

Whitman Amateur Radio Club Meeting 07/01/15



Paul Moss KB1MTW **Larry Kenney K1LJK** **Jeff Tracy N1SOM** **John Murphy W1IG**
Vice President Secretary Treasurer President

Photo by Jeff WK1D

ATTENDANCE: 41 members and guests were present including 4 elected officers

KB1MTW Paul Moss

W1IG John Murphy

WD1L John Nelson

KB1MJL Elvin (AI) Marshall

W1EKG Ross Hochstrasser

NM1F Jim Ford

KB1OEP Mike Supple

K1UFO Billy Robinson

KC1BHK JonMark Robinson

N1OYH Carl Davis

W1JT Jim Tovet

WK1D Jeff Ayres

KB1WNX Steve Lyons

SWL Marty Nugent

K1LJK Larry Kenney

N1IQI Loren Pimentel

K1WGU Bob Bass

W1RC Mr. Mike

N1EZH Barry Kennedy

KB1SVY John Duprey

N1CFB Chris Babbitt

KA1KIJ Bob Azanow

KC1FZ George Davis

N1FRE Bill Hayden

KB1PFL Jim Madden

AG1B Richard Metcalf

K1JRO John O'neill

SWL Gary Davis

N1SOM Jeff Tracy

N1ZZN Jeff Lehmann

KC1DWT John Ginsberg

KC1BBU Bob Larkin

WA1MAD Mike Davis

KB1OEQ Ron Stundze

KC1ACG Fred Birtwell

KC1CNP Bill Goodwin

WA1YKF Warren Dickie

KB1IKH Elayne Tovet

KB1CYV Roy Logan

K1JMA Joe Amorelli

SWL Scott Mitchell

Secretary's Report:

President **John Murphy WI1G** called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, 07/01/15. A quorum was present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by the attendance roll call.

Motion to accept the June 2015 Secretary report as published on the Whitman club website made by **Jeff WK1D** with a second by **Joe K1JMA**. Motion passed quorum vote.

Treasurer, **Jeff N1SOM** read the June 2015 treasurers report. Motion to accept the report as read made by **Jeff N1ZZN** with a second by **Jeff WK1D**. Motion passed quorum vote.

Volunteers **Joe K1JMA**, **Mark KC1ACF** and **Jim WG1L** were given the club ballots to count while business continued during the meeting.

Health & Welfare report was presented by **Elayne KB1IKH**:

Get Well card to:

Mike W1MSP

Mark N1ISS

Sympathy card to:

Bob KA1KIJ and family

The family of Silent Key **Dave Gurney WA1YZH**



Also a thankyou card from **Al Craddock WA1ZKK** was received and read by Elayne to the meeting members.

Paul KB1MTW added that Al and family are downsizing and his beam antenna will be coming to the Whitman club. Paul may need help picking up the beam antenna once it's been taken down.

Mike WA1MAD thanked **Jim W1JT** for his service as club president. A rousing round of applause from the club members took place.

NET CONROL for June 2015:

- **July 5th** : **Jeff N1SOM**
- **July 12th** : **Jeff WK1D**
- **July 19th** : **Rosw W1EKG @ CranLand**
- **July 26th** : **Bob KA1KIJ**
- **Aug 2nd** : **Roy KB1CYV**

Old Business:

- **Field day review (Saturday June 27th and Sunday June 28th)**
 - **Paul KB1MTW** would like to thank **Karen N1VI**, **Steve W1OD** and **Bob K1NOK** for the great food preparation!! (as always thanks to **Roy KB1CYV** for his famous beans!!). Paul also thanked everyone who contributed w/setup, takedown and operations during this Field Day event.
 - **Jim W1JT** asked if a QSO count was available yet? **Larry K1LJK** informed everyone that no, not yet as the lists (both paper and some computer logs) are still being assembled. A short discussion took place on the use of computers/laptops for logging w/future events. **Jeff N1ZZN** indicated the club laptops could have been used but suggests getting a few newer laptops (Win7 or above if possible) would be a good idea as the club ones are old. He indicated older laptops w/failing internal batteries for the PC bios will reset the time/date of the PC causing logging issues. **Paul KB1MTW** suggests someone demo the logging software to the club members prior to the next event computer logging will be used.
 - **Paul KB1MTW** also informed everyone of a G5RV antenna used at Field Day which came from former WARC member **Kenny "KEG" Garren WA1DUZ**.
- **Field Day ATTENDANCE:**

N1EZH Barry Kennedy	NM1F Jim Ford	KB1CYV Roy Logan
W1SM Al Drollett	K1UFO Billy Robinson	N1VI Karen Trask
WD1L John Nelson	KC1ACG Fred Birtwell	W1OD Steve Cohn
KC1CNP Bill Goodwin	K1LJK Larry Kenney	N1SOM Jeff Tracy
K1JMA Joe Amorelli	N1IQI Loren Pimentel	KA1GDQ Joe Reynolds
N1FRE Bill Hayden	WK1D Jeff Ayres	WI1G John Murphy
W0OF Mollie Murphy	WA1MAD Mike Davis	KB1MTW Paul Moss
KB1IKH Elayne Tovet	W1JT Jim Tovet	KB1WNV Steve Lyons
K1NOK Bob Marchese	SWL Marty Nugent	
- **Repeater report**
 - **Jeff N1ZZN** reports he and **Gary AB1CQ** identified the source of the high noise level heard on the repeaters input – which is being caused by the local cell carriers LTE system. In addition to a higher than normal noise floor, very high noise spikes were observed about every 1/2 khz varying within the band. The investigation will continue at the site for possible solutions. Jeff reports the LTE system was tuned on at the site within the last few years, about when the repeater issues began to show up. Jeff also commented, installation of our new Yaesu Fusion repeater in the future will not fix this as this is an RF site issue affecting our repeaters receiver. Jeff also reports he's had suggestions on alternate repeater sites if moving the repeater becomes the only option. **Kevin KB1MOC** for example suggested a site in Hanson containing a no longer used tower (similar to a Rohn55) and control building as an option to consider – although repair work would need to be done. Acquiring this may be an option for the club to consider even if the repeater doesn't need to move. Different freq. repeaters could be brought online from there for example.
 - **John KB1SVY** thanked **Jeff N1ZZN** and **Gary AB1CQ** for all the work being done.

- **General business**

- **Paul KB1MTW** thanked **Billy K1UFO**, **Fred KC1ACG**, **Mark KC1ACF** and **Ross W1EKG** for their recent help in bringing down a 60 foot tower at Bob Pratts father-in-law home (**Kenny 'Keg' WA1DUZ**) in Hanson which was being sold. The beam antenna was also taken down but was old/rusted and some damage took place during the take down. Also Paul showed a rope used to lower the tower which had nearly unraveled in the process and expressed safety w/all equipment must never be overlooked when doing this type of work. **Mike WA1MAD** asked if this 60 foot tower could be used at the Pine St. location for repeater antenna use. **Paul KB1MTW** explained at the Pine St location, a much taller tower would be needed for the repeater antenna to work successfully. Paul reports he has tested the rotor taken down w/the beam and it seems to work. **Jeff N1ZZN** asked about the 6 meter and 2 meter antennas also on **Kenny WA1DUZ's** tower? **Paul KB1MTW** reports the 2 meter beam was still in good shape. The 6 meter beam has a few bent radials but could be fixed. **Jim W1JT** suggested the TH7 beam from Al Craddock on top of the 60 ft tower w/the 6 meter beam and a 2 meter vertical installed at Pine St would be a great setup and should work very well. **Paul KB1MTW** tested the vertical which had fallen off the old tower at Pine St. and found it only working on 440 Mhz. **Jeff N1ZZN** recalls that being a 440 Mhz only antenna which had not worked very well in the past.
- **Billy K1UFO** indicated he has a time lapsed video of he, **Paul KB1MTW** and **Fred KC1ACG** taking down the tower at the Pine St club house recently. It was suggested we make the video available for all to see on via YouTube. (tbd- an email will be sent out w/this info to all club members when available)
- **Paul KB1MTW** thanked **Dave KB1QMX** for the donated building materials intended for Pine St club house repairs. Volunteers will be needed to put this to use.
- **Joe K1JMA** reported the results from the ballot counting team for this years club elections:

- President:

- **John Murphy W1IG** 51 votes **Winner**
- **Larry Kenney K1LJK** 1 vote

- Vice President:

- **Paul Moss KB1MTW** 50 Votes **Winner**
- **Billy Robinson K1UFO** 1 Votes

- Secretary:

- **Larry Kenney K1LJK** 50 Votes **Winner**

- Treasurer:

- **Jeff Tracy N1SOM** 52 Votes **Winner**

- Director:

- **John Nelson WD1L** 33 Votes **Winner**
- **Ron Stundze KB1OEQ** 23 Votes *Ron will fill the director position previously held by **Bill W1ACO**
- **Bill Robinson K1UFO** 1 Vote
- **Jim Tynan KC1JET** 1 Vote

▪ Club Emblem

Current

Vs.

New



- Utilize Both : 20 Votes **Winner**
- New design: 19 Votes
- Current design: 10 Votes

- **John W1G** indicated a new club roster will be assembled by **Jeff N1SOM** and sent out asap.

New Business:

- **John K1JRO** announced the *Run to the Rock* road race will once again be held in Plymouth this year on September 12th from 9am-12 Noon. Proceeds benefit the Boys & Girls club of Plymouth. Volunteers w/a Technician class license and a fully charged 2 Meter HT w/the appropriate frequencies programming in are needed for this 4 1/2 hr morning event (from 7:30am – 12 Noon) in the Plymouth area. Please send an email to ssharc@gmail.com to volunteer. Please include your full name, call sign, telephone number (cellular number if possible) and your t-shirt size. **Paul KB1MTW** advised the volunteers typically meets at the McDonalds at exit 5 off of Rt3.
- **John K1JRO** advised he has ordered the Yaesu Fusion DR-1X 2m/440 Repeater on behalf of the Whitman club. Yaesu has accepted the application and advised John of the current 4-8 week lead time. Possibly the repeater will be delivered by the end of July. **Jeff N1ZZN** recommends we purchase a custom interface cable allowing our Arcom RC-210 controller to be used with the Yaesu Fusion repeater. He placed an order for this cable himself (\$190 purchase) and inquired about options to pay for this purchase (a club fund raiser for example). Motion to reimburse **Jeff N1ZZN** for the cost of the interface cable made by **Mark KC1ACF** with a second by **Joe K1JMA**. Motion passed quorum vote.
- **Jeff N1ZZN** advised several members are having emails not delivered (ie: bouncing back). Jeff asked if these are still members in good standing and if so, could someone reach out to these members to determine their email status? Members in question are : **Dave Darois WA1UMT** and **Evelyne Foley K1EF**. **Jeff N1SOM** confirmed both are members in good standing. **Paul KB1MTW** recommends physical letters be sent to each rather than calling them. **Jeff N1ZZN** also mentioned 2 other members, one w/the same email issue and another known not to have email access: **Ed Meehan N1NTZ** and **John Coombs WQ1L**. Jeff suggests since these are two long time members, could the club mail them copies of the club newsletters? A short general discussion took place w/most members indicating this is a good idea.

- As an FYI, **Jim W1JT** informed the club members he and **Loren N1IQI** use packet radio on a regular basis (aka: packet radio isn't dead by any means) and suggests club members give it a try.
- **Ross W1EKG** informed the members he will be running a Technician training class in July (on July 7th, 14th, and optionally the 21st) using the Gordon West Technician book. (which You-Do-It Electronics in Needham does not carry, btw) The training will take place at the Whitman Police station, starting at 7pm. A possible VE license testing session may take place at the conclusion of the class.
- Guest **Mr. Mike W1RC** addressed the club members. Mr. Mike informed us NEARFest would be taking place on October 16th and 17th this fall. Mr. Mike also informed us his successor in running NEARfest operations has been picked: **John Flood KB1FQG**. John and Mr. Mike plan to attend New England area club meeting introducing everyone to John. Mr. Mike further explained a new effort to make public service folks (police/fire etc) aware of NEARFest and the availability of vhf/uhf communications equipment specifically GE Moto digital radios. Mr. Mike dropped off some flyers w/the details as well.
- **Billy K1UFO** announced a new net (in conjunction **Jim Havens W1GQN**) taking place on 28.333Mhz Sunday nights at 8pm called the '333 Bible Net'. The net will discuss the Bible and it's relevance to today's news and current affairs. Please join in if interested!
- **Richard AB1B** informed everyone of the unfortunate drop in attendance at recent Fox Hunts. Any suggestions to increase attendance please inform the Fox Hunt committee. The next Fox Hunt will be Saturday July 11th – location tbd. Richard also indicated a relative of his is pursuing a college degree and has some amateur radio equipment to sell: A Kenwood TS830S (tube final) and a Hallicrafters HT41 linear amp (1500w input). This will be a consignment sale w/the Whitman club receiving a portion of the sale\$. If interested, contact **Richard AG1B**. Richard also thanked **Ross W1EKG** for setting up and taking down the PA equipment used in the K/C hall every week. (Thanks Ross!). **Mark KC1ACF** asked if the measuring tape beam antenna could be used for Fox Hunting? Richard confirmed, and he stated in his opinion, this is the best antenna to use for Fox Hunting. An HT w/a real signal strength meter is also necessary. (It was noted the popular Baofeng HT's do not have an active signal strength meter so Fox Hunting w/this HT will be a bit more difficult).
- **Jim W1JT** announced to the members both **Joe K1JMA** and **Bill KC1CNP** just recently passed their General Class license test! Congratulations to Bill and Joe !! Thanks also to **Ross W1EKG** for running the General License class they both attended.

(l-r **Joe K1JMA**, **Bill KC1CNP**)



- Also recognized as successfully upgrading to EXTRA class are **Mike WA1MAD** and **Bob K1WGU**. Congratulations to Mike and Bob !!



Mike WA1MAD, Bob K1WGU

- **Barry N1EZH** announced the Middleborough Old Colony YMCA Triathlon taking place on Saturday July 26th. (swim/bike/run). **John N1UMJ** will again be net control this year. To volunteer please contact Barry at N1EZH@comcast.net or John at N1UMJ@comcat.net. Barry estimated about 9 or 10 folks will be needed. Volunteers typically meet at approx 7:30am at an area Dunkin Donuts. The race takes place from approx 9am to 12Noon.
- **Paul KB1MTW** informed everyone that the old repeater is still in a cabinet at the repeater site. Paul and **Jeff N1ZZN** removed the old repeater and it's now stored at Pine St. Paul asked if anyone knows of someone who might want a repeater (no power supply or controller) please let him know. **Bill N1FRE** recalls this was a Hamtronics kit.
- **Dave KB1QMX** offered 2 19" wide, 7-foot tall, 24" deep racks for equipment use.
- **Bill N1FRE** informed the club about the upcoming plans for the ***Marshfield Fair*** special event taking place Friday August 21st through Sunday August 30th with equipment setup and breakdown on Thursday August 20th and Monday August 31st.
 - **Bill N1FRE** indicated the typical antennas and stations will be setup (R5 vertical, a Windom and several 2 Meter antennas along with 2 HF and 2 VHF radios). Specific plans to be established at the August meeting.
 - **Bill N1FRE** has put together this years booth sign up sheet. As in the past, 2 shifts per day (12:00noon-4:30pm and 4:30pm-9:00pm) for all 10 days of the Fair. Club policy is to have a minimum of 2 people per shift (4 preferred) for safety/security reasons. Please sign up for one or more shifts – volunteers are needed. Bill tells us at the August meeting, he'll have 100 tickets to the Fair (including on-site parking), free to booth volunteers. Note: As in the past, the booth roster will be kept updated on the clubs website.
 - **Bill N1FRE** has worked w/the Fair director this year and our Whitman club booth is participating in the Kids 'Passport' program. Kids will bring their Fair map to the 12 or so participating booths, answer a question (what is 2-way radio? in our case) and have their map stamped. Bill has created 2 flyers to hand out at the booth. It was suggested these be put up on our club website for everyone to see before the Fair.

- **Bob K1WGU** suggested advertisements could be added to the back of the flyers. **Bill N1FRE** indicated we have added a note concerning the fall club flea market, details on obtaining a ham radio license with website links to our clubs website and v-mail phone number. He's also added some popular ham radio website links. Any/all suggestions for improvements, please let Bill know.
 - **Bill N1FRE** asks for any old QST magazines folks would like to volunteer to be given away at the Fair. Bill will cover the mailing address and staple a Whitman Club business card in it's place.
 - **Paul KB1MTW** asked if we have a good supply of club business cards? **Jeff N1SOM** indicated he will be ordering more cards.
 - **Mark KC1ACF** asks if operators not at the Fair could please stand by on the 2 Meter repeater to make contact during radio demonstrations. **Jim W1JT** suggests we have a backup repeater designated. The Marshfield repeater seemed to be the general concensus as a backup. **Jeff N1ZZN** agreed and indicated HT access throughout the Fair would be possible if using the Marshfield repeater (145.390- PL 67.0)
- **Ross W1EKG** recommends everyone try to join us at CranLand the 3rd Sunday of the month. We do net control from there. There's a \$6 breakfast, lots of planes and a few vintage cars and possibly a few motorcycles.
 - **Bill K1UFO** reminded everyone of the Wing Busters flying field in Middleborough who also offer breakfast once a month.
 - **Jim WG1L** announced the FIST club instructional CW cd's ordered after the June meeting have arrived. 25 were ordered. Jim reminds us these can be copied w/o legal issues.
 - **Jeff N1SOM** and **Larry K1LJK** raised the suggestion of a thank you letter be written and a monetary donation be made to the E.Bridgewater YMCA for use of their field for our Field Day activities. **Jeff WK1D** asked what donation amount was given in the past? **Jeff N1SOM** indicated a \$200 donation had been. Motion to donate \$200 to the YMCA as described made by **Jeff WK1D** with a second by **Mark KC1ACF**. Motion passed quorum vote.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by **Joe K1JMA**, with a second by **Billy K1UFO**. Motion passed quorum vote.

John W1IG adjourned the meeting at 8:32 pm, 07/01/15