



The Whitman Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

March 2005

# SPECTRUM



The Voice of the Humble Electron

Founded 1962

**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:** This is **The Bruce N1IX** – in March we started off with a foot of heavy snow that broke some branches and affected the performance of some outside antennas. The Fox Hunters were active as usual. We had three new members join the club. They were **Peter Ferreira KB1LXG** and **Don Burke KB1LXH** of Taunton along with **Neal Harrington KB1LXL** of Rehoboth.

In response to a request to members and friends of the Whitman Amateur Radio Club, to update us on their activities - we heard from **Bruce Beaman K1HTN** who relocated to the Lake Ossipee region of New Hampshire 2 – ½ years ago. We continue to hear from **Mike Marinucci N1FRV** who is checking in from his new QTH in Florida via Echolink. We also heard from **Jim Gilbert W5IRW** who checked in from Laredo, Texas where he and his wife **Jane** are ready to launch their next trip to California and finally we heard from **Steve Rudin W1WSN** who reported in from Stoughton, Mass and updated us on his busy schedule.



**Send WA1NPO  
an update**

At the March meeting **Carlos Wharton WP4US** gave a very informative presentation on Echolink. A trial run of a presentation he plans to give at a convention of international Echolink users that will be held in the Dominican Republic in July.

The presentation explained “Everything you ever wanted to know about Echolink” - the good, the bad and of special interest - how to interface Echolink with your local repeater. **Carlos WP4US** encouraged audience participation that turned the presentation into a real question and answer session that was very interesting.



**Carlos Wharton WP4US  
giving presentation on Echolink  
at the March meeting**

Come to the next meeting, or send me a message, and share your amateur radio related activities with the other club members.

**FOX HUNTING:** The Fox Hunters are out every Saturday morning between 10 am and noon. The Fox transmits on 146.565 MHz for 30 seconds every 5 minutes. The Fox Hunters coordinate the start of the hunt using the Bridgewater REPEATER 147.180 MHz . Listen in at 10:00 am from your home QTH, or mobile if you are on the road, and let the Fox Hunters know if you can hear the Fox in your back yard. All you need is a handheld transceiver with an “S” meter and a series of smaller and smaller antennas. The closer you get to the Fox’s den, the stronger the “S” meter signal strength. Some Fox Hunters can body fade, getting a weaker signal when they place their body between the Fox and their handheld transceiver. Try it, you might like the challenge.

**SECRETARY'S NOTES OF THE MEETING OF March 2, 2005 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 with a roll call at 6:50 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE:** Fourteen members / guests were present, including three elected officers and one director. A quorum was present.

<b>KB1CYV</b>	<b>Roy Logan</b>	<b>N1SOM</b>	<b>Jeff Tracy</b>	<b>N1ZZN</b>	<b>Jeff Lehmann</b>
<b>K1RB</b>	<b>Bob Burns</b>	<b>N1OGP</b>	<b>Frank Hayes</b>	<b>KC1FZ</b>	<b>George Davis</b>
<b>KB1LXH</b>	<b>Don Burke</b>	<b>N1VTI</b>	<b>Paul Burbine</b>	<b>NI1X</b>	<b>Bruce Hayden</b>
<b>N1PXX</b>	<b>Ron Smith</b>	<b>N1NTZ</b>	<b>Ed Meehan</b>	<b>WP4US</b>	<b>Carlos Wharton</b>
<b>KB1LXG</b>	<b>Peter Ferreira</b>	<b>KB1KFF</b>	<b>Jim Kenworthy</b>		

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The treasurer's report for February was read by **Jeff N1SOM**. **Jeff N1ZZN** made a motion seconded by **Jim KB1KFF** that the treasurer's report be accepted as read. **Ed N1NTZ** made a motion seconded by **Bob K1RB** that the bank CD be increased and renewed at a higher interest rate. Both motions were approved.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** A motion was made by **Ed N1NTZ** seconded by **Frank N1OGP** that the secretary's report be accepted as published in the February Newsletter. The motion was approved.

**HEALTH AND WELFARE:** **Walter K1BZD** and **Ron's wife N1PXX** continue their recuperation. **Steve Rudin's W1WSN** wife **Marsha** just underwent knee surgery and we wish her a speedy recovery. The WARC wishes to extend condolences to **Bill N1FRE** and family on the passing of his brother-in-law.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The Boston Marathon is looking for volunteer radio operators. Contact **K1ST Steve Tolf** if you wish to help out in Hopkinton. Several other public service opportunities are available this spring and summer.

**NEW BUSINESS:** **Bruce NI1X** shared an article written by **Bruce Beaman K1HTN** regarding his activities in the frozen tundra of New Hampshire where he and his wife, **Barbara**, are now residing. **Bob K1RB** reported that Whitman and Taunton would be holding CERT classes. The Taunton classes will start April 12<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:30 P.M. **Peter Ferreira KB1LXG**, **Don Burke KB1LXH** and **Neil Harrington KB1LXL**, recent graduates of **Carlos Wharton's WP4US** technician class were welcomed with one-year free admission to the WARC as previously approved. Welcome, guys!

**NET CONTROLS:** 3/6 Roy KB1CYV 3/13 Bruce NI1X 3/20 Bill N1FRE 3/27 Jeff N1SOM

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to close was made by **Roy KB1CYV**, seconded by **Bob K1RB**, and **President Bruce NI1X** closed the business portion of the meeting at 7:18 P.M. The Technical Topic presentation followed the business meeting and lasted until 8:00 pm.

**TECHNICAL TOPICS:** **Carlos WP4US** gave an informative presentation on EchoLink and the opportunities that mode offers. **Bruce NI1X** reported that he has established a schedule with **Mike N1FRV** in Florida via EchoLink on Tuesday nights at 8:00 pm and was able to patch him into the MARA net.

## HELLO FROM LAKE OSSIPEE, NEW HAMPSHIRE - by Bruce Beaman K1HTN

Hello to all at the WARC! – This is **Bruce K1HTN** - Moving to Ossipee Lake, NH full time two and a half years ago has me missing the WARC guys and also the **K1USN**, USS Salem, and **KM1CC**, Marconni Club guys a lot.

I am a member of the Lakes Region Repeater Association (LRRRA) and we have a 2 meter repeater in Ossipee on 147.03 Mhz., no PL.

My home station on HF consists of a FT-1000MP MK-V Field, which I bought at the last Boxboro ARRL convention to replace my older FT-900cat and the real old FT-101B. All YAESU Gear. I love the dual receive on the 1000MP.



**Bruce Beaman K1HTN**

For antennas I have an 80-meter Full Wave Loop, a 40-meter dipole, 30-meter rotary dipole, 20/17-meter dipole made from ladder line and fed with 300-ohm twinlead thru an old Heathkit Balun, and a 17-meter Full Wave Delta Loop. The 80 loop and 40 dipole came down in the last snowstorm due to trees snapping off from the weight of the snow.

This past fall I began helping a neighbor who picked up a KitFox Aircraft and we removed the wheels and put on floats. We can disconnect the aileron controls, pull 2 pins and fold the wings back to the tail so we can put it in his garage. We are in the process of adding an external oil cooler and a variable pitch prop. We took the floats off in November and they are being reinforced up in Quebec, so we will be re-installing them in a month or so.

This morning I worked the 5T0CW AF-35 Mauritania DX-perdition on the first call split on 17 CW and then an hour later worked them split on 30 meter on the 8th call.

On the 27th of February I had a nice chat on 20 SSB with **Mike** at **KC4USV**, McMurdo Station Antarctica, even with bad conditions. **Mike** will be up on the Antarctic frequency 14.243MHz USB on Friday and Saturday night about 9 to 11 PM EST. Come up on that frequency and listen for them. I work them with 100 watts and a dipole, they run a beam and half a KW.

The last plane out of McMurdo was February 26th and they are into their 8 months of winter there so hamming passes the time for them. On QRZ.com key in call **KE6ZYK** and get to his web site, **NI1X** and I have our pictures up there and there are a lot of pictures of the McMurdo area.

CW DX on 30 and 17 meters has been pretty good despite our position in the sunspot cycle. Dust off your key or paddles and give it a try.

Best of 73's to all from the White Mountains of New Hampshire. – **Bruce K1HTN** k1htn@arrl.net

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**SKYWARN NET: Roy Logan KB1CYV** reported that the local SKYWARN NET meets every Saturday night at 8:00 pm on the Bridgewater REPEATER 147.180 MHz. You do not have to be a SKYWARN member to join in. Everyone is welcome. It was announced that there will be a Skywarn training session on June 11, 2005 (a Saturday) from 12 noon - 3 pm at the Brockton VA.

## HELLO FROM LAREDO, TEXAS – by Jim Gilbert W5IRW

Greetings from Laredo, Texas. This is **Jim W5IRW** reporting that it is 75F and sunny after a foggy start early in March. We're in Casa Blanca State Park. We leave for California in about a week by way of Interstate-10 with stops along the way. We hope to visit the Salton Sea and Joshua Tree National Monument around the 15th of March. We have been in Mission, Texas the last two months. Mission is in the lower Rio Grande Valley, West of Brownsville. The region is highly agricultural. On our arrival we found fields of oranges, lemons, cabbages, onions and sundry other winter crops.



Jane & Jim W5IRW Gilbert

My ham activities have been limited to 2 meters since we left with only a few opportunities for HF. I still don't have my HF installation complete. While the engineering is done, we have ongoing guarantee issues with the roof leaks on our new rig and until those are resolved, I am reluctant to make any new holes that didn't come from the factory.

Bird watching has been fantastic. If any of you are interested in birding this is a great place to winter over. On one of our adventures we encountered a road hazard unique to this region. I took a leaking tire to the AAA garage to be repaired. When I picked up the tire, they showed me what had caused the leak. A Javalina tooth! I'll bring it for show and tell in May on our return to the area. Don't know for sure, but we may be in the area for field day. If so, that will be a perfect time to commission my installation. We have an appointment in Tucson to resolve the leak issues on March 28th.

We miss our friends but not the weather. 73's From: **Jane and Jim Gilbert W5IRW**

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## WHITMAN AMATEUR RADIO PUBLIC SERVICE NET (WARPSN)

**Walter Dolson K1BZD** is our traffic manager and has been instrumental in teaching NET Control and traffic handling to the members of the Whitman Amateur Radio Club by promoting the **WARPSN**. This NET meets every Sunday morning at 8:30 A.M. on the Whitman REPEATER 147.225 MHz. Come join in and share your amateur radio related activities with the other area HAMS and short-wave listeners as well.



Walter Dolson K1BZD

In February we had four (4) sessions with an average of 11 area HAMS checking in each week and 10 messages were sent.

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**APRIL 3rd - FRAMINGHAM - AMATEUR RADIO FLEA MARKET:** Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Walsh Middle School located at 301 Brook Street in Framingham, MA. Take the Framingham Center / State College Exit off Rt. 9, go north on Edgell Rd about 1-1/4 mile to Brook St. The Walsh Middle school is about 3/4 mile down Brook Street on the left. (\$5.00 at 9 am)

**April 23<sup>rd</sup> - NASHUA, NH - Antique Radio Flea Market:** Saturday April 23, 2005 at St. Stanislaus Hall. From Rt. 3 (Everett Turnpike), take Exit 6 and go East on Rt. 130 Broad St. about 500 feet to a set of lights and then go left on Blue Hill Ave. The Hall is about 1/2 mile down Blue Hill Ave.



## HELLO FROM STOUGHTON, MASS. by Steve Rudin W1WSN

This is **Steve W1WSN** - I was planning to be at the March meeting, but my wife **Marsha** just underwent knee surgery, so I was playing Mr. Mom at home for a couple of days!

What have I been doing? Well, I've been doing a lot of teaching, both in the Boston area and in Florida, as well as running my practice full-time. Have also had grand-twin boys and a new granddaughter, bringing our grandchild total to 10! I expect to be cutting down on the practice slowly, and keeping my teaching schedule until all my teaching is in FL, where we have a really nice condo (especially nice since the condo committee told me I can have wires or antennas on the roof (2-story building) if they can't see them from the ground!



Steve Rudin W1WSN

Have just finished a homebrew linear amp using a pair of 572-Bs, which is a desk-top unit, and is now in Florida. Rig there is a Kenwood TS430 and an MFJ tuner. Will be taking the SGC computerized tuner out of the car and using it on our balcony with a 15-foot L-shaped antenna. Will hopefully get wires on the roof this summer (have to have the coax installed in the cable/air conditioning conduits by Comcast to meet specs).

My tower is bare, coming down in spring. Have 2-meter HT and an antenna at rooftop level, but have problems getting into Whitman. Also using a G5RV on the HF bands.

Miss all you folks, and thanks for inquiring about my status. I'm usually listening, but you just can't hear me try and break in! 73, From: **Steve Rudin W1WSN**

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## RACES RADIOGRAM TRAINING and ARES NET

The Taunton RACES crew took four Radiogram messages that were sent from the MEMA Region II Headquarters in Bridgewater to the Director of the City of Taunton Emergency Management Agency on the first Monday of the month. **Bill Hayden N1FRE** took the messages for the Town of Whitman from his home QTH.

Shown at the City of Taunton Emergency Operations Center (EOC) are standing L. to R. **George Pereira KB1KZV** and club members **Don Burke KB1LXH** and **Peter Ferreira KB1LXG**. Shown seated are L. to R. club members **Carlos Wharton WP4US** and **Bruce Hayden NI1X**.



Crew at Taunton EOC

After the Radiogram training session club members **Bruce Hayden NI1X** and **Jeff Lehmann N1ZZN** were heard checking into the new ARES Net, which also meets on the first Monday of the month, at about 8:30 pm, after the Radiogram training messages are sent. Additional support for the Boston Marathon was requested. Club member **Bob Burns K1RB** plans to be at the Athlete's Village at Hopkinton High School with a crew of local HAMS. Contact **Bob K1RB** for more details.

**Jeff N1ZZN** reported that the Norwell 145.250 (PL 77) and Norwell 443.600 (PL 88.5) REPEATERS are now linked in and would be easier for the Whitman Club members to use to check in to the ARES NET.

**NEW MEMBER: Peter Ferreira KB1LXG** of Taunton reports that he recently transferred from the Taunton School Department to accept the position as the Assistant Director of the Taunton Emergency Management Agency where he will be deeply involved with the HAM volunteers. **Peter KB1LXG** recently completed the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) course given in Taunton and followed up by getting his Technician class license.



**Peter Ferreira**  
**KB1LXG**

**Peter KB1LXG** is a lifelong resident of Taunton where he lives with his wife **Carole**. He has two grown children, **Rose** and **Peter Jr.** **Rose** is attending the Mass. Maritime Academy where she is following in her fathers footsteps by taking a minor in Emergency Management.

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**NEW MEMBER: Don Burke KB1LXH** lives in Taunton with his wife **Gina** and their two young boys, **Noah** and **Riley**. **Don KB1LXH** is a Taunton Emergency Management Agency volunteer and recently completed the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) course given in Taunton and followed up by taking the Technician Class license course that was offered to the graduates of the CERT training classes in Taunton.



**Don Burke KB1LXH**

**Don KB1LXH** has purchased an Icom IC-T7H handheld transceiver and has been heard talking with **Carlos WP4US** and **The Bruce NI1X** on the Taunton and Bridgewater repeaters.

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**NEW MEMBER: Neal Harrington KB1LXL** lives in Rehoboth and recently completed the Technician Classes offered to in Taunton. **Neal KB1LXL** has an Icom IC-T7H handheld and is a volunteer in the Town of Rehoboth.



**Neal Harrington**  
**KB1LXL**

**SCUTTLEBUTT: Paul Burbine N1VTI** reports that he picked up two 2 meter rigs at a Florida Flea Market along with a power supply and has dedicated one rig to his PACKET station, which is now, back on line at his new QTH. **Paul N1VTI** also reports that he has painted his tower in anticipation of installing it in the near future when the good weather returns.

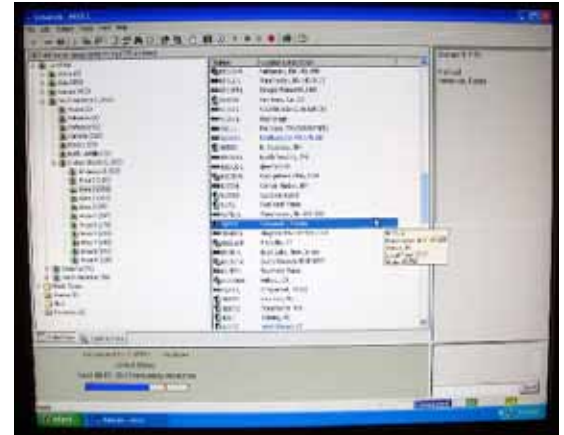
**Ed Meehan N1NTZ** reports that he is on the air with a 17 meter dipole in the attic. The slinky just did not work. **George Davis KC1FZ** has been testing out his Echolink station. **Roy Logan KB1CYV** has his Echolink up and running. **Ron Smith N1PXX** has a new YAESU FT-757 HF rig to set up. **Bill Hayden N1FRE** was promoting HAM radio at the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) meeting held in Whitman in March.

**Bob Burns K1RB** reports having fun making CW contacts on 12 and 17 Meters with the good propagation in March. **Ken Kavaljian KB1KVL** is experimenting with a new Diamond 50 dual band antenna at his home QTH. **Carlos Wharton WP4US** has a home base station set up with a temporary / permanent outside antenna and has been heard on the Bridgewater REPEATER. **The Bruce NI1X** reported that he is on schedule, making his "one contact a day".

**WELCOME TO ECHOLINK 101 by: Carlos Wharton WP4US**  
**(Notes of the Technical Topic presentation taken by The Bruce NI1X)**

Echolink is software, which is being used by nearly 150,000 worldwide amateur radio operators to communicate with one another over the Internet, using voice over IP (VoIP) technology. The software is offered as freeware and may be downloaded from the Echolink website. The Echolink program runs on Microsoft Windows 95 or above. Only licensed HAMS are allowed to use the program.

The Echolink screen on the right is showing a portion of the Region 1 HAMS who were running the Echolink program at that time. **N1FRV** is selected (highlight) and **Michael in Hornando Florida** shows up on the upper right side of the screen. The bottom left shows the receive indication signal strength. You hit the space bar when it is your turn to transmit.



**Echolink Computer Screen**

The first thing you do is go to the Echolink Web site [WWW.ECHOLINK.ORG](http://WWW.ECHOLINK.ORG) and follow the “download” instructions. You will be asked for an e-mail address and your call sign. It can take a few hours or a day for the Echolink folks to verify that you are a licensed HAM.

**SINGLE USERS:** The Bruce NI1X is operating as a “single user” Echolink allows up to 10 different stations to be connected at once but those on telephone line internet service are advised to limit the number that can be connected at one time because of limited bandwidth.

**LINKED STATIONS:** Some HAMS have connected their computer, that is running the Echolink program, to a home base station (a UHF / VHF transceiver) using an interface such as the one made by RIGblaster. These HAMS are called system operators (sysop).

**LINKED REPEATER:** Karl Johnson Jr. NS1N operates his Echolink computer in conjunction with the 443.600 MHz REPEATER in Norwell. This allow Echolink users to operate through the local REPEATER. Mike Marinucci N1FRV has connected to the NS1N-R Norwell 443.600 MHz REPEATER by Echolink from Florida and talked with area HAMS who were mobile in this area

**LINKED STATION:** Ray Wall N1KXJ operates his Echolink computer in conjunction with a base station transceiver on a simplex frequency of 146.595MHz (PL 118.8) at his home QTH and leaves his Echolink station connected to the New England Network. Mobile or fixed stations in the greater East Bridgewater area can access Ray’s N1KXJ-L home station (146.595 MHz) to connect to and monitor the New England Net.

**CONFERENCE:** Carlos WP4US has set up a conference server that allows over 500 HAMS to connect to his Echolink station (WP4UP “BORICUAS”). A conference server is an independent piece of equipment running another program compatible with Echolink called “thebridge”. It is connected to a special high quality telephone line that allows many HAMS to connect via the server to other HAMS on Echolink.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is using an Echolink conference called the New England Network as a means of communication that extends the range of HAMS participating beyond the local REPEATERS. It s used for Emergency Communication and Skywarn reporting.



# WHITMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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



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Telephone: (781) 447-1655  
ARRL Club #0082  
Club Call Sign: WAINPO

## 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, Apr. 6th 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	Steve	W1WSN
Director	George	KC1FZ
Director	Chris	N1WWI

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Editor	Bruce	NIIX
E-mail articles to:	<a href="mailto:niix@arrl.net">niix@arrl.net</a>	

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Web Master	Jeff	N1ZZN
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**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)
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Whitman, Ma 02382*

