



The Whitman Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

December 2005

# SPECTRUM



The Voice of the Humble Electron

Founded 1962

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:** This is **The Bruce N1X** – The Plimoth Plantation Special Event and Message Center was a great success with 154 contacts made with 29 States, 8 Foreign Countries and 1 Canadian Province. At the Amateur Radio Message Center set up at the Plimoth Plantation we introduced amateur radio to the public and sent 14 messages from visitors at the Plimoth Plantation to their family and friends all across the country.



In December, members participated in the Winterfest activities in Whitman and a Christmas parade in Taunton. Members participated in Radiogram Training at the Taunton EOC and the Whitman EOC and a drill at the Bridgewater EOC. The Skywarn Observers were active as usual. We were saddened to hear that **Alton Caldwell K1MNO** and **Collin Blackwood N1PI** became Silent Keys.

## WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY AND RADIOACTIVE NEW YEAR

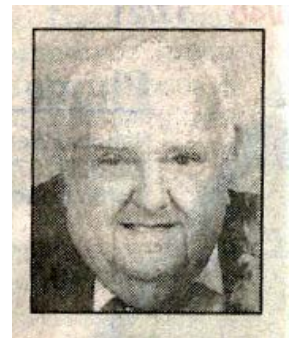
I am looking forward to Christmas and I hope you have a happy and healthy holiday season. At the next meeting I will be looking for updates on the radio goodies that Santa left for those who have been good. Hi Hi.



**Don Burke KB1LXH**  
**Santa's Helper**

**SILENT KEY:** **Alton L. Caldwell Jr. K1MNO** of Brockton became a Silent Key on November 20, 2005 at the age of 87.

While attending my first Field Day in 1986, I found **Alton K1MNO** an active member of the Whitman Club who faithfully attended Field Day each year and stayed overnight. **Alton K1MNO** worked as a reporter for the Enterprise until 1993 and several times convinced an Enterprise photographer to stop by the Field Day site to compliment his articles on HAM radio.



**Alton K1MNO** held a Technician Class License and was very active on 10-Meters, especially back when the sun spot cycle was at it's peak. **Alton K1MNO** taught English at Brockton High and Journalism at Stonehill College and along with his wife Alice brought up 6 children. **Alton K1MNO** had a very full life and shared our interest in amateur radio. We extend our condolences to his wife **Alice**, his family and friends.

**SILENT KEY:** **Collin Blackwood N1PI** of Kingston became a Silent Key on Monday December 5, 2005. We met **Collin N1PI** when he lived in Brockton. **Collin N1PI** was blind and his good friend **Dave Clinton N1SJA** reported that he would read the Whitman Club Spectrum to him each month. **Dave N1SJA** also reported that a private ceremony was held. We extend our condolences to his family and friends.

**SECRETARY'S NOTES OF THE MEETING OF December 7, 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 6:33 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE:** Nineteen members / guests were present, including the four elected officers and one director. A quorum was present.

<b>N1FRE</b>	<b>Bill Hayden</b>	<b>K1WGU</b>	<b>Bob Bass</b>	<b>N1ZZN</b>	<b>Jeff Lehmann</b>
<b>N1JXS</b>	<b>Al Molin</b>	<b>KA1PJX</b>	<b>Don Keene</b>	<b>KB1ETW</b>	<b>Jim Halpin</b>
<b>KB1MTW</b>	<b>Paul Moss</b>	<b>N1MJT</b>	<b>Rick Hall</b>	<b>N1OIU</b>	<b>Jim Wolf</b>
<b>KB1MOC</b>	<b>Kevin Dykes</b>	<b>N1VTI</b>	<b>Paul Burbine</b>	<b>WQ1L</b>	<b>John Coombs</b>
<b>KB1KVL</b>	<b>Ken Kavaljian</b>	<b>W1MMM</b>	<b>Bob Sikes</b>	<b>NI1X</b>	<b>Bruce Hayden</b>
<b>N1PXX</b>	<b>Ron Smith</b>	<b>N1SOM</b>	<b>Jeff Tracy</b>	<b>KB1CYV</b>	<b>Roy Logan</b>
<b>KB1KFF</b>	<b>Jim Kenworthy</b>				

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The treasurer's report for November was read by **Jeff N1SOM**. **Ron N1PXX** made a motion seconded by **Ken KB1KVL** that the treasurer's report be accepted as read. The motion was approved.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** A motion was made by **Ken KB1KVL** seconded by **Bob K1WGU** that the secretary's report be accepted as published in the November Newsletter. The motion was approved.

**HEALTH & WELFARE:** **Ron N1PXX** reported that his wife **Joan** was recuperating from eye surgery. Best wishes for a speedy recovery from the WARC.

**OLD BUSINESS:** **Bruce NI1X** reported on the Plimoth Plantation activities including the addition of several Echolink contacts as part of the event. **Bill N1FRE** hand delivered a follow up letter to the Plimoth Plantation management, thanking them for their generosity in restoring this special event. Copies of the special Newsletter were included. A note was received from **KR6EC Bob Schillinger** congratulating **Bill N1FRE** on the success of the Technician Class training recently completed. Many club members became active in the hobby as a result of the classes **Bob KR6EC** held over a ten-year period. **Jeff N1ZZN** reported the 440 repeater is being looked at and will be tested at his QTH. Plans for a new 2-meter repeater are pending.

**NEW BUSINESS:** **Bruce NI1X** announced that the club now has 78 members, with 50% sporting the "Blue Crew" club jackets. A motion was made by **Bill N1FRE**, seconded by **Jeff N1SOM**, that **KB1MTW Paul Moss** be accepted as a one-year dues-free member and that **KB1MOC Kevin Dykes** and **KB1JOR Michael Wolf** be accepted as full members. The motions were approved. Welcome to the WARC, guys. **Ron N1PXX** reported that the Norwell 6-meter repeater is operational.

**CLUB ANTENNA ANALYZER LOCATION:** **Jeff N1ZZN** – Anyone wishing to borrow the analyzer contact **Bruce NI1X**. **Jim N1OIU** would like to borrow it next.

**TECHNICAL TOPICS:** **Bill N1FRE** reviewed the study materials, including wire samples, he created for the Technician Class program recently completed. **Bill N1FRE** also showed a 2-meter antenna built by students as part of their training.

**NET CONTROLS: 12/4 Bruce NI1X**  
**12/25 Bill N1FRE**

**12/11 Jeff N1SOM**  
**1/1 Roy KB1CYV**

**12/18 Ron N1PXX**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Following a roundtable discussion of members' recent activities, a motion to close was made by **Bruce NI1X** seconded by **John WQ1L** and **President Bruce NI1X** closed the meeting at 7:50 P.M.

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### CLUB HOUSE PROJECTS

The Pine Street, "Awful Close Engineering Department" and the "Over The Hill Handymen" started investigating a rotted sill several years ago and in the process replaced a door, part of the floor and a section of wall. **Bill Hayden N1FRE, George Davis KC1FZ** and **Bruce Hayden NI1X** have been working on this project.



**George Davis KC1FZ & The Bruce NI1X**

The clean up continues. We have two tower top sections that have been hanging around for years and need to be disposed of next. At the next meeting, I plan to request permission to throw them out .

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**NEW MEMBER: Michael Wolf KB1JOR** lives in Hanson, has a Technician Class License and has been licensed for 2-1/2 years.



**Michael Wolf KB1JOR**

**Mike KB1JOR** became interested in amateur radio because of his father **Jim N1OIU** and can be heard on the Whitman and Bridgewater REPEATERS as he commutes to and from work in Norwell. His father **Jim N1OIU** signed **Mike KB1JOR** up as a Whitman Club member as an early Christmas present. Surprise.

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**NEW MEMBER: Paul Moss KB1MTW** is a lifelong resident of Whitman, is retired and is a recent graduate of the Technician Class taught by **Bill Hayden N1FRE**.



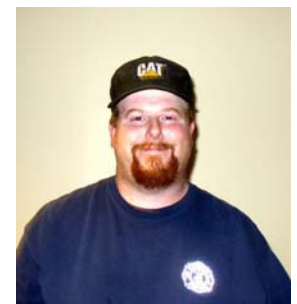
**Paul Moss KB1MTW**

**Paul KB1MTW** is a Whitman Emergency Management Agency RACES volunteer and recently purchased a Yaesu FT-60R handheld transceiver.

**Paul's KB1MTW** first radioactive adventure was to participate as a radio operator at the Plimoth Plantation Special Event Station. We expect to hear **Paul KB1MTW** on the Sunday morning NET soon.

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**NEW MEMBER: Kevin Dykes KB1MOC** lives in East Bridgewater and **Jim Wolf N1OIU** encouraged him to get his Technician license last summer. **Kevin KB1MOC** has an ICOM IC-208H mobile transceiver in his vehicle and has been heard talking with **Jim N1OIU** on his commute to and from work in Marshfield. **Kevin KB1MOC** has been keeping us up to date on the progress of the new Rt. 44.



**Kevin Dykes KB1MOC**  
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**TAUNTON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (TEMA) VOLUNTEERS - UPDATE**

**RADIOGRAM TRAINING**

Shown at the Taunton Emergency Operations Center, following the December Radiogram training session, are **George Pereira KB1KZV**, **Don Burke KB1LXH**, **Rudy Burer KB1LXI**, **Bruce Hayden NI1X**, **Neil Harrington KB1LXL**, **Carlos Wharton WP4US** and **Bob Barbour K1BAR**. All but one are Whitman Club members.



**ADVANCED EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION TRAINING:** Over the past year, anywhere from 7 to 14 of the Taunton RACES volunteers have faithfully met on the first Monday of the month for RADIOGRAM training. The local ARES team has recognized this dedicated effort and has offered this group of RACES Volunteers, a training course in advanced emergency communication. To be scheduled for early in 2006.

**TEMA VOLUNTEERS INVITED TO RIDE IN THE TAUNTON CHRISTMAS PARADE**

It was reported that **Don Burke KB1LXH** was seen practicing his many different waves as he acknowledged the cheering crowds that lined the streets of Taunton. In addition, a special Recognition Night is planned for all the TEMA volunteers and will be held at City Hall in the Council Chambers on December 20<sup>th</sup>.



**Rick Ferreira KB1KWF**



**Peter Ferreira KB1LXG  
& Paula Farrales SWL**



**Peter Ferreira KB1LXG  
and the CERT Crew**



**Barbara Foster KB1KZX**



**Don Burke KB1LXH  
& Son Riley SWL**



**George Pereira KB1KZV  
is growing wings and  
supplied the pictures**

## WHITMAN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY VOLUNTEERS - UPDATE

**RADIOGRAM TRAINING:** There were 2 members of the Whitman Emergency Management Agency RACES Club **WC1WH** in attendance at the Whitman Emergency Operations Center for the December RADIOGRAM Training session. They included **Bill Hayden N1FRE** (the Whitman Radio Communications Officer) and **Paul Moss KB1MTW** (the Net Control for the night).

### TOWN OF WHITMAN – WINTERFEST ACTIVITIES

Whitman Club members **Ed Meehan N1NTZ** and **Frank Hayes N1OGP** are shown at the Whitman Emergency Operations Center as part of the team that provided communication support for the Town of Whitman Winterfest activities. Also participating were Whitman Club members **Bill Hayden N1FRE**, **Jeff Tracy N1SON** and **Paul Moss KB1MTW** along with **Bob Graves SWL** who is studying for his Technician License.



Ed Meehan N1NTZ &  
Frank Hayes N1OGP



The Whitman Emergency Management Agency provided General Mobile Radio Service (GRMS) handheld transceivers to all the Whitman volunteers participating. **Bill N1FRE** holds the GRMS license and these radios do not operate on the amateur radio bands.

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### FOR SALE: VINTAGE HEATHKIT HF SB-300 RECEIVER AND SB-400 TRANSMITTER

**Dave Gurney WA1YZH** has a Heathkit SB-300 receiver (10-80 Meters) and a SB-400 Transmitter (10-80 Meters) along with a phone patch and mic for sale. This is vintage Heathkit equipment that **Dave WA1YZH** says in good condition. His asking price is \$250.00 or best offer. Contact **Dave WA1YZH** at 781-871-1855 or e-mail him at [david.gurney@verizon.net](mailto:david.gurney@verizon.net)

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### CLUB JACKETS - AVAILABLE ANYTIME

Any Whitman Club member can order a club jacket by sending \$20.00 to **Jeff Tracy N1SOM** with your first name or nickname, your call sign and your jacket size. **Jeff N1SOM** will do the rest.

We strongly recommend you try on one of the other club member's jacket, or visit the Rockland Athletic Store, to verify your size requirements.

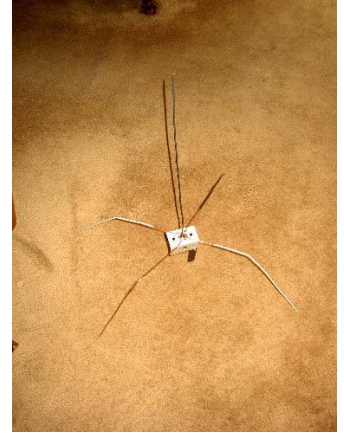


## TECHNICAL TOPICS - A SIMPLE 2-METER ANTENNA

**Bill Hayden N1FRE** brought in a simple 2-Meter ground plane antenna that was built by the students as part of the hands-on classroom instructions during the recent Technician class held in Whitman.

His students had to calculate the length of a 2-Meter  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave length antenna, cut and strip the wire from a length of household wire, bolt a SO-239 connector to a bracket and then bolt the radial elements to the bracket and solder the driven element to the center of the SO-239 connector.

**Bill N1FRE** reports that the project took about 20 minutes to construct and after testing the SWR, a 2-Meter contact was made using the homebrew antenna.



The antenna is detailed in the class instruction book *Now You're Talking* and can be found on page 8.27 figures 8-38 and 8-40 and on Page 8.28 Figure 8-41. The students also made the simple 2-Meter dipole antenna as detailed in *Now You're Talking* Pg 8.21 Figure 8-27 and 8-28. A simple projects that make a great portable "Go Kit" antenna.

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## AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (ARES) - UPDATE



**Phil McNamara N1XTB**

**Phil McNamara N1XTB** reported that he has been working on an "on-line" Web based registration program that will allow amateur radio operators to sign up for, and register with, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES).



This Data Base Project has been under development since this summer when the concept was proposed by **Rob Macedo KD1CY** and **Mike Neilson W1MPN** and **Phil N1XTB** volunteered to do the Web programming.

In November, **Phil N1XTB** made a presentation to the ARES leadership to update them on the status of this project. The on-line data base registration program is up and running and has been undergoing testing by invitation only. You will hear more on this project next year.

The goals of this project are to (1) Improve access for ARES leadership to membership data (2) Improve response to needs of served agencies (3) Ease the administrative burden of inputting the old paper form and (4) Keep the membership data more up-to-date. The new Web based application allows for ease in editing and updating your records and includes a new provision for adding training records and for adding your photo.

**INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM TRAINING:** ARES is finding that FEMA and MEMA are interested in volunteers who have completed training in the Incident Command System. **Phil N1XTB** reports that two important courses to take are: IS-100 Introduction to Incident Command System and IS-700 National Incident Command System (NIMS), An Introduction. See [www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/is](http://www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/is)

## WHO IS REGINALD FESSENDEN ?? as reported in the Patriot Ledger

In 1905 **Reginald Fessenden** and his associates had a 420 foot radio tower constructed in the Brant Rock section of Marshfield and arranged for the construction of a second in Macrihanish, Scotland. On January 2, 1906 **Reginald Fessenden** made history by transmitting the first two-way radio communication using Morse Code signals between Marshfield and Scotland. It was reported that Guglielmo Marconi had been sending signals only one-way.



Reginald Fessenden

**SPECIAL EVENT PLANNED:** Area HAM **Dave Riley AA1A** reports that on January 2, 2006 he and hundreds of other HAM radio operators across the world will transmit Morse code messages to each other to mark the anniversary of the first two-way transatlantic communication.

**Reginald Fessenden** then performed radio magic by making the first public Radio Voice Broadcast to ships at sea on Christmas Eve 1906. The attached article was published in the Patriot Ledger on Saturday / Sunday - December 10 / 11, 2005.

### Marshfield to mark anniversary of historic broadcast

By **SHAMUS MCGILLICUDDY**  
The Patriot Ledger

Until that two-way radio transmission on Jan. 2, the signals had been sent only one-way by Guglielmo Marconi.

Fessenden continued to experiment with radio throughout the year. In November, while sending Morse code signals to Scotland, he accidentally transmitted his voice as well, becoming the first person to transmit voice across the Atlantic.

But late in 1906 a storm destroyed the tower in Scotland.

Riley said this dashed the hopes of Fessenden's fledgling company, the National Electric Signaling Company, which intended to sell his technology based on demonstrations of the two-way communication.

Then Fessenden decided to try something else.

U.S. Navy vessels and ships of the United Fruit Company had been equipped with radio equipment Fessenden had built. The equipment had been used only for point-to-point Morse code communications.

The day before Christmas Eve 1906, Fessenden sent a message to those ships, telling them to listen for a message on

Christmas Eve.

They were surprised when they heard Fessenden's voice.

"All the shipboard operators were astonished when they heard this coming over their radio instead of the beep beep beep (of Morse code)," Perry said.

Fessenden began his legendary broadcast with a brief introduction about what he planned to do. Then he played a phonograph record of George Frideric Handel's "Largo." He followed that with his own violin solo, playing "O Holy Night."

He read some passages from the Bible, wished his listeners a merry Christmas and signed off for the evening.

Ships reported hearing him up and down the Atlantic coast, as far south as the Caribbean.

Perry said Fessenden's broadcast was historic.

"We think it was Fessenden that laid the groundwork for radio to become a broadcast medium rather than point-to-point communication. We see him as the founder of entertainment radio communications."

Perry said it took another 15 years for the

radio entertainment industry to get going with the country's first commercial radio station, KDK in Pittsburgh.

"But Fessenden was at the beginning of this thing," Perry said.

Unfortunately, Fessenden's Pittsburgh-based investors were not interested in transmitting voices and music.

As the radio entertainment industry exploded in the 1920s, Fessenden's legacy was forgotten.

It wasn't until 1928 that he won \$500,000 in a lawsuit over some of the patents he had lost to his investors.

Riley said he wants to mark the centennial because he hopes Fessenden's inventiveness will inspire other aspiring technological pioneers in the area. He also wants Fessenden to get the credit he is due.

Many historians remember Marconi has the father of radio.

"He never really got the credit I think he deserves," Demers agreed.

*Shamus McGillicuddy may be reached at smcgillicuddy@ledger.com.*

**"We think it was (Reginald) Fessenden that laid the groundwork for radio to become a broadcast medium."**

Edward Perry, owner of Marshfield's radio station WATD

Most of this information comes from local HAM **Dave Riley AA1A** of Marshfield, who has a Web page [www.radiocom.net](http://www.radiocom.net) that contains a lot of interesting articles on amateur radio. The call sign of the Reginald Fessenden Amateur Radio Society is **W1FRV**. This means club member **Mike Marinucci N1FRV** has a unique call sign and should make every effort to check in with this Special Event Station on January 2, 2006.



# WHITMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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



Post Office Box 48  
Pine Street  
Whitman, MA 02382

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, Jan.4th at 6:30 PM  
Whitman Public Library

## CLUB OFFICERS

President	Bruce	N1IX
V. President	Bill	N1FRE
Secretary	Roy	KB1CYV
Treasurer	Jeff	N1SOM
Director	Steve	W1WSN
Director	George	KC1FZ
Director	Paul	N1VTI

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Editor	Bruce	N1IX
E-mail articles to:	<a href="mailto:ni1x@arrl.net">ni1x@arrl.net</a>	

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Web Master	Jeff	N1ZZN
Web Site:	<a href="http://www.wainpo.org">http://www.wainpo.org</a>	

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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 Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 48  
Whitman, Ma 02382*

