



The Whitman Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

April 2004

# SPECTRUM



The Voice of the Humble Electron

Founded 1962

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**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:** This is **The Bruce NI1X** – It is with great sadness that we report that **Bill Patterson KB1KVK** of Rockland became a silent key in April and we extend our thoughts and prayers to his wife Tonie, his family and many friends. **Bill KB1KVK** will be missed by all.

We finished up March with a trip to the Framingham Flea Market and plan to wrap up the month of April with a trip to Hosstraders. The Fox Hunters were active as usual. Members participated in a Nuclear Plant Evacuation Drill with the City of Taunton and Town of Bridgewater. Others participated with the Boston Marathon, RADIOGRAM training, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, attended an Advanced Emergency Communication Workshop in Hingham or attended a training session for the Scout program amateur radio volunteers on the USS Salem in Quincy and **Bill O'Hara KB1LEH** (note the new call sign) upgraded to general class.

At the last meeting we had a very interesting presentation by **Jim O'Rourke WG1L** on his QRP adventures and a brief presentation by **George Davis KC1FZ** on the Emergency Communication Workshop that both he and **Walter MacNeil W1WMN** attended. At the next meeting we plan to have **Gill Follett W1GMF** explain the availability of packet radio in this area and give us an update on his message handling activities. Come and share your amateur radio activities with the other members.

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**NEW MEMBER - SILENT KEY - Bill Patterson KB1KVK** joined the club at the April meeting and became a silent key on the following weekend. **Bill KB1KVK** was looking forward to volunteering with the scout program onboard the USS Salem in Quincy and had attended an initial training session that weekend.

**Bill KB1KVK** had said he really enjoyed his first meeting with the Whitman club members and had even volunteered to try his hand at NET control. **Bill KB1KVK** had reported that he was first licensed while in High School and then followed up when he joined the Armed Services in the early 1950's but let it drop after he became married to his wife Tonie and they started bringing up their five kids. He was licensed again after the kids grew up and let it drop again soon after the first of eleven (11) grandkids came along. He decided to become licensed again this year and convinced his long time friend **Ken Kavaljian KB1KVL** to join this fascinating hobby. Their friendship goes back 25 years.



**Bill Patterson  
KB1KVK  
Silent Key**

**Bill KB1KVK** had a lot of experience repairing commercial radio equipment and had been heard helping **Ron Smith N1PXX** solve his problems reaching the Whitman Repeater from his home QTH in Marshfield. We could all tell **Bill KB1KVK** really enjoyed his new HAM privileges as we heard him talk with his friends on the Whitman REPEATER.

**SECRETARY'S NOTES OF THE MEETING OF April 7, 2004 de KB1CYV**

**OPENING:** The members started gathering at the Whitman Public Library, Whitman, MA around 6:15 P.M. President **Bruce NI1X** opened the meeting at 6:45P.M. with a roll call.

**ATTENDANCE:** Seventeen members / guests were present, including all four elected officers. A quorum was present.

<b>N1SOM</b>	<b>Jeff Tracy</b>	<b>NI1X</b>	<b>Bruce Hayden</b>	<b>KB1CYV</b>	<b>Roy Logan</b>
<b>KB1KVK</b>	<b>Bill Patterson</b>	<b>KB1KVL</b>	<b>Ken Kavaljian</b>	<b>N1ZZN</b>	<b>Jeff Lehmann</b>
<b>W1WMN</b>	<b>Walter MacNeil</b>	<b>N1FRE</b>	<b>Bill Hayden</b>	<b>KB1KFF</b>	<b>Jim Kenworthy</b>
<b>KB1IUB</b>	<b>Bill O'Hara III</b>	<b>K1XRB</b>	<b>Peter George</b>	<b>KA1PJX</b>	<b>Don Keene</b>
<b>KB1ETW</b>	<b>Jim Halpin</b>	<b>KC1FZ</b>	<b>George Davis</b>	<b>WG1L</b>	<b>Jim O'Rourke</b>
<b>N1PXX</b>	<b>Ron Smith</b>			<b>WP4US</b>	<b>Carlos Wharton</b>

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The treasurer's report was read by **Jeff N1SOM**. **Bill KB1IUB** made a motion seconded by **Jim KB1KFF** that the Treasurer's report be accepted as read. A motion to reimburse **Bill N1FRE** for electrical expenses for the repeater operation retroactive to January 2004 and to budget this cost as a monthly expense was made by **Roy KB1CYV** seconded by **Ron N1PXX**. Both motions were approved.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** A motion was made by **Bill KB1IUB** seconded by **Jim KB1KFF** that the secretary's report be accepted as published in the March Newsletter. The motion was approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:** **Roy KB1CYV** reported that two shipments of books have been made in the Operation Paperback project.

**NEW BUSINESS:** **Bruce NI1X**, as QSL Manager, reported sending 17 certificates for foreign contacts made at several club activities. Applications for full membership were received from **KB1KVK Bill Patterson** and **KB1KVL Ken Kavaljian**. A motion to accept was made by **Jeff N1SOM** seconded by **Walt W1WMN** and approved by the membership. The WARC welcomes both to the fold! **Bruce NI1X** expressed the club's appreciation to **Carlos WP4US** for his initiative in conducting a Technician class at the Taunton EOC. **George KC1FZ** offered congratulations to **Bill KB1IUB** on his article on the QRZ site about the USS Salem and to **Bruce NI1X** on the various articles, which have appeared in the Newsletter. Anyone planning antenna work might want to talk to **George KC1FZ** about the adventures he had relocating an antenna single-handed!

**CLUB ELECTIONS:** **Bruce NI1X** made a motion seconded by **Jim KB1KFF** nominating the current slate of elected officers for reelection. **Bill KB1KVK** made a motion seconded by **Ken KB1KVL** nominating **Ron N1PXX** for the Board of Directors. Both motions were approved. Final nominations will take place at the May club meeting.

**TECHNICAL TOPICS:** **Jim WG1L** gave an informative discussion and demonstration of keys and a lightweight portable QRP rig he has built. Successful contacts have been made back to Weymouth from both Wisconsin and Florida.

**NET CONTROLS:** 4/4 Chris N1WWI      4/11 Jim KB1KFF      4/18 Roy KB1CYV  
4/25 Charlet N1VQZ

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made by **Jeff N1SOM** seconded by **Peter K1XRB** and President **Bruce NI1X** closed the meeting at 8:45 P.M.

## NEW MEMBER

**Ken Kavaljian KB1KVL** of Abington joined the Whitman Amateur Radio Club with his long time friend **Bill Patterson KB1KVK** of Rockland (now a Silent Key). They both received their technician class licenses on Feb. 20, 2004

**Ken KB1KVL** reports he has purchased a Kenwood TH-G71 2 meter / 440 MHz handheld and installed an ICOM IC-V8000 mobile rig in his truck. He reports much better performance when he replaced the mag-mount antenna with a Hustler CG-144 5/8 wave over a ¼ wave collinear high gain antenna on his truck.



**Ken Kavaljian KB1KVL**

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## TECHNICAL TOPICS - HOMEMADE PADDLES

**Jim O'Rourke WG1L** brought in his homemade paddles and the QRP rig he brings on vacation for show and tell. He reported on his travels to Northern Wisconsin to visit his sister where he went out into a field and set up a portable 15 meter wire dipole (with a 20 meter add on jumper) antenna about seven (7) feet off the ground and powered a 5 watt QRP rig with a tractor battery and made a scheduled contact with his friend **Mike Connelly NA1XX** of North Weymouth Massachusetts and also made contact with club member **Jim Halpin KB1ETW** of North Weymouth at the same time – all using CW. The QRP rig was made by Index Labs, that has now been sold to and sold by the SGC company.



**Jim O'Rourke WG1L**



One keyer was made of two inexpensive plastic Morse Code Keys, that sell for \$11.00 new, turned on their side and mounted back to back on a home made metal stand made of a ½ inch steel base for weight with a 1/8 inch steel vertical center support, spot welded to the base. He pointed out that the large key knobs had been replaced with two flat disks.

The other QST design “mini paddle” was made out of copper clad circuit boards and was 1-½ by 2 inches in size with the circuit board plating cut to form three isolated electric sections along with an isolated, non energized, finger - thumb paddle area. The third miniature key was about 1 inch square in size mounted on a marble base.

**Jim WG1L** – “Whiskey Gets One Loaded” – has been licensed for 47 years becoming licensed in August of 1957 while stationed at a naval base in Japan. He reported that he has also brought his QRP rig to Florida from where he made a scheduled contact with another friend in South Weymouth along with Club member **Jim KB1ETW** in N. Weymouth.



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**SKYWARN UPDATE:** A SKYWARN training class has been scheduled to take place in the City of Taunton on Thursday May 20, 2004 at 7-10 pm. The location is the Martin Middle School Auditorium, 131 Caswell Street, East Taunton, Mass. Mark your calendar.

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## EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP

**George Davis KC1FZ** reported on the Emergency Communication Workshop that he attended with **Walter MacNeil W1WMN** on April 3, 2004 in Hingham. This workshop was sponsored by the Eastern Mass Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) staff.



**George KC1FZ** brought in several interesting handouts and quickly reviewed the five - one hour programs covered in the workshop.



**George Davis KC1FZ**

**George KC1FZ** reports –“One of the primary reasons for Amateur Radio’s existence has been the ability to provide Emergency Communications. Are you prepared to do it ? If you had attended the Emergency Communications Workshop held recently in Hingham you would have found out. The workshop, organized by **Mark Duff KB1EKN**, and presented by EMA ARES staff was an outstanding event. It was well worth attending. Plan to go when it is presented again.

Subjects covered were: ARES, RACES, SKYWARN, Net Operations, NTS Traffic message handling, The Incident Command System (ICS), E. MA “SET” Drill Video (presented during the lunch break), Mobilization, Go Kits and Antennas etc. Each subject was presented by different speaker. **Frank, WQ10's** "Go Kit" presentation was of particular interest to any Amateur builder / collector”.

**SKYWARN UPDATE: Rob Macedo KD1CY** has given us two new email addresses to send SKYWARN reports to: [wx1box@n1xtb.org](mailto:wx1box@n1xtb.org) or [skywarnwn9509@people.com](mailto:skywarnwn9509@people.com)

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## FOX HUNTING

On April 10<sup>th</sup>, **Gill W1GMF** was the Fox and **George KC1FZ** was the first to find him hiding at the entrance to Ames Norwell State Park in Abington.

Those taking part that day are shown in the photo. They were L. to R **Bruce Hayden N1X**, **George Davis KC1FZ**, **Walter MacNeil W1WMN**, **Loren Pimentel N1IQI**, **Gil Follett W1GMF**, **Walt Fitzgerald N1LHD** and **Gary Cumiskey N1GJS**.



**The Fox Hunting Crew**

The Fox Hunt takes place every Saturday morning between 10 am and noon. Listen in on the Fox frequency 146.565 MHz from your home QTH or wherever you are located at 10 am and let the Fox Hunters know if you can hear the Fox. Most of the Fox Hunters coordinate their efforts on the Bridgewater REPEATER (147.180 MHz) and **Bob Johnson K1VU** usually give a beam heading from his QTH in West Bridgewater. Great fun.

## PLYMOUTH NUCLEAR POWER PLANT EVACUATION DRILL

Whitman and Massasoit Club Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) members participated in the Plymouth Nuclear Power Plant evacuation drill on Wednesday April 14, 2004 that simulated an air plane crash at the plant that eventually led to a radioactive release and evacuation of residents near the plant. This was a Federal Emergency Management Agency graded drill for both the Nuclear Power Plant and the City and Towns participating.

Whitman club members participating at the City of Taunton Emergency Operations Center (EOC) were **Bruce Hayden N1IX**, **Bill Hayden N1FRE**, **Ken Waine KB1INN** and **Rick Ferreira KB1KWF** who is the Director of the Taunton Emergency Management Agency. At the Town of Bridgewater EOC were Whitman club members **Roy Logan KB1CYV** and **Joe Serrilla W1JOE** who are also Massasoit club members and part of **Carl Aveni's N1FY** core team of Massasoit club amateur radio volunteers. **Carl N1FY** is the Town of Bridgewater amateur radio volunteer coordinator. **Roy KB1CYV** is shown at the 440 MHz operating position at the Bridgewater EOC during the practice drill held last month.



**Roy Logan KB1CYV**

The only equipment problem that surfaced at the Taunton EOC was that the 2 meter transmissions were reported to be breaking up. As suggested the hand mike was replaced and the audio problem was reported to be solved on a follow up radio check with the crew at the Bridgewater EOC.

The Kingston EOC had a noise problem on their primary designated 2 meter frequency and it was reported that the Plymouth EOC had only 2 meter capability and could not contact the Kingston EOC. The Town of Bridgewater was asked to set up and act as a relay via the 440 MHz Kingston REPEATER. The Taunton EOC demonstrated that they could function as a very effective backup, with solid communication, when the Taunton EOC was also able to establish direct contact with **Mark Loring KC1ML** at the Kingston EOC using the 440 MHz equipment installed at the Taunton EOC. Amateur radio communicators were asked to pass messages to participants in the field who were out of normal communication (as an example their cell phone had stopped working or was inadvertently shut off).

**Rick KB1KWF** is shown standing in front of the Plymouth Nuclear Power Plant evacuation zone map that includes circles drawn with the plant as the center and shows what land areas lie inside the one mile radius through the ten mile radius of the plant. The map can be marked to show the expected radioactive plume area, that depends on wind direction, and the zones designated to be evacuated. **Rick KB1KWF** knows which zones are designated to head for Taunton during an evacuation.

**Rick KB1KWF** reported that the FEMA Evaluator at the Taunton Emergency Operations Center commended the Taunton EOC staff for an outstanding performance from everyone involved.



**Rick Ferreira KB1KWF** – Director  
Taunton Emergency Management Agency

**COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) TRAINING**

Shown in the photo at the start of the April CERT training course are L. to R. **Bruce Hayden NI1X**, **Rick Ferreira KB1KWF** and **Carlos Wharton WP4US**. The nine week CERT training classes are being sponsored by and coordinated by **Rick Ferreira KB1KWF**, Director of the City of Taunton Emergency Management Agency. This is the second CERT training classes in the City of Taunton, all made possible by a grant from the US Government's Office of Homeland Security.



**The Bruce NI1X in action**

The April CERT classes covered Disaster Preparedness, Fire Safety and Disaster Medical Operations. The participants were encouraged to practice a fire evacuation drill with their family at home. Some participants, like "**The Bruce**" NI1X in the photo, got to use a fire extinguisher for the first time. Other good ideas were to establish one designated out of State contact person for your family members to contact in the case of a local disaster. Personal safety was stressed and liability issues were discussed. Go-Kits were an interesting topic ranging from a 72 hour personal kit to 5-6 day home and workplace disaster supply kits. When disaster strikes ( such as an earthquake in California, where this CERT training got it's start ) you may find yourself in the position to be a first responder for your family,

your co-workers or the general public, until the police, fire and emergency personnel arrive. The course is not a requirement for amateur radio RACES volunteers however as a Boy Scout would say – it is better to "Be Prepared".

**WHITMAN AMATEUR RADIO PUBLIC SERVICE NET (WARPSN):** The WARPSN NET meets every Sunday morning at 8:30 am. Come join in and share your amateur radio related activities with the other area HAMS and short wave listeners as well. In March we had an average of 12 Check-ins per week (QNI = 48 / 4 sessions = 12) and a total of 12 messages were sent (QTC = 12).

***WAINPO Traffic Messages***  
**Featuring our Traffic Manager, Walt K1BZD**  
 Submitted by Charlet N1VQZ



**March 2004 Traffic**

Date	Prec	HX	Station of Origin	Check	Location of Orig	Date
03/28/04	R		K1BZD	11	WHITMAN, MA	3/28/04 08:43 est.
<b>Message Body</b>						
WARPSN		MARCH		REPORT	SESSIONS	4
QNI		48		QTC	12	73
<b>Signature: WALT K1BZD</b>						
<b>Rec'd From: K1BZD</b>			<b>On: 3/28/04</b>		<b>On:</b>	

## BOSTON MARATHON - APRIL 19, 2004

Whitman club members **Bob Burns K1RB**, **Bill O'Hara KB1LEH** and **Walter MacNeil W1WMN** volunteered to help out at the 108<sup>th</sup> running of the BAA Boston Marathon this year.

At the Hopkinton Athletic Village



At First Aid Station at MP 19.3



**Don N1DT**      **Pi K1RV**  
**Bob K1RB**    **Henry K1WCC**

**Bill O'Hara KB1LEH**

Club member **Bob Burns K1RB** reported that he traveled with a crew from the Marconi Club and that they arrived at the Hopkinton Common just before 6 am and reported to **Steve K1ST**, the Hopkinton Start Line Radio Team Leader / Coordinator. The crew consisted of **Pi Pugh K1RV** who was designated as the team leader and worked directly with Marathon Officials at the command trailer, **Bob Burns K1RB** who was stationed at the entertainment and announcer stage, **Don Tanguay N1DT** who was working with the buses and crowd control in front of the Hopkinton High School and **Henry Brown K1WCC** who was stationed at the first aid tent.

**Bob K1RB** reports that the 108<sup>th</sup> running of the BAA Boston Marathon on Monday April 19, 2004 saw the second highest number of runners entered...more than 20,300 and that the weather started off very cool with a cold wind. ...but soon changed to warmer weather.

**Bill O'Hara KB1LEH** reported that he had fielded twelve emergency calls at the First Aid station located at Mile Point 19.3. This station was located at the start of Heartbreak Hill at a point where the warm weather was starting to take it toll on the runners.

**Walter MacNeil W1WMN** was located the Water Station at Mile Point 19 and fielded three emergency calls. **Walter W1WMN** shared a final report that he received from **Steve Schwarm W3EVE** that listed the 26 First Aid stations as reporting the number of rides needed as 443, the number of ambulance calls as 170 and the number of people assisted as 2332.

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**DAYTON HAMVENTION:** Area HAM **Pi Pugh K1RV** reports that the list of area HAMs who plan to attend the Dayton, Ohio Hamvention is now at 23 and the list is still growing. This includes three Whitman Club members who plan to attend the May 13, 14 and 15, 2004 event.

Pi K1RV has been doing a great job of keeping the group coordinated via his email updates that have included flight arrangements, dinner tickets and plans for a tour of the United States Air Force Museum at nearby Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. If you are going to Dayton – log in with Pi K1RV at: [k1rv@hamtestonline.com](mailto:k1rv@hamtestonline.com)

### FRAMINGHAM FLEA MARKET

The Club members seen attending the Framingham Flea market in the morning were **Bruce Hayden N11X**, **Walter MacNeil W1WMN**, **Mike Marinucci N1FRV**, **Paul Burbine N1VTI**, **John Coombs WQ1L**, **Ed Meehan N1NTZ**, **Jeff Lehmann N1ZZN** and **Jeff Tracy N1SOM**.



**Mike Marinucci N1FRV**  
**Pi K1RV & Jeff Lehmann N1ZZN**



**Ed Meehan N1NTZ**



**Jeff Tracy N1SOM**



**Walter MacNeil W1WMN**

We were all greeted at the door by **Walter MacNeil W1WMN** who volunteered to help out by collecting the entrance fee.



**Paul Burbine N1VTI & John Coombs Jr N1CHW**

The **Bruce N11X** found an exact replacement for his favorite, but damaged, Nye straight key and **John WQ1L** was seen with a vehicle roof mounting bracket that consisted of an H frame with four 5 inch high strength magnets attached to the four corners. **Paul N1VTI** was heard volunteering to help **John WQ1L** locate a metal plate to mount on the frame so that **John WQ1L** can mount a SGC automatic antenna tuner on the top of his truck. (another project in the works). **Mike Marinucci N1FRV** found a “Navy” key at a reasonable price and could not resist taking it home with him.

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### RACES VOLUNTEERS UPDATE

Message training is held on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 Pm on the Taunton REPEATER 147.135 MHz. In April, club members **Bruce Hayden N11X** and **Carlos Wharton WP4US** were joined at the Taunton Emergency Operations Center by area HAM **George Pereira KB1KZV** of Norton.

Four messages being sent from the MEMA Region II Headquarters, that is located at the Bridgewater State Prison Bunker to the local City and Town Emergency Management





Directors, were copied. Everyone is encouraged to listen in from home and copy along – good practice.

George KB1KZV  
Bruce NI1X & Carlos WP4US

### USS SALEM TRAINING SESSION

The first official “Training Session” for amateur radio volunteers for the USS Salem scout program was held on April 10<sup>th</sup> in Radio Room #5 onboard the USS Salem.

Shown in photo taken by **Bill O’Hara KB1IUB** are L. to R. Whitman Club members **Ron Smith N1PXX**, **Bill Patterson KB1KVK** (now a silent key), and **Ken Kavaljian KB1KVL** along with USS Salem Club member **Pi Pugh K1RV** sitting at the operating position.

**Pi K1RV** reported that the training covered the operation of the two HF stations, the packet cluster, the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) and Morse Code demonstrations for the scouts. Everyone was also familiarized with the logic 5 logging program software, stressing the importance of maintaining these logs to facilitate the **K1USN** QSLing chores. **Pi K1RV** also reports that the **K1USN** six meter repeater is in the process of being moved to Cohasset. The new site should greatly improve the 6 meter coverage.



CREW AT THE USS SALEM

**VOLUNTEERS ON THE USS SALEM ARE NEEDED:** **John Cunningham W1AI**, the USS Salem Radio Club Scouting program volunteer coordinator needs more volunteers to do Morse Code presentations and to operate from the radio room on any Saturday from 3-6 pm. Contact **John W1AI** at [w1ai@hamtestonline.com](mailto:w1ai@hamtestonline.com) for current schedule.

**UPGRADE TO GENERAL:** When **Bill O’Hara KB1IUB** reported late to the USS Salem training class he had a good reason. He had successfully passed the 5 wpm code test and General Class license test that morning and received a new call sign **KB1LEH** shortly thereafter. Congratulations to **Bill KB1LEH**.

**Pi K1RV** reported that **Bill KB1LEH** was soon testing out his new General Class privileges on 20 Meters SSB on board the USS Salem. Photo of **Bill KB1LEH** handling a pileup at a past Field day.



Bill O’Hara KB1LEH

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**QSL MANAGER REPORT:** In March the Club received 17 Foreign QSL cards via the bureau. Plimoth Plantation: 1 for 2000, 6 for 2001, 3 for 2002 and 2 for 2003 – Field Day: 1 for 2000 and 1 for 2002 – Marshfield Fair: 1 for 1999 and 1 for 2002 – Saftler’s Parking: lot 1 for 1998, 1 for 1999 and 1 for 2002.



# WHITMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

A Non-Profit Corporation Serving the Public in Time of Emergency



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Club Call Sign: WAINPO

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**HOSSTRADERS FLEA MARKET:** Friday April 30<sup>th</sup> and Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup> 2004. Hopkinton, NH

**SAFTLER'S PARKING LOT FLEA MARKET:** Memorial Day weekend. Sunday May 30<sup>th</sup> and Monday May 31, 2004. Donated items to be sold at the club table are being rounded up at this time. Stop by and help put the Club Station **WA1NPO** "On The Air".

## MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings are held on the first  
Wednesday of each month

The next meeting will be held at the  
Whitman Public Library which is  
located at 100 Webster Street  
in Whitman, Mass.

**Next Meeting**  
Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM  
Whitman Public Library

## CLUB OFFICERS

President	Bruce	NIIX
V. President	Bill	N1FRE
Secretary	Roy	KB1CYV
Treasurer	Jeff	N1SOM
Director	Jim	W5IRW
Director	Paul	N1VTI
Director	Steve	W1WSN
Director	Chris	N1WWI

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Editor Bruce NIIX  
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Web Master Jeff N1ZZN

Web Site: <http://www.qsl.net/wa1npo>

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Club Repeater Station:

147.225 MHz (CTSS 67 Hz)

449.875 MHz (CTSS 88.5 Hz)

*Whitman Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*  
*P.O. Box 48*  
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