



SEPTEMBER PARTicles



The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

Celebrating 40 years of public service 1975-2015

President's Column

- Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)

Boxboro 2017 is now in the history books. I attended the dinner on Friday, enjoyed the full convention and dinner on Saturday, but was disappointed by the greatly reduced attendance on Sunday. I was pleased to see several PART members at the convention, a few of whom were also speakers. The convention committee treated the speakers well, with preferential parking, speaker badges, and a free lunch. The final event was a raffle, where many door prizes were given away to happy recipients.

The flea market at Boxboro appeared to be well attended, but there appeared to be fewer tables than in previous years. Another big flea market will be held in Deerfield, NH on October 13-14, and that is the well known NEAR-Fest. I understand that there have been some big changes at the fairgrounds.

I was pleased with the constructive conversation we all had recently, both in the Board of Directors meeting and in the club meeting, regarding changes and improvements in our club and related activities. While it might have been tough to take that hard look in the mirror, the really great thing is that people have volunteered to help, and changes are in progress!

George (K1IG) has booked speakers from now through the end of the year, and that list is now on our website. Many thanks' to George and Rich (AB1HD) our webmaster.

Chauncey (K1OPE) and I had a discussion with the staff at the Westford Regency regarding the breakfast price and possible ways to reduce the cost. While the discussion was quite cordial, there has been no final resolution to date. Chauncey and I are continuing to work to resolve the situation. We'll give the club an update at the monthly meeting.

At the Boxboro Convention, I put on my "Affiliated Club Coordinator" hat and lead a group discussion with about 15-20 other people. For the most part, these people were club officers and others who contribute a lot of time and effort in their respective clubs. We shared ideas about what it takes to make a ham radio club a

great place to be, and also shared ideas about what NOT to do. In PART, we're quite fortunate to have a larger membership, where many people volunteer to help, and this helps us to be successful as a club. Clubs that enjoy a high degree of member participation tend to be the most successful.

Another change that is being implemented is that we are moving the meeting start time back to 7:30 PM. The room will be open at 7:00 PM for folks who wish to arrive early, help setup the chairs, and chat with other members. Please don't forget to bring a canned food item as a donation to the food pantry.

Our next meeting of PART will be on Tuesday, September 19th, at 7:30 PM.

On the agenda, there will be the annual election of officers. The nominations are: Andy (KB1OIQ) for President, Rich (AB1HD) for Vice President, Alan (W1AHM) for Treasurer, and Rick (W1RAG) for Secretary. Many thanks to Alan (K1ALL), for running the nominations committee. Unfortunately, Alan (K1ALL) has another commitment and won't be able to attend the meeting to run the election. George (K1IG) will run the election. Nominations are closed.

After the election, we will have two presentations:

Marcia Forde (KW1U) will talk to us about the National Traffic System (NTS). Marcia is the ARRL EMA Section Traffic Manager. During disasters and other emergencies, amateur radio is used to communicate information that is critical to saving lives and property. Marcia will tell us how this is done, and how you can help.

Rick Green (W1RAG) will talk about Field Day from his unique perspective, in what has become famously known at the "Silly Slideshow". This humorous look at ourselves has become a tradition in PART to which we look forward.

Have a lot of fun, and 73!

Andy

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 18-Jul'17 and 14-Aug'17

(As of 15-Aug'17)

	General Fund	+	Fund	Repeater =	Checking Total
Old Balance	=	\$3855.28	+	\$5132.27	= \$8987.55
Income	+	\$ 45.00	+	\$ 23.77	= +\$ 68.77
Expenses	-	\$ 344.83	+	- \$ 0.00	= - \$ 344.83
Net	-	\$ 299.83	+	+ \$ 23.77	= - \$ 276.06
New Balance	=	\$3555.45	+	\$5156.04	= \$8711.49
Acc. Receivable	+	\$ 0.00	+	\$ 0.00	= +\$ 0.00
Acc. Payable	-	\$ 57.67	+	- \$ 0.00	= - \$ 57.67
Net Credit	-	\$ 57.67	+	+ \$ 0.00	= - \$ 57.67
Net Worth	=	\$3497.78	+	\$5156.04	= \$8653.82

[Note: Negative GF net, positive RF net, negative overall net; negative GF net credit, positive RF net credit, negative overall net credit/AHM]

PART 2017 Membership as of 6-Sep'17

	Individuals (= New for 2017 + Renew for 2017)	Households (= New for 2017 + Renew for 2017)
Full (\$25)	36 (= 1 + 35)	[36 (= 1 + 35)]
Senior (\$15)*	44 (= 1 + 43)	[44 (= 1 + 43)]
Family (\$30)	21 (= 2 + 19)	10 (= 0 + 10)
Student (\$15)	1 (= 1 + 0)	[1 (= 1 + 0)]
Associate (\$10)	0 (= 0 + 0)	0 (= 0 + 0)
Grand Total*	102 (= 5 + 97)	91 (= 3 + 88)

ARRL members: 92
(Including ARRL Life members: 15)

* Starred lines changed since 2-Aug'17.

##To pay dues##
PART, P.O. Box 503, Westford, MA 01886-0015 -or- Club Meeting, Cameron Senior Ctr., 7:30PM, 3rd Tuesday
Renew online by PayPal at: http://www.wb1gof.org/F_join/part_dues.html

PART's official mailing address is:

PO Box 503
Westford, MA 01886

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

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

September 19th 2017

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9:00 p.m. LOCATION: Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant St., Westford MA

October 7th 2017

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$19/\$9; kids: \$9 – see note below)

October 13-14, 2017 – NEAR-Fest, Deerfield NH (www.near-fest.com)

October 17th 2017

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9:00 p.m. LOCATION: Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant St., Westford MA

November 4th 2017

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$19/\$9; kids: \$9 – see note below)

November 21st 2017

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9:00 p.m. LOCATION: Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant St., Westford MA

December 2nd 2017

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$19/\$9; kids: \$9 – see note below)

December 19th 2017

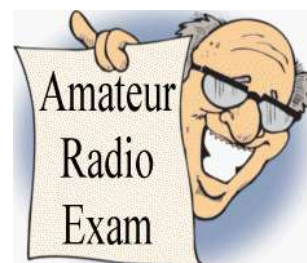
- PART Holiday Dinner – NO PART Meeting. Details Soon!

Monthly PART Meetings and Social Events

- Every Sunday, 8 PM – PART Net on 146.955 repeater, Echolink Node 380799
- Every 3rd Tuesday, NEW TIME - 7:30 PM – PART Meetings at Cameron Senior Center
- Every 1st Saturday, 8 AM, Regency Inn Westford – PART Monthly Breakfast
- Every Wednesday, 6 AM, Owl Diner Lowell – Breakfast

The Billerica BARS VE team conducts VE Sessions on 2nd Thursday of every month. 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@wblgof.org) or Gary W1GFF at 978-453-1100 [Email Gary W1GFF](mailto:Gary.W1GFF@wblgof.org).



NEAR-Fest XXII
October 13 & 14, 2017
Deerfield, New Hampshire

Directions: <http://forum.near-fest.com/index.php?topic=1009.0>

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.gsl.net/n1em>
Newton MA Waltham ARA Auction <http://www.wara64.org/auction>
Rockport MA CAARA <http://www.caara.net>
S Dartmouth MA SEMARA <http://www.semara.org>
Wakefield MA Photographica <http://www.phsne.org>
Westford MA NEAntiqueRC <http://www.nearc.net>
Whately MA FranklinCARC <http://www.fcarc.org/news.htm>
Worcester MA WPI ACM <http://acm.wpi.edu/swapmeet/>



New England Area Ham/Electronic Fleas:

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

2017

1 Oct Fishkill, NY MBARC @Down St Corr Adam KC2DAA 845 849 3666 A
8 Oct Queens NY HoSARC Stephen WB2KDG 718 898 5599 A+
13-14 Oct Deerfield NH NEARFest XXII @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 W+
15 Oct Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
21 Oct Brookline NH NEARC Antique@EvtCr \$10@7:30 \$5@8:30 Bruce 603 772 7516 W+
21 Oct Accord NY OMARC @JrHS Keith K2UNI 845 687 9951 A+
22 Oct Meriden CT Nutmeg@Sheraton John N1GNV 203 440 4973 A+
28 Oct Gales Ferry CT TCARC @FireCo auction Darryl WA1DD 860 443 7799 W
29 Oct Hicksville NY LIMARC @LeviitHall Richard K2KNB 516 694 4937 A+
11 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/S@7 ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422
2 Dec Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518 +

2018

20 Jan Whitman MA WARC @KoC Rt18 \$5@9AM \$15/T Chris 781 523 5010 F+
3 Feb Springfield VT CVFMA @VFW @8 B/Free \$5/T@7 Dave K1ZS 603 446 7312
24 Feb S Burlington VT RAoNV @HI I89x14 \$9@8 \$15@6 Mitch W1SJ 802 879 6589 +
10 Mar Chicopee MA MtTomARA @Castle \$5@8:30 S@6:30 Brian KC1BDF 860 478 6790
18 Mar Southington CT SARA @HS \$5@8 \$20/T@6:15 John WA1JKR 860 621 8791 +
30,31 Mar Lewiston ME AARC ME Conv @Ramada @8 Ivan N1OXA 207 784 0350
7 Ap Hampton NH PCARC @Masonic \$5@8 \$10/T@7 Mark K1RX 603 231 8965
14 Ap Newton MA PHSNE Photographica Sat Only @AmLegion @9A John 781 592 2553
4-5 May Deerfield NH NEARfest XXIII @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 +
11 Aug St Albans VT STARC @VFW Arn N1ARN 802 309 0666 +
9 Sept Ballston Spa NY SCRACES @FG \$6@7 Jim KG2H 518 703-9558 +

Near-term local fleas

Flea at MIT

Sunday, 15-Oct'17

Buyers \$6.00, 9:00AM-2:00PM (\$1.00 discount with flyer:

<http://web.mit.edu/wlrmx/www/swapfest/swapfest-2017.04.pdf>

Parking Lot & Garage on Albany St. Cambridge, at Portland St.

<http://goo.gl/maps/KpTQO>

<http://web.mit.edu/wlrmx/www/swapfest/buyers-parking.pdf>

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.



Special Event Stations in New England

09/23/2017 | USS Massachusetts Birthday Celebration

Sep 23, 0930Z-1500Z, NE1PL, Fall River, MA. USNR NE1PL. 7.259. QSL. USNR c/o Rick Emord, 135 Wareham St, Middleboro, MA 02346. We are celebrating the birthday of Big Mamie the USS Massachusetts BB59. nelpl.org

10/06/2017 | Warren Fall Festival

Oct 6-Oct 9, 0000Z-2359Z, W1W, New Milford, CT. Northville Amateur Radio Association. 14.225. QSL. NARA, PO Box 354, New Milford, CT 06776. The Warren Fall Festival is a fund raiser for the Warren CT volunteer fire company. NARA volunteers to operate the special event station. www.nalra.org

10/07/2017 | Dempsey Challenge Bicycle Race

Oct 7-Oct 8, 1200Z-2300Z, N1D, Auburn, ME. Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club. 28.460 14.270 7.200. Certificate & QSL. Androscoggin ARC, W1NPP, P.O. Box 1, Auburn, ME 04212. www.w1npp.org

10/09/2017 | NAQCC 13th Anniversary Celebration

Oct 9-Oct 15, 0000Z-2359Z, N1A-N0A, Ayer, MA. North American QRP CW Club. 14.060 10.116 7.040 3.560. Certificate & QSL. John Griswold, KK1X, 34 Cambridge St., Ayer, MA 01432.

11/10/2017 | 78th Anniversary of the Coast Guard AUX

Nov 10-Nov 12, 0400Z-0359Z, W1H, Elkins, NH. KB1QXJ. 28.425 21.310 14.290 7.175. QSL. Bill, Hopwood, P.O.Box 272, Elkins, NH 03233.

11/10/2017 | U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary 78th Anniversary

Nov 10-Nov 12, 0000Z-2359Z, K1H, East Freetown, MA. US Coast Guard Auxiliary. 28.480 14.250 7.195 3.820. QSL. Paul G. Sadeck, 90 Doctor Braley Rd., East Freetown, MA 02717.

04/28/2018 | Honoring the Birthday of the Boy Scouts of America

Apr 28, 1000Z-1500Z, W1BSA, Fall River, MA. USNR NE1PL. 7,259. QSL. USNR c/o Rick Emord, 135 Wareham St, Middleboro, MA 02346. This will be our fourth year transmitting in honor of the birthday of the Boy Scouts Of America from the ward room of the USS Massachusetts. Scouts camp over night on the ship and we try to involve as many as we can.

D-STAR Events

D-Star Pizza Party - September 8 2017

- Terry Stader, KA8SCP – WB1GOF D-STAR Admin

A D-Star Pizza Party was held on the Friday night of the Boxboro/ ARRL New England Division Convention at the Pizza Place in Chelmsford.



The event was “hosted” by “yours truly”. About 20 hams from around the region attended. The D-STAR knowledge of those who attended varied from those who were there to learn about D-STAR to those that have been using D-STAR for years. Also attending were Icom’s Ray Novak-N9JA and Diane Morrison-KE7PCS.

A slideshow was presented which elicited lots of questions and perspective on the many uses, applications and historical data surrounding D-STAR in the US. Presented also was the steps in getting started with D-STAR as well as some of the unique uses shared with the others in attendance.

As part of the evenings event, those that attended had their names thrown in to the “hat” and a brand new ID-4000A was drawn as a door prize... the lucky winner was Bob-W1FDR! Congrats Bob.

There was a lot of enthusiasm in the room and a general overall opinion is that a D-STAR “users group” should be continued and that 3 (2 NEAR-Fest and 1 Boxboro) such meetings be scheduled. I’ve reached out to the NEAR-Fest team already and we have scheduled a D-STAR “forum” on [Saturday, October 14th at 10:30 AM in the Entertainment Building](#). Hope to see our seasoned D-STAR users there as well as those who want to find out more about this digital mode!

**D-STAR PIZZA PARTY**

When: Friday, Sept. 8, 2017
Where: The Pizza Place
Time: 6 p.m. - Order from menu, No-host Dinner

Radio Giveaway:
ID-4100A to be given away at the Boxboro Hamfest on Saturday, September 9th at 3 p.m. in the Icom booth. Only those who attend the D-STAR Pizza Party are eligible to win.

For the love of Ham Radio

Address:
The Pizza Place
310 Boston Road
Chelmsford, MA 01824



D-STAR users... don't forget the D-STAR QSO Party.

Follow this [link](#) for more information.



D-STAR QSO PARTY 2017

Invitation to the Biggest D-STAR QSO PARTY!

Talk to the world by connecting through
D-STAR repeaters around the globe.

The Party Runs From
SEPTEMBER 22 (Fri.) 00:00 UTC ▶ 24 (Sun.) 24:00 UTC

Public Service Events

PART Pumpkin Patrol in Westford - Tuesday, October 31, 2017

PART once again is providing the Pumpkin Patrol service to the Town of Westford. Many of you are veterans and others may be volunteering for the first time... whichever you are... thank you in advance for your help! Pumpkin Patrol involves the use of Amateur Radio volunteers providing additional eyes and ears to the Town of Westford during the annual Trick or Treat event. Our purpose

is to observe and report any potential safety concerns back to the PART Pumpkin Patrol Net Control Station which will be located at the Westford Police station. A report from one of our patrols will get handed off to the Westford PD dispatcher and addressed by the Town's public safety services. Our role is ONLY to report what we see and provide input to our Town's public safety departments.



We normally require 5 - 8 radio operators per "shift" that will patrol various geographical sections of town. Maps and a checklist of locations to watch will be provided when you check-in for your assignment. Check-in occurs at the Westford Police station where we record your call sign and your vehicle information. You do NOT need to be a resident of the Town of Westford to volunteer, but a basic familiarity with the town's geography is a plus!

We have quite a few new hams and club members this year. If warranted, a meeting prior to the event may be scheduled. This will give our new folks and veterans a chance to interact and become comfortable with the operation.



The normal time for Trick-or-Treaters is 6 PM until 8 PM. Our activities have varied over the years, but we normally will run the operation from 5:30 PM until 10:00 - 11:00 PM. If the weather is lousy, the net closure time will be adjusted accordingly. We try and accommodate every individual's schedule, we have run with 2 shifts in the past... an early and a late shift. We will accept your offer to assist at any time throughout the course of the evening.

The plans are to use the WB1GOF 2 meter repeater, 146.955 (PL 74.4), for the entire event. So all a volunteer will need is a radio capable of operating on that frequency. A vehicle will help too... but if you don't drive and want to ride shotgun with another ham, we should be able to accommodate that as well. If you'd like to do a bike or foot patrol, please contact me and we could talk thru that kind of an operation. Contact Terry-KA8SCP (KA8SCP@WB1GOF.org) if you are interested or need more information.

Baystate Marathon/Half Marathon in Lowell - Sunday October 22, 2017

The Lowell CERT Communications Team has been asked to support once again the Baystate Marathon and Half Marathon. This year the event is on Sunday, October 22nd. Our operational time period is from approximately 0700 until event completion (estimated 1400). Our assistance has been requested by Lowell



Office of Emergency Management and Lowell Fire Department. The communications team will be employing Amateur Radio to provide this communications asset. Amateur Radio will be used for 2 functions:

- * Medical operations: the purpose of this net is to provide a communications link for medical requests/status to the incident command post.

- * Accountability net: the purpose of this net is to coordinate with a race public information booth the status of runners who are unable to complete the race for any issue to any one is seeking this information.

Race info may be found at <http://baystatemarathon.com/raceinfo>

Please contact Terry-KA8SCP (KA8SCP@WB1GOF.org) if you are able to assist or would like more information.

Amateur Radio News



From eHam.net News:

[Tunisia Legalizes Individual Licenses:](#)

by RSGB on September 17, 2017

The Ministry of Telecommunications of Tunisia has approved and issued a decree organizing amateur radio activity in Tunisia. It is now possible for Tunisian amateurs to apply, pass an exam and get their own amateur radio licenses.

[A Texas Homage to Amelia Earhart's Around-the-World Flight:](#)

by texasmonthly.com on September 17, 2017

Exactly 80 years after Amelia Earhart attempted her round-the-world flight, the solo journey has finally been completed in a single-engine aircraft for the first time, ending in Kestrel Airpark in San Antonio. "This was an amazing journey," says Brian Lloyd, who flew 28,000 miles in Spirit, his plane, during his circumnavigation of the globe. "It required more of me than I ever imagined it could, but I also found in myself the reserves of patience and energy to keep going no matter what." Like Earhart's plane, Spirit has a high frequency radio, which Lloyd used to communicate with hundreds of people across the world. "Every place I went I was warmly greeted with open arms, even in places where we are told that the US is not liked," Lloyd says. "The key thing to remember is that the aviation and amateur radio communities are united around aviation and radio, and not really around politics or religion."

[Hamlogs.net Debutes with YCCC/40:](#)

by Gene Shablygin (W3UA) on September 16, 2017

Hamlogs.net – the web site which brings near real time scoring into QSO Party world, will offer support of the first USA QSO Party next week.

[Please Keep Clear of Hurricane Nets:](#)

by RSGB on September 16, 2017

In view of the arrival of Hurricane Max on the coast of Guerrero, Mexico, the FMRE National Emergency Net has activated. The net is operating on 7.060 MHz and 14.120MHz so please avoid causing interference on or around those frequencies.

[WIA Team Compete in Overseas ARDF Events:](#)

by WIA on September 16, 2017

Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) competitions in the USA, and at the IARU Region 3 championship in Mongolia – saw the WIA Team win a swag of medals. Ewen VK3OW, Jenelle VK3FJTE and Jack VK3WWW were at the Harrison Ohio event in July, which was coupled with the IARU Region 2 ARDF Championships. Fierce

competition saw them win medals. Then they broke up, most back to Australia for a rest, and another caught up with a stateside relative. Next was the 11th IARU Region 3 Championships hosted by the Mongolian Radio Sports Federation. The original three were joined by Peter VK3ADY and Kristian VK3FDAC. The WIA Team of five scored well in the medal tally. Congratulations to all.

'Sergio and Sergei' Ron Perlman On True Story of Cosmonaut Trapped In Space

by [deadline.com](#) on September 16, 2017

From writing partners Ernesto and Marta Daranas and directed by the former, *Sergio and Sergei* is one of the most unusual, intriguing comedies to premiere at the Toronto Film Festival this year. A Cuban film starring Tomás Cao, Héctor Noas and Ron Perlman -- the only American actor on the production -- *Sergio and Sergei* tells the story of the unusual friendship formed between a Cuban philosophy professor and a Russian cosmonaut who finds himself trapped in space following the collapse of the Soviet Union. "It's based on an actual story that took place in 1991, where there's a Russian cosmonaut that's been sent up to the Mir Space Station for a three month period, and he's now in his fifth or sixth month and he doesn't know what the hell's going on. He finds this ham radio aficionado who happens to be a professor of philosophy in Cuba -- in Havana -- and he goes, 'Don't you know what happened man? The wall came down and the Soviet Union collapsed.' And they sort of deduced that there's nobody to get him down," Perlman explains. "The country that sent him up there is disintegrated, and the new federation -- the Russian Federation -- is busted, they've got no money, so they couldn't get him down if they wanted to. The Cuban guy gets in touch with this American journalist, who's the reason why he has this ham radio outfit to begin with, and he says, 'Man, what can we do?' An executive producer on the project, Perlman's character lived in New York, communicating with the other characters in the film through ham radio alone. But for the actor, taking on the project came with a desire to get the full Cuban experience. While all of Perlman's scenes are New York interiors, New York was recreated on a Cuban interior set.

When Natural -- or Any -- Disaster Strikes, Being Prepared Matters:

by [govtech.com](#) on September 16, 2017

(TNS) -- Earthquakes, floods, fires, wind storms, oh my. These are just a few examples of the potential natural disasters that could hit Ridgecrest and the Indian Wells Valley. In light of the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, which flooded Houston and other Texas cities, and Hurricane Irma, which hit Florida and the Caribbean islands, it's best to prepare for such disasters, according to Kern County Emergency Services Manager Georgianna Armstrong. "There are ongoing disasters that are ever present and they can affect us in ways to varying degrees," Armstrong said. "The control that they can affect us directly correlates to how well we have been preparing our families and ourselves to withstand those events." "When we talk about preparing for disaster, we are really talking about building family strength and resiliency," Armstrong said. Another group that plays a pivotal role in emergencies and natural disasters are ham radio operators. Ham radio operators, through groups like ARES and RACES, are citizens trained and licensed to operate radio communications. Armstrong cited a quote from a skilled emergency services manager she knew. "If she had to choose between water and the ham radio operators, she would take the ham radio operators," Armstrong said. "They can be your last line of defense when communications fail so they are incredibly important to overall communications."

Foundations of Amateur Radio -- #119:

by [Onno VK6FLAB](#) on September 15, 2017

There is so much stuff associated with Amateur Radio that your family might be forgiven in thinking that your hobby is all about being in the middle of a junk-yard surrounded by the carcasses of disassembled gear, components, failed projects, obsolete equipment and scraps of wire, solder and countless screws, resistors and other bits and pieces that are just too valuable to dispose of.

VK6ARN NewsWest for Sunday 17 Sept 2017:

by [WA Amateur Radio News](#) on September 15, 2017

VK6ARN NewsWest for Sunday 17 Sept 2017:

FCC Opens 630/2200-Meter Bands; Stations Must Notify UTC Before Operating:

by [W1AW Bulletin](#) via the [ARRL](#) on September 15, 2017

The FCC has announced that the Office of Management and Budget has approved, for 3 years, the information-collection requirement of the Commission's March 29 Report and Order that spelled out Amateur Radio service rules for the two new bands - 630 meters and 2200 meters.

[Role Still for Radio:](#)

by sheppnews.com on September 15, 2017

Amateur radio enthusiasts from across the state came together on Sunday for Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club's swap meet. Club secretary Andy Ashley said the meet had been held annually for the past 30 years. "Pretty well every town in Australia has a ham radio technician," he said. "In the Shepparton CBD alone there are five." Mr Ashley said there would be about 3000 to 4000 ham radio operators across the country and it had been a hobby for more than 100 years. Described as the original social media, he said the club was working hard to encourage young people to become involved.

[Here's Where Cold War 'Numbers Stations' Broadcast Spies' Secret Codes:](#)

by wired.com on September 15, 2017

IF YOU TUNED into just the right shortwave radio frequency in the 1970s, you might hear a creepy computerized voice reading out a string of numbers. It was the Cold War, and the coded messages were rumored to be secret intelligence broadcasts from "number stations" located around the globe. Photographer Lewis Bush is obsessed with these stations to "an almost irrational degree" and hunts them down in *Shadows of the State*, featuring 30 composite satellite images of alleged number stations from Germany to Australia. The series took two years and endless research. "It's a difficult project to quantify in terms of man hours wasted on it," he says. Numbers stations go back as far as World War I. During the Cold War, there were hundreds of secret broadcasts. Intelligence agencies sometimes started a transmission with a bit of music (one UK station was dubbed the "Lincolnshire Poacher" because it began with a few notes from an English folk song), then recited the code five numbers at a time. Operatives with the key listened and transcribed top secret messages. By the '70s, regular folks were picking up the frequencies on ham radios and geeking out on their possible meanings. Numbers stations even found their way into pop culture, with references in TV shows like *The Americans*, movies like *Vanilla Sky* and songs by Moby. Evidence suggests number stations are still used in countries like Cuba and North Korea.

[Emergency Preparedness Fair in Milpitas on Saturday:](#)

by mercurynews.com on September 14, 2017

In an effort to help prepare residents for the unthinkable, the Milpitas Fire Department's Office of Emergency Services will host a variety of agencies at its Emergency Preparedness Fair at Civic Center Plaza on Saturday. "September is National Preparedness Month. This is a timely opportunity, given the hurricane devastation, to remind folks why being prepared is so important," Toni Charlop, the city's emergency services coordinator, said via email last week. "Earthquakes, our biggest natural disaster on the West Coast, come with zero warning, it is imperative that families plan for these circumstances. This event is to bring awareness to preparedness." The event will feature a Milpitas Fire Department's engine company visit, a Milpitas police K-9 demonstration, ham radio operators, Pacific Gas and Electric Co. representatives giving advice on securing a water heater and having a potable water source for emergencies, and American Red Cross representatives talking of the need to be prepared and accepting donations for Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma relief.

[Offaly Telescope Detects Huge Explosions On the Sun:](#)

by offalyexpress.ie on September 14, 2017

The new LOFAR telescope in Birr, Co. Offaly, has detected an explosion on the sun, an event that could result in a visible aurora in our skies tonight, Wednesday, September 14. A similar event last week resulted in solar storms and the Northern Lights being visible over parts of Ireland. The past two weeks have been very stormy for the sun, and the recently installed LOFAR radio telescope in Birr has been key to helping scientists keep an eye on weather conditions on the sun and to forecasting its effects here on Earth. "This sunspot group has unleashed one of the the largest flares in over a decade and one of the biggest in the last 40 years", according to Professor Peter Gallagher, a solar physicist in the School of Physics at Trinity,



ARRL News

[St. Croix Amateur Radio Club Supports Irma Response in US Virgin Islands](#)

September 15, 2017 - Amateur Radio volunteers from the St. Croix Amateur Radio Club are supporting the Hurricane Irma response at the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA), utilizing 60-meter band channel 2 (5.346.5 MHz USB) to coordinate emergency communications. The net is continuously monitored and has scheduled situation reports (SITREPS) at 1200 and 2200 UTC.

[Enigma Reloaded Event Returns on September 22](#)

September 15, 2017 - The 4th running of the Enigma Reloaded operating event will get under way on September 22 and continue until September 30. Sponsored by the **A.R.I. Fidenza Radio Club**, the event celebrates the history of the Enigma cipher machine and its crucial role in World War II, as well as the individuals who developed the device and contributed to its success.

Enigma Event 2017 takes place in two stages: F...

[New 10-GHz Earth-Moon-Earth World Record Set](#)

September 15, 2017 - A new 10-GHz Earth-Moon-Earth (EME or moon bounce) world record has been set. On September 9, Rex Moncur, VK7MO, and Jim Malone, WA3LBI, completed a 18,949.4-kilometer contact using *QRA64D*. This extends by approximately 600 kilometers the previous world record of 18,337 kilometers held by DL7FJ and ZL1GSG, who used CW.

The participants said the key was to find locations with nearly 0° take-off, ...

[World Radiosport Team Championship Sanctioning Committee Looking Ahead to WRTC 2022](#)

September 15, 2017

[FMRE National Emergency Net Active in Mexico](#)

September 14, 2017 - In view of the arrival of Hurricane Max on the coast of Guerrero, Mexico, the FMRE National Emergency Net has activated as of 1300 local time. The net requests support from stations with the ability to handle traffic requests and emergency warnings. The net is operating on 7.060 MHz and 14.120 MHz as well as via IRLP reflector 9200, channel 08.

The National Hurricane Center reported at 2100 UTC...

[Not All “Intruders” on Ham Bands are Illegal – But a Lot of Them Are](#)

September 14, 2017 - The **monthly newsletter** of the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 Monitoring Service (IARUMS) typically makes for some interesting reading. While the reports that come from more than two dozen contributors in Europe and Africa can be a bit visually dense, the content conveys the impression that there are myriad intruders on the Amateur Radio bands. However, not all of them are illeg...

[A Reminder for ARRL Volunteers](#)

September 14, 2017 - As requests are received asking for Amateurs to travel to the areas affected by Hurricane Irma, ARRL officials are reminded that to be covered under the Volunteer Protection Act or the MoU between ARRL and the American Red Cross, requests for volunteers must be submitted through established ARRL/ARES channels.

Volunteers wishing to offer their services in disaster relief need to go through the ...

[Collegiate Amateur Radio Initiative Holds Second Annual Meeting](#)

September 14, 2017

[Dr. Scott Wright, KOMD, Tapped as New NCJ Editor](#)

September 14, 2017 - Dr. Scott Wright, KOMD, of Rochester, Minnesota, will assume the helm of *National Contest Journal (NCJ)* starting with the January/February 2018 issue. He will succeed Pat Barkey, N9RV, who has served as *NCJ's* editor since 2015. Licensed as a teenager in 1977, Wright is a very active contesting and operator.

"I started contesting actively in 2006 and enjoy all types of contests," Wright said. "I've...

[Help the Ham Aid Response Effort in Florida and the US Virgin Islands](#)

September 13, 2017 - Due to this busy hurricane season, ARRL's inventory of **Ham Aid** kits has been severely depleted. ARRL's Ham Aid program loans Amateur Radio equipment kits to established ARES and partner agencies during disaster response, in order to establish Amateur Radio communications support.

ARRL has been supplying Ham Aid kits for the Hurricane Irma emergency response efforts in Florida and the US Virgin I...

[Two Radio Amateurs are Among Three New ISS Crew Members](#)

September 13, 2017 - After a 6-hour flight, astronauts **Mark Vande Hei**, KG5GNP, and **Joe Acaba**, KE5DAR, and cosmonaut Alexander Misurkin arrived at the **International Space Station** on September 12. The trio launched aboard the *Soyuz MS-06* spacecraft from Kazakhstan, orbited Earth four times, and then docked at the space station. The hatches between the spacecraft and station opened early on September 13.

The arrival of...

[QST Announces 2017 Antenna Design Competition Winners](#)

September 13, 2017 - *QST* has announced the winners of its 2017 Antenna Design Competition. Following a solicitation for entries earlier this year, members submitted nearly 100 antenna designs in three categories: 160 Meters and Lower Frequencies, 80 Through 10 Meters, and 6 Meters and Higher Frequencies.

Winners will receive certificates and cash prizes. The winning designs are also eligible for publication in *QST* a...

[State of Emergency Continues in Southern Mexico, Emergency Net Could Activate](#)

September 12, 2017 - A state of emergency continues in Southern Mexico as new aftershocks occurred today in the wake of a magnitude 8.1 earthquake last Thursday. The aftershocks were in the coastal zone of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Preliminary reports indicate a magnitude 5.0 temblor today 35 kilometers to the south of Salina Cruz, Oaxaca; a 4.7 magnitude aftershock today 125 kilometers southwest of Tonalá, Chiapa...

[Hurricane Irma Extensively Damages International Broadcast Station in Florida](#)

September 12, 2017 - Radio Miami International (WRMI) reported on its Facebook page that Hurricane Irma did extensive damage to the station's studio/transmitter site in Okeechobee, Florida. The station is off the air entirely.

"Two antenna towers are down and many poles holding transmission lines are also down. Power went out at around 2030 UTC Sunday, and it may not be restored for days. Meanwhile, all transmitter...

[Moderate Geomagnetic Storm Watch Issued](#)

September 12, 2017 - The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Space Weather Prediction Center (**SWPC**) has issued a moderate (G2) geomagnetic storm watch for September 13. A coronal hole high-speed stream, originating from a recurrent, positive polarity coronal hole on the Sun's surface, prompted the prediction. Minor (G1) geomagnetic storming is possible on September 14.

It's been a turbulent time on the...

[Caribbean Emergency and Weather Net Requests Clear Frequencies](#)

September 12, 2017 - With the passage of Hurricane Irma, radio amateurs in the Eastern Caribbean have been extremely busy passing information into and out of the affected area, Eric Mackie, 9Z4CP, told ARRL.

"The Caribbean Emergency and Weather Net (**CEWN**) has been facilitating this exercise," Mackie said. "We have however, been experiencing QRM from stateside stations from time to time."

Mackie said the CEWN is asking...

[Amateur Radio Volunteer Response Continues to Historic Hurricane Irma](#)

September 11, 2017 - "We have survived Hurricane Irma." That assessment came this morning from ARRL West Central Florida (**WCF**) Section Manager Darrell Davis, KT4WX, who reported that the storm's eye passed over the Hardee County emergency operations center just before midnight EDT on September 10. (Davis also is the Hardee County Emergency Coordinator). Irma has now been downgraded to a tropical storm, but flooding...

[Wireless Association of New York City's WA2NYC Commemorates 9/11 Anniversary](#)

September 11, 2017 - WA2NYC has been on the air since September 8 to commemorate the anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks in 2001.

"This station will commemorate the 16th anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center in New York City," said the post on the club's QRZ.com website. "We remember the over twenty-nine hundred people who lost their lives on that day."

The special event is operating on or near 7.2...

[Space Weather Prediction Center Says Solar Phenomena May Continue](#)

September 08, 2017 - The Space Weather Prediction Center (**SWPC**) said today that G4 (Severe) geomagnetic storm levels were observed at 2350 UTC on September 7 and again at 0151 UTC and 1304 UTC on September 8, due to the effects of a coronal mass ejection (CME). A G3 (Strong) or greater warning was in effect until 1500 UTC today.

Solar flares have adversely affected HF nets attempting to gather information on the thr...

[Operating Procedures During Hurricane Irma](#)

September 08, 2017 - Please be aware that due to the breadth of this series of weather events, numerous emergency and public service nets are in session, especially on the 80, 40, and 20 meter bands. US licensees are reminded that Part 97.101 (c) always gives priority to stations providing emergency communications. All stations should be aware that in a large-scale natural disaster, immediate threats to life and pr...

[ARRL Establishes Hurricane Irma Hotline for ARRL Section Leadership](#)

September 08, 2017 - ARRL has set up a temporary phone number that ARRL section leadership can use to communicate Hurricane Irma-related information or requests to ARRL Headquarters. The number will be monitored at W1AW when the station is staffed. During off-hours, the number will be forwarded to an on-call ARRL staffer. This number should also be used to report problems such as extended interference with ongoing ...

[Solar Flares Spark Radio Blackouts, Auroral Displays Possible](#)

September 07, 2017 - NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center (**SWPC**) has issued a strong (G3) geomagnetic storm watch for September 7 through September 9. The SWPC said the watch for September 7 remains in effect due to the arrival of a coronal mass ejection (CME) and the effects of a CME on September 4.

"Additionally, a G3 watch is now in effect for the 8 and 9 September UTC days in anticipation of the arrival of ano...

[More Professional and Citizen Research Suggests Eclipse Briefly Affected HF Propagation](#)

September 06, 2017 - Both professional and citizen scientists conducted formal and informal investigations into the effect of the August 21 solar eclipse on HF radio propagation. Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, of **HamSCI**, has said it will take some time to get a more scientific analysis of data compiled during the Solar Eclipse QSO Party. Frissell and others are investigating whether the sudden absence of sunlight durin...

[New "Pre-Release" Version of WSJT-X Includes FT8 Changes](#)

September 06, 2017 - A new "pre-release" version of **WSJT-X** now is available. This is the Amateur Radio digital software suite developed by Joe Taylor, K1JT, that includes the new FT8 mode, which has been catching on like wildfire. The September 2 release, **WSJT-X** version 1.8.0-rc2, fixes a number of issues, provides better performance, and offers some new features.

FCC's Updated Rules Governing Personal Radio Services Become Effective on September 28

Friday, September 01, 2017 - The FCC recently adopted a comprehensive **reorganization of and update** to the rules governing the Personal Radio Services (PRS). These include a wide variety of wireless devices used by the general public for personal communication, including hand-held Family Radio Service (FRS) transceivers, radio-controlled models, Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs), medical implant devices, and others.

ARRL Bulletins

- 2017-09-15 [ARLB018](#) FCC Opens 630- and 2200-Meter Bands; Stations Must Notify UTC Before Operating
- 2017-09-08 [ARLB017](#) Operating Procedures During Hurricane Irma
- 2017-08-18 [ARLB016](#) Revised NCVEC Form 605 Must Be Used at Exam Sessions Starting on August 21
- 2017-08-15 [ARLX008](#) Solar Eclipse QSO Party Signup So Far Has Attracted More Than 250 Eclipse Enthusiasts
- 2017-06-22 [ARLX006](#) ARRL Sacramento Valley Section Official Observer Coordinator Norm Lucas, WB6RVR (SK)
- 2017-06-19 [ARLX005](#) 2017 W1AW Field Day Bulletin Schedule
- 2017-05-24 [ARLB015](#) Spring Section Manager Election Results Announced
- 2017-05-20 [ARLB014](#) Ned Stearns, AA7A, Elected as Southwestern Division Vice Director
- 2017-05-05 [ARLB013](#) Important Notice - New MF and LF Bands are Not Yet Available to Use!
- 2017-04-27 [ARLX004](#) Armed Forces Day Crossband Military/Amateur Radio Communications Test is May 13
- 2017-04-06 [ARLB012](#) Revised Memorandum of Understanding between ARRL and FCC Still a Work in Progress
- 2017-04-05 [ARLX002](#) 30th International Marconi Day Event Set for April 22
- 2017-04-05 [ARLX003](#) Former Kansas Section Manager Orlan Cook, W0OYH, and Former Sacramento Valley Section Manager Ron Murdock, W6KJ (SK)
- 2017-03-13 [ARLB011](#) W1AW 2017 Spring/Summer Operating Schedule
- 2017-02-27 [ARLX001](#) Past ARRL Midwest Division Director Lew Gordon, K4VX (SK)
- 2017-02-24 [ARLB010](#) New Section Manager Appointed in West Virginia
- 2017-02-22 [ARLB009](#) Winter Cycle Section Manager Election Results Announced
- 2017-02-21 [ARLB007](#) FCC Invites Comments on ARRL Petition to Allocate New 5 MHz Band
- 2017-02-21 [ARLB008](#) New Section Manager Appointed in Illinois
- 2017-01-26 [ARLB006](#) Amateur Radio Parity Act Speeds to U.S. House Passage, Heads to U.S. Senate
- 2017-01-17 [ARLB005](#) New "Amateur Radio Parity Act" Bill Introduced in US House of Representatives
- 2017-01-13 [ARLB004](#) ARRL Asks FCC to Allocate New 5 MHz Band, Retain Channels and Current Power Limit
- 2017-01-12 [ARLB003](#) Illegal Drone Transmitters Could Interfere with Air Traffic Control, ARRL Complaint Asserts
- 2017-01-06 [ARLB002](#) FCC Dismisses Two Petitions from Radio Amateurs
- 2017-01-03 [ARLB001](#) W1AW 2017 Winter Operating Schedule



The PART monthly meetings are held at the Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant Street in Westford. **NOW STARTING AT 7:30 PM**

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

Southgate Amateur Radio News

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



The future of the Amateur Radio service

During the IARU Region 1 General Conference in Landshut Germany that started this morning, the future of Amateur Radio will be discussed. There are alarming signs that interest in Amateur Radio from the younger generation is dwindling and a decline in worldwide membership could threaten its existence in time



Essex Skills Night Monday Sept 18

Skills Night takes place this Monday, September 18 at Danbury Village Hall in Essex, the free event is open to all. Hosted by the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society Training Team, Skills Nights are Inter-Club events attended by amateurs and SWL's from across Essex and beyond



QSO Today - Steve Herman, W7VOA, White House Press Correspondent

Steve Herman, W7VOA's, love of amateur radio and media led him into a career as a news correspondent for the Associated Press, freelance overseas journalist, and ultimately with the Voice of America (VOA) as its White House correspondent, traveling and reporting on the President of the United States



History of UK Special Contest Call Signs

Chris GM3WOJ has posted a short history of UK Special Contest Call signs (SCCs) which have now been in use for 21 years



JOTA/JOTI 2017 update

This year, JOTA celebrates the 60th year of running. To commemorate this milestone, **ZS6SSG** will be running a special event call sign over the weekend 20 to 22 October

Repeater Nets

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Not sure if you are aware that there is a W. Middlesex ARES group that has been on for a few years. The station has two VHF/UHF rigs and antennas which is located at the new Stow Fire Station. It is a simplex net on the second Tuesday of the month on 147.435 MHz, 110.9 Hz tone.

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 \$19 (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

Full breakfast: \$19.00 (new price)

Continental breakfast: \$12.00 (new price)

Kid's breakfast: \$9.00



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Robert Schmeichel
2011



Copyright WB1GOF,
Robert Schmeichel
2013

CQ World Wide DX Contest

CQ WW Contest Dates

SSB: October 28-29, 2017

CW: November 25-26, 2017

Starts: 0000 UTC Saturday

Ends: 2359 UTC Sunday

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.

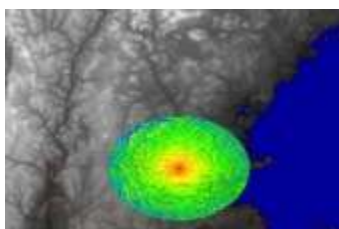
EmComm events and repeater use

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.



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This month's editor: Terry Stader – KA8SCP

PART official mailing address is:
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