



September 2016 *PAR*Ticles



The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

Celebrating 40 years of public service 1975-2015

President's Column

- Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)

The annual ARRL New England Convention took place last week in Boxboro. Early estimates indicate approximately 1600 participants. Friday was relatively calm, and the dinner was well attended. Saturday was a nearly perfect day with a lively flea market, great weather, and many people enjoying the vendors and the varied speakers. Sunday was very calm, with a passing thunderstorm that washed out the flea market. There were 50 people who volunteered to help, and I'd like to thank all of you for your time and effort. Many of those people were from PART.

Elections will be held at our next meeting. The nominations are closed. All of the incumbent officers were nominated, and there are no contested positions. Many thanks to Alan (K1ALL) for his work as the chairman of the Nominations Committee.

- President: Andy (KB1OIQ) Stewart
- Vice Pres: Rich (AB1HD) Crisafulli
- Secretary: Rick (W1RAG) Green
- Treasurer: Alan (W1HAM) Martin

In order to maintain an active and vibrant club, I think we need to do two things. People won't come to a meeting if the presentations at the club aren't interesting. I'm looking for someone to help find potential speakers for our meetings. In the past, club members often forwarded such information directly to me, but as of late, I haven't received much of that kind of input. In this role, I imagine an hour or two of effort per month. I haven't thought of a good name for this role...maybe you can help?

The second thing that we need to do is bolster our efforts to elmer the newcomers to the hobby. If we cannot keep our new members, the club will not flourish. In PART, we are quite fortunate to have both a wide and deep base of technical expertise. Let's share that expertise with our members! Toward that end, I'm looking for a person to lead and coordinate these elmering activities. Maybe this role should be called the "Elmering Activities Coordinator", but that is a mouthful. Maybe you have a better suggestion?

It is true that we do a lot of things right in PART. We have over 100 members, and we get at least 30-35 people at each meetings. However, we cannot rest on our laurels. If we improve what we do in these two areas, our club and its members will be better for it. I would like to delegate these responsibilities, and I am optimistic that two people will contact me to volunteer to help in these areas.

If you missed the flea market at Boxboro, you won't want to miss the giant flea market held twice per year in Deerfield, NH. The New England Amateur Radio Festival (*NEAR-Fest*) will be held on October 14th and 15th (Friday and Saturday). For more information: <http://near-fest.com>

On Halloween eve, our annual *Pumpkin Patrol* event has traditionally taken place. PART members with radios observe various areas of the town of Westford, and report any suspicious activity to the local police. This event needs a leader, and if you are interested, please contact me directly at kb1oiq@arrl.net.

At our September PART meeting, we will have two presentations. First, Rick (W1RAG) will present his annual "Field Day Retrospective", otherwise known as the "Silly Slideshow". This presentation is a very amusing look at our Field Day activities and ourselves from Rick's unique perspective.

When we all stop laughing, Bo (WA1QYM) will give a more technical presentation about weak signal modes such as JT65. With declining propagation, these weak signal modes are a great way to "make

apple sauce with rotten apples", at it were. One sees a lot of activity on these frequencies as of late, and Bo will share his knowledge in this area.

Fall is the time to do your last minute antenna maintenance before winter. Keep your gear operating in tip-top condition, and your enjoyment of the hobby will undoubtedly be enhanced. It is also a great time of year to consider an outdoor QRP operation, whether at a local conservation area, or in your own back yard.

Have a lot of fun, and 73, Andy - KB1OIQ

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 19-July '16 & 15-Aug '16 (As of 16-Aug '16)

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Repeater Fund</u>	<u>Checking Total</u>
Old Balance	\$ 3,258.33	\$ 4,397.46	\$ 7,655.79
Income	\$ 50.00	\$ 84.26	\$ 134.26
Expenses	\$ (256.96)	\$ 0.00	\$ (256.96)
Net	\$ (206.96)	\$ 84.26	\$ (122.70)
New Balance	\$ 3,051.37	\$ 4,481.72	\$ 7,533.09

PART 2016 Membership as of 7-September '16

Individuals (= New for 2016 + Renew for 2016)			Households (= New for 2016 + Renew for 2016)		
Full (\$25)	46	(=6 + 40)	46	(= 6 + 40)	
Senior (\$15)*	44	(=3 + 41)	44	(= 3 + 41)	
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*	109	(= 10 + 99)	98	(= 9 + 89)	

ARRL members:* 101 / 92.7%

(Including ARRL Life members:* (13)

NOTE: * Starred lines changed since 3-August '16

##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

New Call Sign:

Mike/W1BX (ex-W1MPP)
Steve/W1KBE (ex-WA1KBE)

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

Sept 20th 2016

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

Oct 1st 2016

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

Oct 16st 2016

- Baystate Marathon – Ham help needed – contact Terry-KA8SCP

Oct 18th 2016

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

Oct 31st 2016

- PART Pumpkin Patrol 1800-2200. Westford police station.

Nov 5th 2016

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

Nov 15th 2016

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

Nov 5th 2016

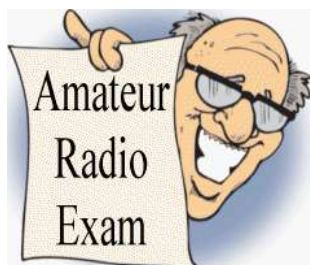
- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$15/\$9; kids: \$8 – see note below)

Nov 15th 2016

- 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. They are held in the church hall of Matthews Memorial 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.borxboro.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>

2016

24 Sep Brookline NH NEARC Antique @EvntCr \$10@7:30 \$5@8:30 Bruce 603 772 7516

24 Sept Forestdale RI RIAFMRS @VFW \$5/Sp@8 Roland N1JOY 617 839 9081 +

1 Oct Fishkill NY MtBARC @DCQ Adam KC2DAA 845 849 3666 A+

9 Oct Queens NY HoSARC @HoS Stephen WB2KDG 718 898 5599 A

14,15 Oct Deerfield NH NEARfest XX @FG Mike

K1TWF 978 250 1235

15 Oct Longueuil PQ CRAR-SdeM @PIDesauln \$7@9 \$5@10@7 Noel VE2BR 450 691 2009 R+

16 Oct Cambridge MA Flea at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 T+

16 Oct Meriden CT Nutmeg @Sheraton John N1GNV 203 440 4973 A

29 Oct Gales Ferry CT TCARC @FireCo Darryl WA1DD 860 443 7799 +

30 Oct Hicksville NY LIMARC @Levitt Hall Richard K2KNB 516 694 4937 A+

5 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/S@7 Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422 +

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

2017

11 Mar Chicopee MA MtTomARA @8:30 S@6:30 Brian KC1BDF 860 478 6790 W

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 +

13 May E Greenbush NY EGARA @FireCo Tom KC2FCP 518 272 1494 A+

8,10 Sept Boxboro MA FEMARA NE Conv Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235



Near-term local fleas

NEAR-fest October 14 & 15

Using GPS to Navigate

GPS Coordinates - Deerfield NH Fairgrounds.

Address: 34 Stage Road, Deerfield NH 03037

Lat 43.099286 Lon -71.242663

N43 06.050' W71 14.751'

N43 5' 57.4" W71 14' 33.5"

Tickets (People)

– General Admission Tickets (valid Friday & Saturday): \$10.00

– Under 18 Years of Age: No Charge (May be required to show ID)

Passes for Vehicles

– Inside Parking Pass: \$10.00

This pass covers vehicles entering the Fairgrounds for tailgating or simply for inside parking. There is no additional charge for a reasonable number of selling spaces.

– Outside Parking: No Charge

There is space for thousands of vehicles.



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.

PART'ers at Boxboro! 2016

A couple of reports from Boxboro! 2016 – The ARRL New England Division Convention.

From Ernie-N1AEW: Bob-KB1SWZ was very successful performing AO85 Satellite demos on Saturday at Boxboro. He had quite a pileup going using the W1A special event callsign.

From the NESMC meeting held on Saturday: Terry-KA8SCP was re-elected as one of two Eastern Massachusetts Directors in a contested election. Other results will be published shortly at www.nesmc.org

NESMC, the New England Spectrum Management Council, is the NFCC certified frequency coordination body for amateur operations on the 29MHz and up frequency bands in the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. NESMC is also the exclusive provider of data to the ARRL repeater directory for these four states.



Photos by Craig Salmi KC1CGS



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/>



Public Service Events

Baystate Marathon and Half Marathon in Lowell

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 16th. 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.

More from Boxboro! Fox Hunting

- John Salmi – KB1MGI & Craig Salmi - KC1CGS

The Fox Hunting and Direction Finding was attended by 13 people. 10 of the attendees were new people. The presentation was very basics of direction finding using a yagi antenna and just using your portable radio and Body Fading techniques. Everyone enjoyed the Videos and audio recording of past Fox Hunts. Bob W1FDR gave a quick demonstration of the Dish he uses to Fox Hunt. Bob also gave a outdoor demo of Fox Hunting to Monty Shepard KB1TXM the station trustee of W1YU Amateur Radio Club at Yale University in Ct. W1FDR and KB1TXM both found the Fox that was hidden just off the path that connected to the Cisco Systems parking lot. We had two others that found the Fox transmitter that signed the log book were: W1MJ Eliot Mayer from Belmont Mass and NF1A Art Pizer from Billerica Mass. Congrats to all that found or tried to find the Fox transmitter and did not sign the log book.

Photo by KB3OCF
Ian MacKenzie



PART Pumpkin Patrol in Westford

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.

National Preparedness Month

The month of September is National Preparedness Month, a nationwide, month-long effort hosted by FEMA, the *Ready* Campaign and Citizen Corps, encouraging households, businesses and communities to prepare and plan for emergencies. To enhance awareness of the importance of emergency preparedness for families and individuals, Governor Charlie Baker has [proclaimed September as "emergency preparedness month"](#)  in the Commonwealth.



Massachusetts experiences a wide range of emergencies and disasters. In the past few years alone, the state has seen flooding, hurricanes and tropical storms, blizzards and winter storms, tornadoes, hazardous materials incidents, power outages, terrorism, water supply disruptions and more. In addition, there are many other hazards that could occur including earthquakes, pandemics and other public health emergencies, nuclear power plant accidents and others. It is important for residents of Massachusetts to be Ready for various types of emergencies and disasters including knowing what the risks are, and what to do before, during, and after various types of emergencies and how to be prepared ahead of time.

As part of emergency preparedness month, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), is promoting the [Ready Massachusetts](#) campaign designed to educate and empower residents of Massachusetts to prepare for and respond to emergencies including natural, technological and man-made disasters. *Ready Massachusetts* is the state's counterpart to FEMA's national *Ready* campaign.

Ready Massachusetts asks individuals to do four key things to be prepared for emergencies:

[Be Informed](#) – Know what emergencies may occur and stay informed

[Make A Plan](#) – Plan for your family before an emergency

[Build a Kit](#) – Assemble an emergency kit

[Get Involved](#) – Volunteer opportunities in emergency preparedness and response

Preparing doesn't have to be expensive - check out our [Preparedness on a Budget](#) tips.

Daily Preparedness Tips: During the month of September, MEMA will be providing daily emergency preparedness tips on the agency's [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts.

Preparedness Videos: See emergency preparedness videos available on MEMA's [Youtube](#) channel.

Press Releases: Topical weekly preparedness press releases are featured in MEMA's [press releases](#).

Blog Post: MEMA's [preparedness month blog post](#) is featured on the mass.gov blog page. Emergency Preparedness Month messaging will also be featured on digital billboards along highways during the month to promote the importance of emergency preparedness.

Also, of note..... Emergency Advisory Radio Stations (source: <https://goo.gl/htM5qi>)

MASSACHUSETTS

- Auburn - 1610 kHz (portable/fixed RadioSTAT station)
- Bedford - 1640 kHz (fixed ALERT AM station)
- Brimfield - 1670 kHz (portable/fixed RadioSTAT station)
- Brockton Emergency Management - 1620 kHz (fixed Information Station)
- Gardner - 1670 kHz (portable/fixed RadioSTAT station)
- Groton - 1670 kHz (portable/fixed RadioSTAT station)
- Holden - 1680 kHz (portable/fixed RadioSTAT station)
- Hull - 1680 kHz (fixed ALERT AM station)
- Milford - 1670 kHz (portable/fixed RadioSTAT station)
- Natick - 1630 kHz (fixed ALERT AM station; Flashing ALERT Sign)
- Peabody - 1640 kHz (fixed ALERT AM station)
- Sterling - 1670 kHz (portable/fixed RadioSTAT station)
- Southbridge - 1610 kHz (portable/fixed RadioSTAT station)
- Spencer - 1610 kHz (portable/fixed RadioSTAT station)
- Westborough - 1610 kHz (portable/fixed RadioSTAT station)
- Westford - 1630 kHz (fixed ALERT AM station)
- Worcester Public Health County - 1610 & 1670 kHz (8 portable/fixed RadioSTAT stations) (Towns listed above include Auburn, Brimfield, Gardner, Groton, Holden, Milford, Sterling, Southbridge, Spencer, Westborough.)

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Derry - 1610 kHz (3 fixed ALERT AM stations)

Member Contributions

National Parks on the Air: KC1AJJ finds a park

- *Tim Miranda – KC1AJJ*

This year is the centennial of the National Park Service, and ARRL is celebrating all year with a contest-that-is-not-a-contest: National Parks On The Air (NPOTA). "Throughout 2016, Amateur Radio will be helping the National Park Service celebrate their 100th anniversary. Hams from across the country will activate NPS units, promote the National Park Service and showcase Amateur Radio to the public." (<http://www.arrl.org/npota>)

Earlier in the year, I did some simple activations from the Lowell National Historical Park, and grew more comfortable with what was needed to make this successful. During the summer, the awesome organizers of NPOTA starting publishing statistics about which parks had been activated the most (or least), and which had gotten the most (or least) QSOs. Looking for a new park to activate, I found a park I had never heard of that hadn't gotten a lot of love from activators, with only a couple hundred QSOs associated with it: The Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline Massachusetts. "Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) is recognized as the founder of American landscape architecture and the nation's foremost parkmaker. Olmsted moved his home to suburban Boston in 1883 and established the world's first full-scale professional office for the practice of landscape design. During the next century, his sons and successors perpetuated Olmsted's design ideals, philosophy, and influence." (<https://www.nps.gov/frla/index.htm>)

This park interested me because, with it's relatively low number of activations, it would potentially be a big draw for a pile-up, and also would let me try out some new bands to get more local folks. Plus, it looked very cool to visit.

My equipment for the activations has become pretty standard, and I used all of it for this one:

1. Yaesu FT-450d HF transceiver (100 watts) (powerpoled)
2. MFJ-939 auto-tuner (powerpole'd)
3. 12ah LifePO4 battery pack for the radio, 9ah LifePO4 battery pack for the accessories
4. 50watt 12v solar panel with a LifePO4 charge controller

The antenna situation has grown over the year as I've had more requests for more bands from chasers:

1. 3 MFJ hamstick options: 20m, 40m, and 75m, mounted on a 3/8->NMO mount on the roof of my car
2. a 20 foot painter pole on a tripod, with a ~30 foot wire into a 9:1 endfed box (homebrew), seems to work with the tuner 75m-10m

A couple weeks before my planned activation, I contacted the park ranger and explained what NPOTA was, and what kind of options for footprint I could do based on what would work best for them. He was very accommodating, especially with the limited parking spaces they have. We worked out a plan for me to set up in their rear lot, with my car parked in a staff parking spot, and a coned-off area for me to work the radios. After arriving in Brookline that morning, I walked around the grounds for a bit because it was really a hidden jewel right in the middle of that suburb:



I was able to get set up in less than a half hour, and immediately got going on 40m with the hamstick and got my minimum 10 contacts pretty quick. As part of the "best practices" for NPOTA, I self spotted on dxsummit.fi, and also posted on the Facebook page for National Parks On the Air what frequency I was on and the code for the park I was operating from. I then switched to 75m for the locals that couldn't quite hear me on 40m, re-spotting again.

Moving to 20m mid-morning, things were slow because it was still early morning on the west coast, but then the pileups began. I worked the whole event SSB, and it was hot, so I was glad I



brought a camelback and kept hydrated the whole time. I switch between 20, 40, and 75m SSB every 30 minutes, and was able to get well over 100 confirmed contacts by the time lunch rolled around.

From a technical perspective, I had a few glitches along the way. The charger controller I had gotten for the LifePO4 pack, while nice in theory, was rated for a max of 20a, and I exceeded that at 100w SSB at times, causing it to cut power for safety reasons. I replaced it after the event with a 30a model that works much better. In addition, I didn't make much use of the end fed antenna, because I was getting much better contact reports with the ham sticks mounted to my car.

From an operational perspective, knowing how hot it was, I probably should have looked into a sun umbrella or some sort of portable shading: I kept my equipment out of the sun, but had a harder time keeping myself out of it. Sun block and hats were used heavily.

NPOTA has been a great year-long learning experience for me: I hadn't done much on HF prior to this year, and certainly hadn't done any portable/mobile HF work to speak of. It's given me a chance to learn about portable/mobile antenna options and really get comfortable with a friendly form of contesting as well.

I encourage anyone interested in activating or chasing a park to visit these websites for more information, and give it a try!

- ARRL NPOTA web site: <http://www.arrl.org/npota>
- ARRL NPOTA facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NPOTA/>

Amateur Radio News



From eHam.net News:

[Ham Radio Group Demonstrates in Centralia for National Preparedness Month:](#)

by chronline.com on September 17, 2016

To mark National Preparedness Month, Centralia's ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) group demonstrated their equipment and capabilities Tuesday for the Centralia City Council. "We are a disaster response team of volunteers," said Bob Willey, of ARES. "We come out without pay when the need is there." Willey, formerly of the Centralia Police Department, said the volunteers in ARES are all ham radio operators able to aid in communications during emergencies, when cell towers and phone lines aren't working.

[Learn Morse Code Online -- 20 Lessons:](#)

by Mark Kleine (N5HZR) on September 17, 2016

You want to learn Samuel F. B. Morse's (shown here) most famous code. We want to help. The South Canadian Amateur Radio Society (SCARS) has developed, and is hosting a series of web pages, to help you learn Morse code in about twenty 30 minute lessons, and then continue to practice these skills for another 20 lessons.

Morse Code Man:

by wusa9.com on September 17, 2016

Computers and cell phones have become the norm of communication. What would happen if we faced a catastrophic emergency or lost our electrical grid, making our phones and computers useless? Who would come to our rescue? Well, as it turns out, there are thousands of Americans who still know how to communicate like we did in the 1800's. From his home in McLean, Jim Talens doesn't look like a superhero. But, in the event of a major catastrophe, it's people like Jim who will come to our rescue. At one time, the best way to get information across the United States was by horse. But, a 180 years ago Morse Code changed everything. "It did because that represented a giant leap in technology," says Talens. It's a series of dots and dashes that make letters. Which make words. "It is just a translation of letters," says Talens. Morse Code helped the allies win World War II. "I started out as an amateur radio operator at the age of 13," explains Talens. Jim Talens is one of the best Morse Code operators on the planet. He won an international contest for being able to contact more than 5,000 other operators in 48 hours. He did it without sleep. "I was number one in the world." When it comes to Morse Code he's written the book. Today this old technology is primarily used for fun. But, in the event of a natural disaster or terrorist attack, Morse Code could still play a vital role connecting first responders with hospitals.

ERH035 -- Elmers, Are You Doing Your Part?

by Curtis Mohr (K5CLM) on September 16, 2016

In this episode of the Everything Ham Radio Podcast(released Yesterday 9/15), we talk about Elmers. What they are, what they do and how important they are to newly licensed operators. Are you doing your part?

New Section Manager Appointed in Northern New Jersey:

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on September 16, 2016

Steve Ostrove, K2SO, of Elizabeth, New Jersey, has been appointed as ARRL Northern New Jersey Section Manager, effective September 16. He takes the reins of the Northern New Jersey Field Organization after Richard Krohn, N2SMV, announced that he was stepping down. Krohn, of Manalapan, has served as the Northern New Jersey Section Manager since July 2008.

Propagation Forecast Bulletin #38 de K7RA:

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on September 16, 2016

The Autumnal Equinox is next Thursday, September 22, 2016 at 1421 UTC. This indicates a transition from Summer to Fall, and the associated improved HF propagation.

House Approves Bipartisan Kinzinger Bill to Enhance Ham Radio Communication

by riponadvance.com on September 16, 2016

The House of Representatives approved legislation on Monday that U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) introduced to make it easier for amateur radio operators to communicate with each other. The Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R. 1301, would direct the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to amend regulations that restrict amateur radio operators in some areas of the country. "(Monday's) vote takes us another step closer to ensuring amateur radio operators throughout the country are able to effectively communicate with one another," Kinzinger said. "I've personally used amateur radio through the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) while flying overseas, and know firsthand the importance of having the lines of communication open and available in this system." Kinzinger introduced the bill in March 2015, with the House Energy and Commerce Committee advancing the measure in July of this year. "In times of emergency, when all other forms of communications have failed, this legislation ensures that amateur radio operators will now have the means to utilize this vital and lifesaving function," Kinzinger said. "These operators serve as the last line of defense for the communications of our first responders and it's important that we support them."

Northbrook Man Gives Up Fight for 63-Foot Ham Radio Antenna:

by chicagotribune.com on September 16, 2016

After hearing discouraging words from the Northbrook Village Board about his request to erect a ham radio antenna in his front yard, resident Gregg Salomone decided that limited reception was better than trying to change their minds. "I can't fight City Hall," he said Wednesday, a short time after withdrawing his bid to put up a 63-foot, 3-inch wide antenna in his front yard. Salomone lived for 30 years in Northbrook before he moved to his fifth house three months ago, he said after a Tuesday Village Board meeting in which cold water had been thrown on his aim to seek a zoning variation for the antenna. At every previous house, he said, he's had an antenna in the backyard. But the latest house, in the 4000 block of Yorkshire Lane, is set so far back, he said, that putting up an antenna there would make the entire yard useless.

Amateur Radio Newsline Report 2029, Sept. 16, 2016:

by James Pastorfield (KB7TBT) on September 16, 2016

The following is a QST. Ohio hams stage their own "parks on the air" celebration. A number of radio amateurs are among this year's Radio Club of America honorees. An Arizona library adds some critical ham radio equipment -- and our top story: HR 1301, the Amateur Radio Parity Act, passes in the House of Representatives. All this and more as Amateur Radio Newsline Report Number 2029 comes your way right now.

Impact of Solar Activity on Radio Signals Boosted by New Research:

by sciencedaily.com on September 16, 2016

An innovative new methodology for assessing the effect of space weather on radio signals in the ionosphere has been published in the journal Radio Science. Researchers from The University of Manchester's Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics have developed and demonstrated a process for continuous electron density measurement of the previously under-explored D region of the ionosphere -- a part of the atmosphere that previously could only be sensitively probed by short-lived rocket-borne instruments. Accurate and up to the minute data on the interaction between space weather and electron density is vital to maintain services that utilise radio signals -- everything from the Global Position System (GPS) used in smart phones, aircraft navigational systems through to the astronomical signals received by radio telescopes. The new study combined a statistical approach implemented in a unique software modeling programme called IONONEST with data from the Kilpisjärvi Atmospheric and Imaging Receiver Array (KAIRA) radio telescope in Finland, which is capable of making sensitive broadband measurements of the absorption caused to the cosmic radio background by the ionosphere. The resulting data confirmed the process was a successful methodology for measuring the effect of solar weather, the changes it caused to the ionosphere and the resultant impact on radio signals.

DX News -- ARRL DX Bulletin #38:

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on September 15, 2016

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by NI1L, QRZ DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

Amateur Radio Parity Act Passes In the US House Of Representatives!

by The ARRL Letter on September 15, 2016

"The bill is passed without objection." With those words, Amateur Radio history was made on September 12, when the US House of Representatives approved the Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R. 1301 on a voice vote under a suspension of the rules. The focus of the campaign to enact the legislation into law now shifts to the US Senate.

Higher Bands Will Pick Up This Fall, Smaller Solar Cycles Lie Ahead:

by The ARRL Letter on September 15, 2016

Propagation guru Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, says that, while conditions on 12 and 10 meters will pick up as they always do in the fall, F2 propagation on those bands will decline thereafter, with only sporadic E during the summer months as a possible saving grace. On the other hand, the lower bands -- 160, 80, and 40 meters -- should be good going forward, and 20 and 17 meters will be the mainstays of daylight HF propagation. Luetzelschwab offered these observations during an August 23 World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF)-sponsored webinar "Solar Topics -- Where We're Headed." He said data suggest that Solar Cycle 24, the current solar cycle, will bottom out in 2020, and he advised that radio amateurs may need to lower their expectations on the higher bands (and 6 meters) looking beyond that.

Lunar-Orbiting Ham Satellite Could Result From NASA Cube Quest Challenge:

by The ARRL Letter on September 15, 2016

A NASA Cube Quest Challenge (CQC) team partnered with AMSAT-NA is among the five CQC teams to receive \$20,000 each from the space agency as part of a competition that could lead to a lunar-orbiting Amateur Radio satellite. The Ragnarok Industries Nano-Satellite Company team, comprised of former NASA Goddard Space Flight Center PhD engineering interns, is designing the 6-unit (6U) Heimdallr CubeSat to test advanced propulsion and communication technologies for lunar and deep-space missions.



[New Section Manager Appointed in Northern New Jersey](#)

Yesterday, September 16, 2016 - Steve Ostrove, K2SO, of Elizabeth, New Jersey, has been appointed as ARRL Northern New Jersey Section Manager, effective September 16. He takes the reins of the Northern New Jersey Field Organization after Richard Krohn, N2SMV, announced that he was stepping down. Krohn, of Manalapan, has served as the Northern New Jersey Section Manager since July 2008.

ARRL Field Services and Radiosport Manage...

[The K7RA Solar Update](#)

Yesterday, September 16, 2016 - The Autumnal Equinox is next Thursday, September 22, 2016 at 1421 UTC. This indicates a transition from summer to fall, and the associated improved HF propagation.

Over our reporting week (September 8-14) average daily sunspot numbers rose from 46.4 to 50.1, and average daily solar flux declined from 95.1 to 88.9.

This is the opposite of what occurred the previous week, when sunspot numbers decli...

[A Record Breaker on 630 Meters!](#)

Yesterday, September 16, 2016 - Although US radio amateurs do not yet have access to 630 meters, Canadian licensees do, and one of them was on the North American end of the first two-way contact between Canada and Australia. Steve McDonald, VE7SL, in British Columbia, Canada, and Roger Crofts, VK4YB, in Queensland, Australia, completed a contact between 1225 and 1319 UTC on September 15 using JT9 digital mode. The distance co...

[AMSAT-NA Announces Board of Directors Election Results](#)

Yesterday, September 16, 2016 - Tom Clark, K3IO; Mark Hammond, N8MH, and Bruce Paige, KK5DO, have been elected to serve 2-year terms on the **AMSAT-NA** Board of Directors. The First Alternate is Paul Stoetzer, N8HM, and the Second Alternate is Clayton Coleman, W5PFG. Both will serve 1-year terms.

AMSAT reports that 697 members cast ballots. The top three vote getters among the five candidates earned Board seats, while the next tw...

[“Enigma Reloaded” Ham Radio Event Celebrates World War II Cipher Machine](#)

Thursday, September 15, 2016 - Enigma Reloaded 2016, September 17 to October 1, will promote Amateur Radio and celebrate the history of the Enigma cipher machine and its crucial role in the outcome of World War II.

The annual event, now in its 3rd year, takes place in two stages. September 17-30, Amateur Radio stations registered as Activator stations will be on the air. On October 1, the event's final day, Activator stations...

[“Cows Over the World” DXpedition Tour on Hiatus](#)

Thursday, September 15, 2016 - Tom, Callas, KCoW, and his all-CW Cows Over the World DXpeditions are on hold for the moment. “My proposed ‘Top 25 Most Wanted’ DXpeditions is not going to happen,” he said on his **QRZ.com** page. Sorry for getting anyone’s hopes up.”

Callas said he will remain in Fiji until he starts his T30COW operation from Western Kiribati, September 24-October 24. He has been issued 3D2KOW for a Fiji DXpedition...

[SKYWARN Youth on the Air Net Debuts](#)

Wednesday, September 14, 2016 - The **SKYWARN** Youth on the Air Net is on the air, encouraging young radio amateurs to get on the air and learn about the SKYWARN weather-spotting network and basic weather facts.

The SKYWARN Youth Net meets on most Southwest Missouri SKYWARN repeaters Sunday evenings at 7:30 PM CT and is open to all hams via **EchoLink**.

The net will first take check-ins from young hams aged 25 and younger. The net al...

[Amateur Radio Parity Act Passes in the US House of Representatives!](#)

Wednesday, September 14, 2016 - “*The bill is passed without objection.*” With those words, Amateur Radio history was made on September 12, when the US House of Representatives **approved** the Amateur Radio Parity Act, **H.R. 1301** on a voice vote under a suspension of the rules. The focus of the campaign to enact the legislation into law now shifts to the US Senate. The House victory culminated many years of effort on ARRL’s part to...

[N4TL Wins September QST Cover Plaque Award](#)

Tuesday, September 13, 2016 - The winning article for the September 2016 QST Cover Plaque award is “**Arduino CW Trainer**” by Tom Lewis, N4TL.

The QST Cover Plaque Award -- given to the author or authors of the most popular article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the **QST Cover Plaque Poll web page**. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the October issue today.

[ARRL Honors Veteran Section Manager Upon Her Retirement](#)

Tuesday, September 13, 2016 - Retiring ARRL Connecticut Section Manager Betsey Doane, K1EIC, was honored on September 10 at the New England Division Convention in Boxboro, Massachusetts, for her many years of service. At the Convention’s ARRL Forum, New England Division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, presented a plaque to Doane, who is believed to be the dean of the current roster of Section Managers by dint of her 25 years of...

[Lunar-Orbiting Ham Radio Satellite Could Result from NASA Cube Quest Challenge](#)

Monday, September 12, 2016 -A NASA Cube Quest Challenge (**CQC**) team partnered with **AMSAT-NA** is among the five CQC teams to receive \$20,000 each from the space agency as part of a competition that could lead to a lunar-orbiting Amateur Radio satellite. The **Ragnarok Industries** Nano-Satellite Company team, comprised of former NASA Goddard Space Flight Center PhD engineering interns, is designin...

Radio Club of America Announces 2016 Award Recipients and Fellows

Monday, September 12, 2016 - Several radio amateurs were among the 2016 Radio Club of America (RCA) **award recipients** and Fellows. Winners will be honored at RCA's 107th Banquet & Awards Presentation on November 18 in New York City. The awards spotlight outstanding achievements in the field of wireless communication. The 2016 award winners are:

Armstrong Medal: Morgan E. O'Brien for outstanding achievement and lasting contri...

ARDF Team USA Enjoys Success in Bulgaria with Seven Medals

Monday, September 12, 2016 - Fifteen of the best on-foot hidden transmitter hunters in the US are back home after picking up seven medals in the 18th **World Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) Championships** and World Cup events in Bulgaria. The competition got under way on August 30 with the 80 meter "classic" event of the ARDF World Cup, an optional competition for individuals that precedes the Championships. Eight Team...



Latest Amateur Radio News from around the world

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



Alternative Amateur Radio Club

The **Alternative Amateur Radio Club** #AltARC is a new national club aimed at the Young, Hackspacers, Geeks, Nerds and anyone else



Women hams ride the radio wave in India

A growing number of women in India have been taking up amateur radio among them is **Bharathi Prasad VU2RBI**



TX Factor GB2RS News Podcast

All the very latest Amateur Radio news is now available via the **TX Factor** GB2RS weekly podcast



International Air Ambulance Week begins this weekend

International Air Ambulance Week will take place between 17th - 25th September 2016, with the focus on supporting and generating donations for flying medical services around the world



Norman Conquest Anniversary

The 950th Anniversary of the Norman Invasion of England - the Norman Conquest - will be commemorated by the **Phoenix Amateur Radio Club** in September and October



Historic QSO completed on 630-meters

Steve, VE7SL, and **Roger, VK4YB**, completed the first two-way QSO between Canada and Australia on 630-meters using JT9. This is also the longest two-way QSO in amateur service on 630-meters ever completed (confirmed)



Satellite Presentations in So CA

ARRL educator and Legacy Circle Club member - as well as ARISS / AMSAT-NA /

AMSAT-UK supporter - **Clint Bradford, K6LCS**, welcomes ALL to attend any of these upcoming satellite sessions



EURAO Newsletter September 2016

EURAO Newsletter comes out quarterly, either in pdf format and as a website. Spread the word!



Teardown of the Kenwood TH-D74

The new Kenwood TH-D74 FM and D-STAR handheld has generated a great deal of...

Repeater Nets

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monthly PART Breakfast

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

Monthly Breakfast Pricing

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

Continental breakfast: \$9.00 (same price)

Full breakfast: \$15.00 (new price)

Kid's breakfast: \$9.00 (new price effective March 2015)



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.

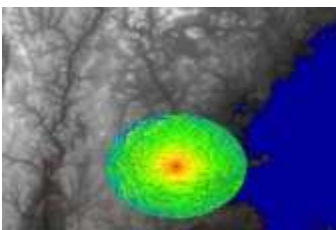
EmComm events and repeater use

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 © 2015, 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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Contact us at: info@wb1gof.org
Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/wb1gof
Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wb1gof



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QR code

