dstarinfo.com/nets.aspx>) for a schedule of nets on DPlus reflectors. Like repeaters, reflectors have a 3 minute time-out which helps keep the round table moving along – by setting a

reasonable limit for the length of transmissions. Checkout the DPLUS live monitoring <http://nj6n.com/dplusmon/>

The easiest way to get on D-Star is with products called DV Dongles which plug into a computer USB and run DVdongle software. The DV Dongle costs about \$185 (HRO) and requires a headset plugged into the computer sound system (or a speaker and mike). A newer version of the DV Dongle is the DV-3K (HRO \$145) The DV Dongle uses the Internet to link directly to D-Star Reflectors. I have used a regular communications speaker plugged into the pc sound system and my trusty Astatic dynamic mike on a real mike stand. The push to talk is switched on the screen with the mouse. Using the dongles is great to get started but you will be limited in how much of D-Star you can use compared to a full featured access point coupled with a 4th generation D-Star radio.



Of course if a D-Star Repeater is near your QTH (like WB1GOF B & C) it is certainly possible to use just a D-Star Handheld or mobile transceiver to link the local repeater to REF059A and check in with us. The Digital Voice Access Points (DVAP) are becoming widely used because they are more flexible/feature rich and becoming easier to system integrate with available turnkey software. These consist of a Raspberry Pi combined with a DVAP type product. DVAP products have a UHF or VHF chip style transceiver on board running about 10 mw and are mated with a handheld, mobile, or base station transceiver for both controlling and operating your D-Star station. This allows operation wirelessly throughout your home to about a mile if you take a walk in the neighborhood or within your truck or car (using a cell device for internet access). The DVmega boards come in UHF single band or VHF/UHF Dual Band and plug directly onto the General Purpose I/O pins of the Raspberry Pi. The handheld most frequently heard is the ICOM ID-51A. This is ICOM's 4th generation D-Star radio and the most advanced of its type available. Kenwood has just introduced their first D-Star handheld and it is also very popular, that's the TH-d74. It is a triple band (144/440/220) and has built in APRS and GPS and HF receiver.



Very 1st DVAP still available



ID-51A & State of the Art DVAP
(DHAP, DVmega, RaspberryPi)
Linux & D-Star Commander

So for example, on a typical weekday morning if you listen in on REF059A you might hear a round table discussion between 6 or more stations. The signals are all perfect digital voice quality. Jack AA8Q is in his mobile driving from his home in Ohio to Frankenmuth, MI. Fred KOQMR is at home in St Louis. Hank K4HM is full timing in his motor home and is camped in Michigan at a casino campground. Bill KI4OCN is at home in Sherrillsford NC. Ernie N1AEW is at home in Westford MA near Boston. Jack K8JXG is at his new home in Springfield, OH.

There are no propagation issues, no QRM, or band conditions. After the round table you will want to tune into REF030C (Atlanta, GA wide area reflector) or Reflector 001C in London, UK and copy the mail for a while then work some DX. You will hear worldwide stations checking in from the USA, Canada, UK, Korea, Japan, everywhere. Reflector 030C & 001C are nice places to work DX when we run low on sun spots.

See you on Reflector 059A..... 73's Ernie – N1AEW

References for the Raspberry Pi Digital Voice Access Point/Icom ID-51A Station that is pictured:

1. DHAP Mini 4x4.5x2.5 with dc-dc Buck at Hardened Power Systems or GigaParts \$100
2. DVmega UHF Transceiver for Raspberry Pi Giga Parts: \$129 Dual Band \$169
3. Raspberry Pi 3 Model B Basic Motherboard – Amazon \$36 or Giga Parts slightly higher.
4. Rubber Duck Antenna – Amazon \$5 to \$10

References for Internet Labs D-Star digital voice access points:

1. DV3K Dongle DX Eng \$150, HRO \$145, Giga Parts \$149
2. DV Dongle (Blue Box) HRO \$185, DX Eng #200, Giga Parts 185
3. DVAP UHF HRO \$269, Dx Eng \$270, Giga Parts \$260
4. DVAP VHF HRO \$269, Dx Eng \$250, Giga Parts \$239

Amateur Radio News



From eHam.net News:

[Urge the U.S. Senate to Pass the Amateur Radio Parity Act:](#)

by ARRL on November 16, 2016

Time is of the essence! The Amateur Radio Parity Act, having successfully cleared the US House, now awaits action in the US Senate. If the bill is not passed before the Senate adjourns for the year in December, it will "die" and we have to begin the entire process in both houses of Congress when the 115th Congress is sworn in come January 2017.

JeffCo Amateur Radio Club Celebrates 75 Years With ARRL:

by panews.com on November 16, 2016

"CQ, CQ, CQ calling..." If one were in Nederland on a particular street in a particular building at a particular time, one may have heard this general call being made by an amateur radio operator on Saturday. The Jefferson County Amateur Radio Club (JCARC) celebrates the 75th anniversary of its affiliation with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Saturday and Sunday. The public is invited to learn about amateur, or ham, radio at the event, where club members come together and talk about their shared love of ham radio. "It's our 75th anniversary with the ARRL. The club's been affiliated with them since 1941," Kirk Mahaney, Vice President of the JCARC, said. "It used to be known as the Port Arthur Radio Club before switching over to Jefferson County."

Symposium Probes Tech Problems and Cures:

by radioworld.com on November 16, 2016

HARTFORD, Conn. -- Broadcast plant issues, the growing impact of manmade RF noise on broadcast operations, audio measurements, digital-only AM radio and resolution of problems peculiar to HD Radio were in the forefront of this year's IEEE Broadcast Technology Society Fall Symposium. It's an annual gathering of radio and TV engineering personnel that began in the early 1950s in the nation's capital. Attendance at the October event topped 200 -- a record for recent years -- and included students and their professors from Connecticut's University of Hartford and Quinnipiac University.

Dx'ers Unlimited Current Web Audio Feeds:

by Bill, W8LV on November 15, 2016

Good News! I just found an online source for current Arnie Coro's (CO2KK) Dx'ers Unlimited Audio feeds here:

Ham Talk Live #40 -- Last Man Standing:

by D Neil Rapp (WB9VPG) on November 15, 2016

Thursday night at 9 pm Eastern on Ham Talk Live. Tune in at hamtalklive.com to listen to ABC hit television show Last Man Standing producer John Amodeo, NN6JA take your calls!

ARRL Honorary Vice President, Director Emeritus Tod Olson, K0TO (SK):

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on November 15, 2016

ARRL Honorary Vice President and Director Emeritus Tod Olson, K0TO (ex-W0IYP), of Minnesota and Idaho, died on November 12 after battling cancer for several years. An ARRL Life Member, he was 83. He began his volunteer service to ARRL in 1974 as the Minnesota Section Communications Manager. He became Dakota Division Vice Director in 1976, and then Director in 1982. In 1986, the ARRL Board of Directors elected him as ARRL Vice President of International Affairs, a post he held until 1990. He again served as Dakota Division Director from 1994 until 1999. The ARRL Board of Directors named him an ARRL Director Emeritus in 2000 and an ARRL Honorary Vice President in 2003.

EO-79/FUNcube-3 Now Available for Amateur Radio Use:

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on November 15, 2016

The EO-79/FUNcube-3 satellite has transitioned to Amateur Radio service, now that its primary mission has been completed. AMSAT-UK and AMSAT-NL have announced that the FUNcube U/V transponder on the 2U CubeSat QB50p1 has been activated with a regular schedule.

IARU Region 1 Monitoring Service Reports an Apparent Success:

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on November 15, 2016

The International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 (IARU-R1) Monitoring System (IARUMS) reports that the Russian military apparently responded positively to a complaint from German telecommunications authorities to eliminate an intruding signal on 20 meters. The Russian Navy "RDL" signal from Crimea had been transmitting on 14.180 MHz, using F1B at 50 baud and 200 Hz shift for several days. IARUMS said the transmissions were heard for the last time on October 31. IARU Region 1 includes Europe and Africa.

YARC Special Event: NRA Birthday, K7NRA:

by w7yrc.org on November 15, 2016

The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club (YARC) of Prescott, AZ, is planning to operate a special event station November 17, 2016, in celebration of the NRA's 145th birthday. The special event station will operate from Gunsite Academy's 2,000-acre campus in Paulden, AZ, north of Prescott. The special event call sign will be K7NRA. Operations will be conducted on the following frequencies:

[Amateurlogic Episode 97 is Released:](#)

by peter berrett (VK3PB) on November 14, 2016

Tommy shows us the Android SDR, Peter makes an Auto-Pi, Emile continues his COMM TCPIP Remote, George talks about RG-142 and correct Connector Installation.

[Pneumatic Launcher Gets Ham Antennas Hanging High:](#)

by hackaday.com on November 14, 2016

Amateur radio is an eclectic hobby, to say the least. RF propagation, electrical engineering, antenna theory -- those are the basics for the Ham skillset. But pneumatics? Even that could come in handy for hanging up antennas, which is what this compressed-air cannon is designed to do.

[New Update on Hamvention New Location:](#)

by tom Medlin (W5KUB) on November 13, 2016

Tuesday, November 15 live ham show, Amateur Radio Roundtable, will feature Michael Kalter W8CI and Ron Cramer, KD8ENJ from DARA to discuss new updates on the new Hamvention location.

[Amateur Radio Newslines Headlines for Ham Nation:](#)

by James Pastorfield (KB7TBT) on November 13, 2016

Amateur Radio Newslines Headlines for Ham Nation: 16, 2016.

[Palm Springs Veterans Show Gratitude Over Airwaves:](#)

by kesq.com on November 13, 2016

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. -- Thank you for your service, was a common phrase many veterans heard nationwide on Veteran's Day either on line, in person or on T.V. But for the Palm Springs American Legion Post 519, some veterans decided to take things old school and reach out by ham radio. "It's very heartwarming because there are lots of vets out there and we are losing World War II vets on a daily basis, so you talk to a few of those -- a few guys in Korea and then a lot of guys in Vietnam, you know that were active," said Amateur Radio Club President of the American Legion Post 519, Glenn Morrison. Glenn Morrison and Tom Mclean run the Palm Springs American Legion Amateur Radio club, that is licensed by the F.C.C. The club's call letters, K6TAL, are how they introduce themselves to other posts and operators for a quick chat. "We had a bunch of other people want to make contact and say thank you for your service, and we appreciate your service," Morrison said.

[Loretta Smith Achieves Ham Radio Certification at Age 91:](#)

by athensreview.com on November 13, 2016

Loretta Smith, age 91, resident of Cedarview Place assisted living, has joined the newest class of certified ham radio operators in Texas. Inspired by Pastor George Yarger of Harbor Baptist Church in Payne Springs, Loretta decided to pursue her ham radio license. Yarger spoke of his experience serving communities in times of disaster with his knowledge of ham radio communication, and Smith knew she could provide the same help in Gun Barrel City, if she was certified. Smith worked with the activity director at Cedarview Place to understand the process of becoming certified, and three other residents decided to join Smith in the course. For a period of weeks, the four studied and prepared for the certification test. "It was tough," Smith says. "I learned so much about electricity that if you needed new wiring run in your home, I could do it!" Smith and her friends found the course work to be interesting and enjoyable. On Nov. 3, Smith and resident Yeager Markin achieved the first level of ham radio certification with excellent scores. The other residents pursuing certification will take their tests at a later date. There are two additional ham radio certifications, and Smith is considering pursuing them. "I am pleased to have the certification, because I know in a disaster, if all the power goes out, we will be able to call for help, and let people know how we are," Smith says.



ARRL News

[Hamvention® Countdown: With 6 Months to Go, Plans Proceeding Apace at New Venue](#)

November 16, 2016 - With just 6 months to go until **Hamvention®** debuts at its new **Greene County Fairgrounds and Event Center** venue in Xenia, Ohio, May 19-21, General Chair Ron Cramer, KD8ENJ, and Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) Board Member Mike Kalter, W8CI, assure

that all is progressing smoothly. Cramer and Kalter made another appearance this week (November 16) on ***Amateur Radio Roundtable***, hosted by Tom ...

[ARRL Calls on Members to Press for US Senate Passage of Amateur Radio Parity Act](#)

November 15, 2016 - ARRL once again is calling on its members to urge their US Senators to support the Amateur Radio Parity Act (**H.R. 1301**) when it comes up in the Senate during the “lame duck” session of Congress that adjourns in mid-December. The House of Representatives approved the bill in September, but if the Senate does not follow suit, the bill will die, and the entire process will have to be repeated. ARR...

[QCWA, Radio Club of America Sign Partnership Agreement](#)

November 15, 2016 - The Quarter Century Wireless Association (**QCWA**) and the Radio Club of America (**RCA**) have signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU) to work together on a number of mutually beneficial future endeavors, including efforts to promote career interest in the wireless industry by young people.

“The QCWA believes this MOU will open many opportunities for mutual collaboration between our organizations,...

[November Frequency Measuring Test Results Reported](#)

November 15, 2016 - The **results** are in, and more than 90 submitted entries for the November 3 running of the Frequency Measuring Test (**FMT**). Thirty stations were able to pull off a “triple play” by correctly measuring the frequencies of all three transmitting stations with an accuracy of less than 1 Hz: AA6LK, AB4RS, K3KO, K4JAF, K5CM, K5RKS, K6APW/7, K6HGF, K6UM, K7HIL, KA5QEP, KI5EE, KK4KAZ, KM6QX, N2GL, N3FG, N...

[VP8DPK Offering a Short Window to Work South Georgia](#)

November 15, 2016 - If you missed putting South Georgia into your log during the **VP8SGI** DXpedition early this year, VP8DPK is set to be active from the Southern Atlantic Island November 15-19. Working him could be a challenge, however, as operator Chuck Pettis, W7AUM, will be running low power on SSB into a minimal antenna.

VP8DPK was on the air for a few hours from the Falkland Islands on November 12, making 70 co...

[EO-79/FUNcube-3 Now Available for Amateur Radio Use](#)

November 15, 2016 - The **EO-79/FUNcube-3** satellite has transitioned to Amateur Radio service, now that its primary mission has been completed. AMSAT-UK and AMSAT-NL have announced that the FUNcube U/V transponder on the 2U CubeSat QB50p1 has been activated with a regular schedule.

Due to power budget constraints, the transponder cannot be operational 24/7, and an orbit-specific schedule has been developed. The trans...

[“An Amazing Night” Reported for Special Activity on 630 Meters](#)

November 14, 2016 - Texas radio amateur and FCC Part 5 Experimental licensee John Langridge, KB5NJD/ WG2XIQ, **reported** “an amazing night” for the 630-meter **special event** on November 12-13. One highlight was a North America-to-Europe Amateur Radio contact on the medium-wave band, to which US operators are still awaiting access.

“Last night is what it is all about, and I had a front row seat for the festivities,” Lang...

[IARU Region 1 Monitoring Service Reports an Apparent Success](#)

Monday, November 14, 2016, 8:23:00 PM

The International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 (**IARU-R1**) Monitoring System (**IARUMS**) reports that the Russian military apparently responded positively to a complaint from German telecommunications authorities to eliminate an intruding signal on 20 meters. The Russian Navy “RDL” signal from Crimea had been transmitting on 14.180 MHz, using F1B at 50 baud and 200 Hz shift for several days. IARUMS ...

[RFinder and BrandMeister Team-Up for Daily Feed of Digital Repeaters](#)

Monday, November 14, 2016, 6:57:00 PM

[New ARRL Repeater Directory Will Leverage Crowdsourcing Technology](#)

Monday, November 14, 2016, 6:46:00 PM

ARRL partner **RFinder**, the creator of a web and app-based directory of Amateur Radio repeaters worldwide, will supply all data for the 2017-2018 *ARRL Repeater Directory*®. RFinder will employ its crowdsourcing technology to aggregate timely and accurate information for the *Directory*, marking the first time crowdsourcing has been put to use in the production of an ARRL publication. “Crowdsourcing”...

[ARRL Honorary Vice President, Director Emeritus Tod Olson, K0TO, SK](#)

Monday, November 14, 2016 - ARRL Honorary Vice President and Director Emeritus Tod Olson, K0TO (ex-W0IYP), of Minnesota and Idaho, died on November 12 after battling cancer for several years. An ARRL Life Member, he was 83. He began his volunteer service to ARRL in 1974 as the Minnesota Section Communications Manager. He became Dakota Division Vice Director in 1976, and then Director in 1982. In 1986, the ARRL Board of Di...

[Two Radio Amateurs Set to Join ISS Crew](#)

November 11, 2016 - Astronauts Peggy Whitson, KC5ZTD, and Thomas Pesquet, KG5FYG, and Cosmonaut Oleg Novitskiy will head into space on November 17 for a 6-month stay aboard the International Space Station. **NASA Television** coverage will begin at 1730 UTC on November 16. The launch from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan will be at 1820 UTC on November 17.

It will take the Expedition 50/51 crew members 2 days to reach...

[Chinese Students' FM Transponder Satellite Launched](#)

November 11, 2016 - “Dream 1” (CAS-2T), a “technical verification satellite” for the CAMSAT CAS-2 series of Amateur Radio satellites, was launched on November 9 on board a Long March CZ-11 rocket.

Developed by middle school students with the support of China's Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, the Science and Technology Museum, and the Eastern Highlands Qian Youth Space Sciences Organization, the 2U CubeSat car...

Reminder: 630 Meter Berlin Treaty Commemorative Special Event is Sunday, November 13 (UTC)

November 11, 2016 - Participants in the **ARRL WD2XSH 630-meter experiment**, Canadian radio amateurs, and members of the Maritime Radio Historical Society (**MRHS**) will join together for a special event operation on Sunday, November 13 (UTC) on 630 meters (***the evening of Saturday, November 12, in US time zones***).



ARRL Bulletins

2016-11-15 [ARLB041](#) IARU Region 1 Monitoring Service Reports an Apparent Success

2016-11-15 [ARLX017](#) ARRL Honorary Vice President, Director Emeritus Tod Olson, K0TO (SK)

2016-11-11 [ARLX016](#) Reminder: 630 Meter Berlin Treaty Commemorative Special Event is Sunday, November 13 (UTC)

2016-11-07 [ARLB040](#) W1AW 2016/2017 Winter Operating Schedule

2016-11-03 [ARLX015](#) ARRL President Emeritus Jim Haynie, W5JBP (SK)

2016-10-27 [ARLB039](#) Rule Making Petition to FCC Calls for Vanity Call Sign Rule Changes

2016-10-20 [ARLB038](#) Georgia Section Manager Changing on November 1



Latest Amateur Radio News from around the world

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



ARISS contact planned for school in Barcelona, Spain

An International Space Station radio contact has been planned for astronaut **Shane Kimbrough KE5HOD** with Col·legi Asuncion de Ntra. Sra., Barcelona, Spain. The event is scheduled Thursday 17 November 2016 at approximately 08:25 UTC



HF Remote Operation

Gary Pearce KN4AQ brings us the video of the talk by **Lou Romero W4LT** on HF Remote operation given at the 2016 ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference



Essex 2m Activity Afternoon this Saturday

To help boost 2m activity, the **Thurrock Acorns Amateur Radio Club** has arranged an activity session from 1-5pm this Saturday, November 19 using FM, SSB, CW and SSTV

modes



LoRa presentation at GRcon16

Many radio amateurs gave presentations at the GNU Radio conference covering subjects such as the LoRa, Internet of Things (IoT) and Software Defined Radio



Expedition Cruise

Chuck, W7AUM, is currently on an expedition cruise on the 'National Geographic Explorer' from November 9-29th. He sent the following to OPDX on November 15th: "Last night on the gray line I made my first two contacts from the ship as for the first time 20m and 15m opened up a little"



ARRL Honorary Vice President, Director Emeritus Tod Olson, K0TO (SK)

ARRL Honorary Vice President and Director Emeritus **Tod Olson, K0TO** (ex-W0IYP), of Minnesota and Idaho, died on November 12 after battling cancer for several years. An ARRL Life Member, he was 83



New Zealand Earthquake Nov 13

A strong 7.9 magnitude earthquake struck the South Island of New Zealand at 1103 GMT November 13 causing damage and local tsunami alerts, mainly for the East coast of the country



Essex Skills Night November 21

The last **Skills Night** of 2016 is planned for Monday, November 21 at the Danbury Village Hall in Essex



AmateurLogic 97: Variety Show

Tommy shows us the Android SDR, Peter makes an Auto-Pi, Emile continues his COMM TCPIP Remote, George talks about RG-142 and correct Connector Installation



Dutch regulator stops ham radio call publication

VERON reports that the Netherlands Radiocommunications Agency has stopped publication of the Dutch callsign list



69 MHz Activity Session

The *Delboy Blog* reports that Swedish 69 MHz CB users have an activity session from 2000-2200 GMT on the 1st Friday of each month

PART Holiday Party



This note is an invitation to you and your significant other to the annual PART dinner.

It will be held on Tuesday December 20, 2016 (our regular meeting night) at 6 PM at the Yangtze River Restaurant 584 King Street Littleton MA 01460

The cost for the dinner buffet will be \$20 per person - cash (please) at the door

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 of 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)



Copyright WB1GOF,
Robert Schmeichel
2011



Copyright WB1GOF,
Robert Schmeichel
2013

Repeater Information

Repeater Interference

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



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

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

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

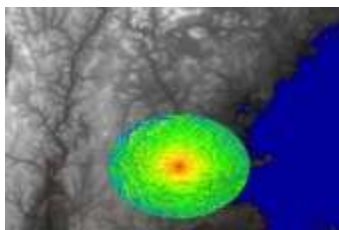
EmComm events and repeater use

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

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

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

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



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

PART Gear

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

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

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



EmComm

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

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

Bill Ohm – W1OHM, for the Town of Chelmsford

Darrel Mallory – K1EJ, North Middlesex ARES

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

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

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

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



PARTicles © 2016, a publication of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

This month's editor: Terry Stader – KA8SCP

PART official mailing address is:
PART, PO Box 503, Westford, MA 01886

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