

## Whitman Amateur Radio Club Meeting 10/07/15



**Paul Moss KB1MTW**   **Larry Kenney K1LJK**   **Jeff Tracy N1SOM**   **John Murphy WI1G**  
V.President                      Secretary                      Treasurer                      President

*Photo by Jeff WK1D*

**ATTENDANCE:** 42 members and guests were present including 4 elected officers

KB1MTW Paul Moss

WI1G John Murphy

W1JGR John Ruppel

W1OD Steve Cohn

N1CFB Chris Babbitt

WK1D Jeff Ayres

KB1OEP Mike Supple

KC1ACF Mark Vess

KC1FZ George Davis

KB1WNX Steven Lyons

WG1L Jim O'Rourke

KB1IKH Elayne Tovet

W1EKG Ross Hochstrasser

SWL Marc Connolly

K1LJK Larry Kenney

AG1B Richard Metcalf

N1IQI Loren Pimentel

WD1L John Nelson

WA1MAD Mike Davis

KC1CDY Don Willerson

KC1EFJ Allen Hiltz

KB1PFL Jim Madden

KC1DWY John Ginsberg

KC1EFI Alan McPhee

WA1YKF Warren Dickie

W1JT Jim Tovet

KC1EFF Randy Mills

SWL Marty Nugent

N1SOM Jeff Tracy

KB1CYV Roy Logan

N1EZH Barry Kennedy

K1UFO Billy Robinson

N1FRE Bill Hayden

KB1OEQ Ron Stundze

NM1F Jim Ford

N1OYH Carl David

KA1KIJ Bob Azanow

N1POO R. Pete Carlson

N1ZZN Jeff Lehmann

K1JMA Joe Amorelli

SWL Leo Mills

SWL Scott Mitchell

## **Secretary's Report:**

President **John Murphy W11G** called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, 10/07/15. A quorum was present.

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

Treasurer, **Jeff N1SOM** read the September 2015 treasurers report. Motion to accept the report as read made by **Jeff WK1D** with a second by **Steve W1OD**. Motion passed quorum vote.

Motion to accept the September 2015 Secretary report as published on the Whitman club website made by **John WD1L** with a second by **Jim KB1PFL**. Motion passed quorum vote.

## **Health & Welfare report by **Elayne KB1IKH**:**

Get Well cards to:

**Mike Petrou W1MSP**, **Al Marshall KB1MJL** for his wife

**Richard AG1B** provided a health update on **Mike W1MSP** who is suffering from cancer at the Beth Israel Deaconess hospital in Boston.

Unfortunately our friend **Mike W1MSP** became a silent key on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015. Several club members attended the funeral service on October October 25<sup>th</sup> 2015.

**Elayne KB1IKH** advised a Dish Garden was sent to **Mike Petrou W1MSP's** family.

### **Michael S. Petrou**

October 21, 2015

Michael S. Petrou, husband of Geraldine ♦Jill♦ (Lawyer) Petrou, died Wednesday morning, in Brockton Hospital.

Born in Boston, son of the late Steven and Rena (Courtis) Petrou. He was educated in Boston Tech High School for Radio Communications. He has been a Taunton resident since 1977. Michael was a self-employed radio technician. He was a Ham Radio operator, W1MSP. He was a member of the Whitman and Taunton Ham Radio Clubs and was an active volunteer for TEMA for the City of Taunton. Michael played the guitar for enjoyment.



Besides his wife Jill of Taunton he is survived by his daughters Christina Gonsalves and her husband Shawn of Raynham and Michelle Petrou of Taunton. He is the grandfather of Michael Nelson, Roger Horton and Michael's fianc♦ Kayla Brophy. Michael is the brother of Patricia Danner and her husband Fred and John Petrou both of Hanson and he is the uncle of one niece.

### **Funeral Information**

Relatives and friends are invited to attend visiting hours in the Crapo-Hathaway Funeral Home, 350 Somerset Ave. (Route 138 South), Taunton, on Monday, October 26, 2015, beginning at 4 PM, with a Funeral Service at 5 PM and continuing until 8PM.

### **Donations Information**

Donations in his memory may be made to the Make A Wish Foundation.

## NET CONROL for October 2015:

- **October 11<sup>th</sup>** : **Roy KB1CYV**
- **October 18<sup>th</sup>** : **Ross W1EKG @ CranLand Airport**
- **October 25<sup>th</sup>** : **Jeff N1SOM**
- **September 27<sup>th</sup>** : **Bill N1FRE**
- **November 1<sup>st</sup>** : **Bob KA1KIJ**

**Note: Ross W1EKG** offered to show anyone coming to CranLand how to run the net, including the traffic format. A short discussion on net control and the traffic operation took place. **Bill N1FRE** suggests folks new to net control could meet up w/someone who has done the net before to help them through the first time.

## Old Business:

- **Chris N1CFB** provided a summation of the fall Flea Market, indicating a small profit for the club was made after expenses. Chris has a growing vendor list from this and past Flea markets that he will be contacted for future Flea markets. Chris also mentioned moving the events back to the Memorial and Labor Day weekends as was done in the past. A general discussion took place on the subject, including ideas for local advertising. **Paul KB1MTW** mentioned the lawn signs should be returned to the club house for use in the future. Paul and Chris both discussed advertising the event as a Flea Market/Craft Fair with less focus on Ham Radio.
- **Jeff N1ZZN** and **Mark KC1ACF** updated everyone on the potential use of the Plymouth County/Hanson municipal tower as our new club repeater site. Mark indicated the town officials appear positive on the idea and a contract is being drawn up w/the lease details which will be reviewed by the various Hanson town departments leading (hopefully) to an approval. Mark indicated the tower is 160 ft tall with it's base at 153 ft above sea level and it contains several unused antennas. Hanson EMA may choose to utilize the tower as well. Also on site is a small building in partial disrepair (leaking roof for example) which could be used to house a container/shed of some sort to provide waterproof protection for the repeater. Electric power service will also have to be connected from an adjacent pole. Mark has a volunteer electrician for the work when ready. A general discussion took place, including the option of moving the clubs DSL internet service from the former repeater site to this site. Mark thanked **Jeff N1ZZN** and **Kevin KB1MOC** for the work it took to bring the project to this point. **Paul KB1MTW** suggested a club committee be formed to oversee the project, including cost estimates and provide updates to the club membership. Folks volunteering include **Jeff N1ZZN**, **Kevin KB1MOC**, **Mark KC1ACF**, **Billy K1UFO** and **John WD1L**
- **Jeff N1ZZN** provided an update on the current Fusion repeater status. It's understood the Fusion repeater firmware needs to be rolled back one version to prevent accidental lock up w/the controller when the Fusion digital mode is used (this has happened once). **Jim W1JT** and **Jim KB1PFL** have been using the Fusion digital mode w/o issue. **Ross W1EKG** noted the slight delay when the repeater is first keyed (possibly a slight repeater delay to switch to the proper mode (FM or C4FM)). A sideline discussion took place concerning the MARA repeater and the occasionally heavy use of IRLP repeater linking. **Billy K1UFO** commented the courtesy beep seems unusually loud. **Mike WA1MAD** commented the squelch tail also seems a big long and asked if this

was adjustable.

### **New Business:**

- **John WI1G** presented a new member application in good standing to the club membership for **SWL Marc Connolly**. **Bill N1FRE** noted this would be an associate membership as Marc is not yet licensed. **Jeff N1SOM** confirmed the membership level would be appropriate. Motion to accept the new member made by **Jeff WK1D** with a second by **Billy K1UFO**. Motion passed quorum vote.
- **Jeff N1ZZN** mentioned the project discussed at last month's meeting of taking down **Bill N1FRE's** tower. **Bill N1FRE** commented he needs prep time prior to having volunteers do the work. **Paul KB1MTW** will coordinate the effort with Bill.
- **Paul KB1MTW** announced the club now has a new outdoor canopy. Paul indicated it's 10x20 ft. and the top can be replaced if/when necessary. The cost was \$120 and Paul says a single person can assemble it. **Billy K1UFO** asked if it can be assembled in a smaller size. Paul confirmed it can be. The new canopy will be used at NEAR-FEST and if additional smaller canopies seem to be needed, we will address this at a future club meeting.
- **Paul KB1MTW** reviewed the recently acquired ham radio equipment from recent SK **Dave Gurney WA1YZH** and other folks and the plans to sell (on consignment) the equipment at the fall NEAR-FEST. Paul indicated 90% of the equipment will be brought up to NEAR-FEST (3 HF rigs, 1 in somewhat questionable condition, various antennas, power supplies, headphones, cw keys, mobile vhf radios, coax, etc). Paul indicated a future Pine St clean out may take place to sell off the remaining equipment after NEAR-FEST. In addition **Dave Gurney's** crank up, tilt over tower, 3 element beam and Ringo vertical will be taken down this weekend (Sunday) and will be coming to the club for possible use at Pine St. A general discussion took place on the logistics of installing the tower at Pine St with either **Al Craddock's** 5 element beam or **Dave Gurney's** 3 element beam. In addition, **Al Craddock** may need help installing an antenna at his new OakPoint QTH (tbd- pending management approval). Paul also indicated the club acquired numerous beam antenna parts. Anyone in need of parts, please see Paul.
- **Richard AG1B** demonstrated his new Fox in a Box automated fox hunting equipment to the club and announced plans to run a fox hunt this coming weekend (Oct 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 8am-5pm). The automated Fox Box will be hidden somewhere in Whitman and can be activated by members transmitting a DTMF tone of 2 on 146.535 simplex for 2 seconds. The Fox Box will transmit a 1 watt signal including Richards call sign in cw several times for approx 10 minutes. This can be used to locate the Fox Box. Richard will include a sign-in sheet in a waterproof bag w/the Fox Box for members to log their name, call sign and elapsed time in finding the Fox. Richard will mention this to the Whitman authorities as a precaution. (Note: See section after these notes for more details on Richards Fox Box and the Fox Hunting results)

- **Ross W1EKG** reminded us of the upcoming NEAR-FEST event Friday and Saturday October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Admission is \$5 to walk in. \$10 to park inside. (Note: See section after these notes for NEAR-FEST pictures taken at the event)
- **Joe K1JMA** updated everyone on the effort to run our Thanksgiving weekend special event at Plimouth Plantation again this year. Joe indicated he's meeting w/the Plantation management in the next few days to hopefully confirm our use of their facility. Joe would like to show past event logs, especially w/Europe including Plimouth England. **Bill N1FRE** indicated past event details within the archived newsletters could be a good source. Bill noted our newsletter is a very nice advertisement for their plantation. **Paul KB1MTW** reminded everyone that a few years ago, the Whitman club was able to setup communications to the North Pole for the kids coming by the club table. **Bill N1FRE** reminded us the Plymouth Boy/Girls club could be a very good backup location. **John K1JRO** would be the key person to contact the Boys/Club if/when necessary.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by **Mark KC1ACF**, with a second by **Jeff WK1D**. Motion passed quorum vote.

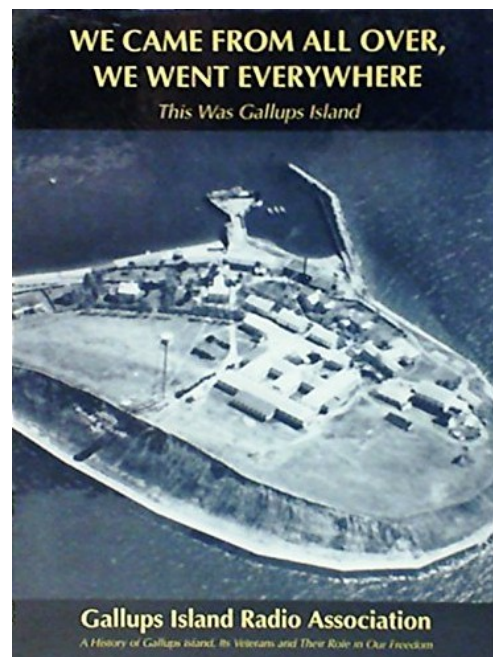
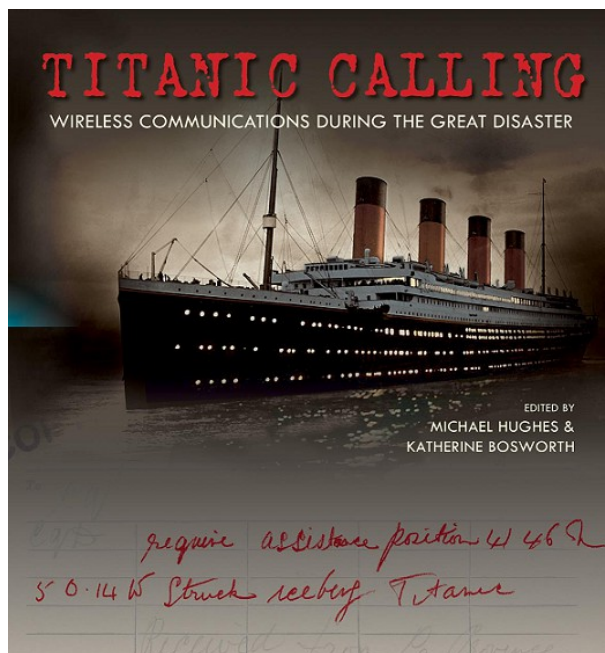
**John W1IG** adjourned the meeting at 8:21 pm, 10/07/15

### End Secretary's Report

### Interesting Reading

by **Jim WG1L**

**Jim WG1L** suggests two very interesting historical communications books he recently read:



## [Titanic Calling wireless communications during the great disaster.](#)

(from Amazon.com):

*In 2004, the Marconi Company donated its extensive archives to the Bodleian Library of Britain's Oxford University. Among its treasures are many records dealing with the Titanic disaster, and these form the basis of this volume. Of special interest are the procès-verbaux – wireless operators' records of messages sent and received – of 12 ships and two shore stations communicating with Titanic, brought together in this book. They form a dramatic chronology of the events of a century ago.*

*The book's opening pages provide an expert summary of wireless telegraphy as it was in 1912, describing the procedures, working hours, training and responsibilities of wireless operators and the nature of Titanic's wireless equipment. The book features many facsimiles of telegraphic messages sent between the ships that night, and hitherto unpublished photos from the Marconi archives.*

*Wireless played a pivotal role in Titanic's story, and this volume does a great job in stitching together the disparate elements of the personnel, equipment and messages of the disaster. For anyone interested in wireless's role that night, this book is an excellent reference source.*

## [We Came from All over, We Went Everywhere: This Was Gallups Island. Gallups Island Radio Association: A history of Gallups Island, it's veterans and their role in our Freedom](#)

(from an online review):

*Gallups Island is a small island near Boston Harbor that has a unique place in American military history. It was here that thousands of Merchant Marine Seamen were trained in the art of radio communication. A different look at World War II, capturing the humor of the Gallups experience.*

**Jim** suggests checking w/your library for copies if interested in these books. Thanks Jim!

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## [Special Event announced](#)

[by Rick KB1TEE](#)

**KB1TEE** will be on the **USS Wisconsin** December 5, 2015 from 1000-1600 operating as **N4WIS**. We will be on the air commemorating the (dastardly attack December 7th 1941 by the Empire of Japan FDR) Pearl Harbor air raid the ships group operates from the 03 level or Admirals bridge armored room. We usually have three stations working 40 and 20 meters along with a CW station

Rick Emord KB1TEE  
Middleborough Fire Department  
Search Dogs Northeast  
RACES / ARES / SKYWARN  
MARA, LARK, N4WIS, K1USN, TACG, W1NAS

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## [Fox Hunt Report for October 2015](#)

[by Richard AC1B](#)

(email communications from **Richard AG1B** before and during the event, followed by meeting and field pictures of Richard with the Fox Box in action)

Members,

I have placed the **AG1B** automated Fox Box on Whitman conservation land, west of Route 18. This is a Self-Service, anytime event.

The Fox Box can be activated by transmitting a DTMF tone "2", on Fox frequency 146.535 Mh., for two seconds. The Fox Box will transmit a thirty second tone and Morse code ID cycle, repeating for ten minutes.

The Fox Box is within 100 feet of a road. There is a sign-in list in a plastic bag at the Fox Box. Those who wish to remain in their cars can report a street address for the suspected Fox Box location by email to [rjmetcalf@comcast.net](mailto:rjmetcalf@comcast.net).

The Fox Box will be remain in place for Saturday and Sunday, daylight hours.

Please come out and take a ride in Whitman too find this transmitter.

73, **Richard, AG1B**

WARC members,

I checked the hidden transmitter Fox Box this morning and it is working properly. You can activate the automated Fox Box by transmitting a DTMF tone "2" on 146.535 Mh for two seconds. The Fox Box will transmit a tone cycle and remain on for ten minutes. This is an introduction to on-foot direction finding, ARDF, as used for international events. Please begin your search on the grounds of the WARC Quonset hut on Pine Street, Whitman. There is a sign-in list in a plastic bag near the Fox Box for successful members. Also, remember to take a photo at the Fox Box for the newsletter. The Fox Box will be available through Sunday until 3:00 pm.

73, Good radio hunting,  
**Richard, AG1B**

WARC Members,

I retrieved the **AG1B** Fox Box on Sunday afternoon. The automated Fox Box was in operation for 53 hours from Friday morning testing to 3 pm Sunday. The unit was still working fine at the finish, although the SLA battery had lost one volt. I have some improvements in mind such as reducing wiring, adapters and adding a heat sink to the radio.

**RESULTS:**

<b>KB1CYV</b>	<b>Roy</b>	30	minutes	to	find
<b>KB1PFL</b>	<b>Jim</b>	20	"	"	"
<b>N1ZZN</b>	<b>Jeff</b>	15	"	"	"
<b>N1FRE</b>	<b>Bill and Charlene</b>	10	"	"	"

Thank you to those who voiced support for this endeavour on the WARC Sunday morning 2m net and I especially thank the participants who made a great effort too locate the Fox Box.

73, **Richard , AG1B**



**Richard AG1B** demonstrating his FOX-BOX automated Fox Hunting beacon at the October Whitman club meeting.



*Photo's by Jeff WK1D*



**Richard AG1B** showing the location of his Fox-Box beacon.

*Photo's by Richard AG1B*







Ross W1EKG with some of his vintage equipment



John W1IG at the Whitman club table



**Warren WA1YKF, Paul KB1MTW, John WI1G, Leo SWL and Allen KC1EFJ at the Whitman club table.**



**Jonathen SWL and Chris N1CFB at the adjacent camp site to the Whitman club table**



**Mike WA1MAD**



Campers adjacent to the Whitman club table owned by **Jeff N1SOM**, **Joe K1JMA**, **Mark N1ISS** with **Chris N1CFB** and **Mike WA1MAD**'s campsite beyond.



**Jeff N1SOM** packing up the grill.



Mark N1ISS setup for business and camping



The newest club members find the Church Ladies and the hot coffee...  
**Allen KC1EFJ, Jonathan KC1EFM, Leo SWL and Randy KC1EFF**