



SPECTRUM



The Voice of the Humble Electron

Founded 1962

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE: This is **Paul N1VTI**. We had a great fox hunt in March with 14 Whitman Club members participating. We must be having fun because the members want another one on Saturday April 19th. Maybe you should be thinking about building a tape measure beam like **John Chase KB1OEP** and **Dan Chase KB1PFU** showed up with. Another fun project.

I saw a lot of blue Whitman Club jackets at the Framingham Flea Market. The big Nearfest Flea Market in Deerfield, New Hampshire is coming up next on May 2nd and 3rd and **Paul Moss KB1MTW** and I plan to set up a club table. We could use your help manning the club table.



**Paul Burbine
N1VTI**

Under Public Service - The Plymouth Evacuation Plan drills were a big event with Whitman club members participating. **Barbara Anderson KB1NMG** reported that she and **Bob Loring K1REL** attended an Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Advanced Communications Workshop in Walpole. I am assembling a Go Kit to take with me when I participate in public service events – ready at a moments notice. The Boston Marathon is coming up and I am sure we will hear more about that next month.

Ken Kavaljian KB1KVL wrote a great article on Repeater Etiquette for the Genesis newsletter and I asked that he submit the article to be published in the Whitman newsletter. Come to the next meeting and share your radioactive adventures with the other members present.

73 – From: Paul N1VTI

ASSEMBLING A “GO KIT”



**Paul Burbine N1VTI
and his Go Kit on Wheels**

Paul Burbine N1VTI has been assembling a Go Kit in a plastic tool box on wheels and brought it to the April meeting for show and tell. **Paul's N1VTI** new Go Kit includes a power supply, battery, and his Kenwood FT-857D HF transceiver that also has 2-Meter / 440 MHz capabilities. The Go Kit includes a LDG semi-automatic tuner.

To compliment the Go Kit, **Paul N1VTI** has assembled a 2-Meter / 440MHz mag. mount antenna along with a series of HAM stick vertical antennas and a 6-Meter Ringo Ranger vertical antenna.

Paul N1VTI reports that he picked up a SWR meter at the Framingham Flea market that will be incorporated in the Go Kit. When called, **Paul N1VTI** can grab his Go Kit, set up a battery powered portable operation in the field, and be on the air, providing emergency communication in a very short time.

SECRETARY'S NOTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 2, 2008 de N1ZZN

OPENING: The members started gathering at the Whitman Public Library, Whitman, MA around 6:15 p.m. President **Paul N1VTI** opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Thirty members were present, including the four elected Officers and two Directors. A quorum was present.

KA1PJX	Don Keene	KB1CYV	Roy Logan	KB1ETW	Jim Halpin
WQ1L	John Coombs	KB1CHW	John Coombs Jr.	KB1MTW	Paul Moss
KB1ODS	John Chase	KB1ODU	Ray Bolduc	KB1OEQ	Ron Stundze
KB1OSV	Matt Paine	KB1PFL	Jim Madden	KB1PFU	Dan Chase
KB1PHN	John Murphy	K1MRH	Barbara Rice	K1REL	Bob Loring
K1WGU	Bob Bass	KC1FZ	George Davis	N1FRE	Bill Hayden
N1NTZ	Ed Meehan	N1PXX	Ron Smith	N1SOM	Jeff Tracy
N1VTI	Paul Burbine	N1WIG	Sam Webber	N1ZZN	Jeff Lehmann
NI1X	Bruce Hayden	NM1F	Jim Ford	W1GRC	Gary Cumiskey
W5IRW	Jim Gilbert	WA1UMT	Dave Darois		
W1EKG	Ross Hochstrasser				

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's report for March was read by **Jeff N1SOM**. **Ed N1NTZ** made a motion seconded by **Paul KB1MTW** that the treasurer's report be accepted as read. The motion was approved.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: A motion was made by **Ed N1NTZ** seconded by **Barbara K1MRH** that the March Secretary's report be accepted as published in the newsletter. The motion was approved.

HEALTH & WELFARE: **Joan KB1NAX** recently had eye surgery. **Barbara K1MRH** will be sending a card.

OLD BUSINESS: **Paul N1VTI** reported that the club is now receiving newsletters from the Boston and Genesis clubs. **Jeff N1ZZN** reported that there would be a HAM radio flea market in Framingham on Sunday April 6th. **Bruce NI1X** displayed several more sample certificates to be used for various club events. He also reported that he and several other hams participated in the emergency management training drill where HAMS were stationed at various EOCs across the area. **Jeff N1SOM** reported that the new repeater antenna has been purchased, and would be delivered to **Bill N1FRE's** QTH. **Jeff N1ZZN** mentioned that because of the higher than expected cost for the antenna, that more money would be needed for the project. **Bill N1FRE** made a motion to appropriate an additional \$500 for the project. The motion was seconded by **John KB1PHN**, and the motion was approved. **Paul KB1MTW** reported that he has gathered parts needed for the electrical system at the clubhouse. **Ray KB1ODU** reported that his EchoLink node is still working very well on the repeater on weekends. Pros and cons for field day locations were discussed. **Bob K1WGU** made a motion that we hold our field day at the East Bridgewater YMCA field. **Barbara K1MRH** seconded the motion, and it was approved. The need for generators and rigs was discussed, and will be decided on at upcoming meetings. **Paul N1VTI** reported that the Fox Hunt held on March 29th went very well, with **John WQ1L** and **Ed N1NTZ** coming in first. They will be the fox at the next hunt, to be held on April 19th, in Whitman. **Paul KB1MTW** and **Bill N1FRE** are working on getting the necessary permits for the Saftler's flea market. **Paul N1VTI** reported his findings on possibly a better price for a portable toilet. Further research is needed before a final decision is made. **Jeff N1SOM** reported that several items from the clubhouse were sold on ebay.

SECRETARY'S NOTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 2, 2008 Cont: de N1ZZN

NEW BUSINESS: Paul N1VTI brought in several HAM radio related books to be given to any member of the club. Ray KB1ODU reported that there were eQSL cards waiting for the club online. Bruce N1X and Paul N1VTI will work to respond to those requests, and set up the club account. Jeff N1ZZN brought up the possibility of having a club contest, where members would compete with each other, trying to contact as many other members as possible, on all bands. Paul N1VTI discussed that it is time for the first round of nominations for officers and directors. Ray KB1ODU was nominated for the vacant Board of Directors position. Ron N1PXX and Jeff N1ZZN reported that the Norwell 145.250 (PL 77.0) repeater is working much better.

CLUB ANTENNA ANALYZER LOCATION: Paul KB1MTW's QTH

NET CONTROLS: 4/6: Ray KB1ODU 4/13: Bill N1FRE 4/20: Roy KB1CYV 4/27: Ron N1PXX

CLOSE: President Paul N1VTI closed the business meeting at 7:30 p.m. on a motion by Ed N1NTZ seconded by Jim W5IRW. The motion was approved

THE TUNA TIN 2 "ON - THE - AIR" By "The Bruce" N1X



QRP Transmitting Station assembly

IT REALLY
WORKS

BUILT BY
MEMBERS OF
THE AWFUL
CLOSE
ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT



The Tuna Tin 2 QRP rig

Bob Barbour K1BAR and I just finished building the Tuna Tin 2 Kit – a ½ watt transmitter. The design has been around for 30 years. Great fun building this classic QRP rig.

SMOKE TEST – SUNDAY APRIL 13, 2008: When fired up – The bad news was that at first there was no smoke - no nothing. The good news was that after finding one wire in the wrong place and after backing the key jack out about 1/8 of an inch - the Tuna Tin 2 fired up and measured 330 milli-watts output on the power / SWR meter. The antenna was a portable mag. mounted OUTBACKER all band vertical, mounted on a metal trailer in my garage, that did not require an antenna tuner.

My first CW contact (that's right – Morse code) was a scheduled one with John Alley W1DMD of Raynham, who lives a distance of about one mile from my house - the way the crow flies. I received a great 5-9-9 signal report.

Three club members have recently built the QRP Tuna Tin 2 Kit so far and one more said he plans to place his order in April. Go to www.qrpme.com for kit information and ordering details.

FOX HUNT - SATURDAY - MARCH 29, 2008 IN WHITMAN, MA



The Winners
John Coombs WQ1L
Ed Meehan N1NTZ



Shown just after the Fox Hunt are L. to R. **Ray Bolduc KB1ODU**, **Paul Moss KB1MTW**, **John Murphy KB1PHN**, **Paul Burbine N1VTI** (The Fox - kneeling), **Barbara Rice K1MRH**, **Ron Stundze KB1OEQ**, **Dan Chase KB1PFU**, **John Chase KB1ODS** (holding the tape measure 2-Meter beam), **Mark Loring KC1ML** and **Roy Logan KB1CYV**. Not shown but also participating was **Bill Hayden N1FRE** who was taking the pictures.

Paul Burbine N1VTI volunteered to be the Fox and was hiding in his car at the Middle School.



The Fox – Paul Burbine N1VTI

Paul N1VTI and **Bill N1FRE** report that there were 8 teams with 1st place going to **John WQ1L**, & **Ed N1NTZ**, 2nd place going to **Bill N1FRE**, (the photographer), & **Paul KB1MTW** and 3rd place going to **John Murphy KB1PHN** with his real paper clip antenna. These fox hunters were followed by **Roy KB1CYV** – then the team of **Mark KC1ML** and **Barbara K1MRH**. Then came **Ron KB1OEQ** followed by **Ray KB1ODU** and the team of **John KB1ODS** and **Dan KB1PFU**.

TECHNICAL TOPICS - THE TAPE MEASURE 2-METER BEAM

This is an abbreviated description of the tape measure 3-element 2-meter beam antenna. This antenna is cheap, and is very tolerant of whacking in the brush during fox hunts. The antenna construction was originally designed by **Joe Leggio, WB2HOL**.

See http://home.att.net/%7Ejleggio/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm. For complete details

Parts: 1/2 inch schedule 40 PVC, 2 cross fittings, 1 t-fitting, 2 ft of pipe, 1-inch steel tape measure minimum of 8 1/2 feet. 6 hose clamps stainless steel 1 1/2 inch, electrical tape, RG-58 coax with connector on one end, 5-inch piece of copper wire (enameled, stranded, etc).

TECHNICAL TOPICS - THE TAPE MEASURE 2-METER BEAM Cont:

CONSTRUCTION: Figure 1 shows the overall construction. Notice that the driven element is two pieces set up as a dipole (see figure 2) and the reflector and director are single pieces of tape

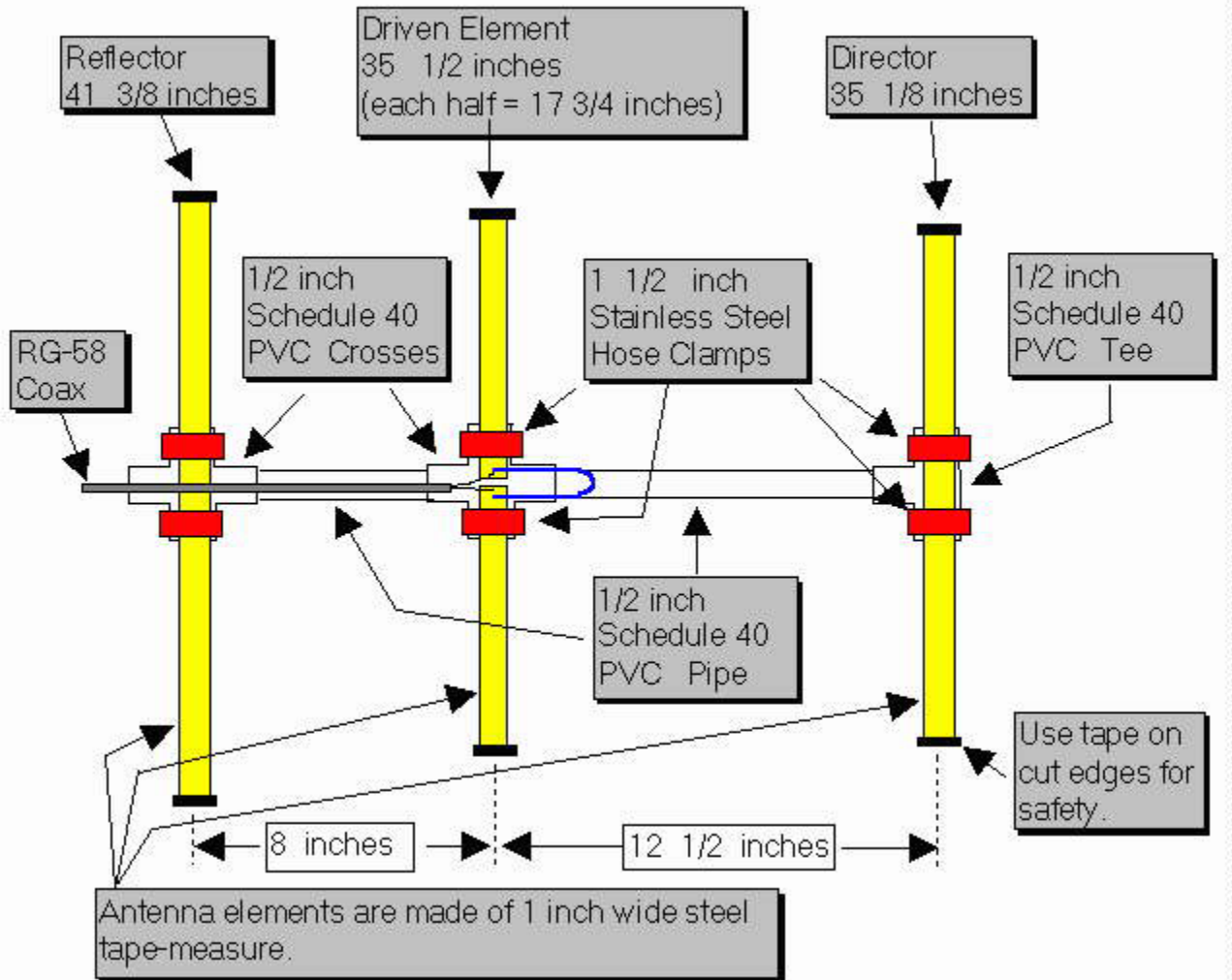


FIGURE 1

Some people like to round the ends that stick out or cover with rubber/plastic cement or cover with electrical tape. This way, the ends are less likely to cut someone or something.

If you solder the coax and hairpin wire to the driven element, make sure all paint is sanded off and that the tape has been tinned. Once the tape is on the PVC, the heat required to join the solder can melt the PVC pipe. See Fig. 2.

The PVC pipe sections (7 inches and 11 1/2 inches) that join the fittings should cut so that the distance for the center of each tape is 8 inches between the reflector and driven element and 12 1/2 inches between the driven element and the director.

Many operators put another section of PVC behind the reflector to use as a handle. Attenuators can also be strapped to the PVC pipe in line with the coax.

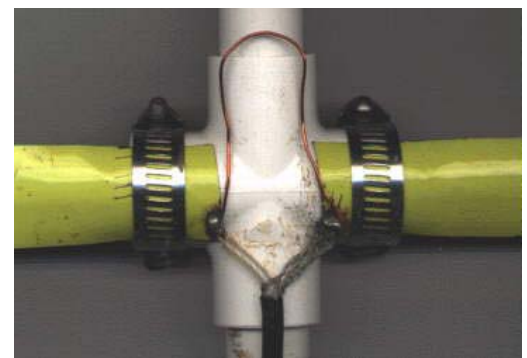


Figure 2
Driven element (dipole)

BREAKFAST AT PIER 18

A lot of brainstorming goes on at the Pier 18 breakfasts that are held on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday mornings when **John Coombs WQ1L** meets up with **Vic Kairis N1OEH**. All other interested HAMs are invited to attend. Talk in on 147.225 MHz Whitman REPEATER.

On this day, **John WQ1L** had purchased a dual flag pole holder and was explaining to the crew assembled how It would be perfect for holding the two poles of a delta loop antenna. Another project in the design stages.

Come join the fun.



Vic Kairis N1OEH

Paul Burbine N1VTI

John Coombs WQ1L

SCUTTLEBUTT - SCUTTLEBUTT - SCUTTLEBUTT

Lucky Ken KB1KVL: Ken Kavaljian KB1KVL and & Ron Smith N1PXX reported that they went to a Flea Market in Connecticut and that **Ken KB1KVL** won a door prize. A YAESU FT-1802 mobile transceiver.

Antenna Party: Once again **Paul Moss KB1MTW**, who performed the second story work, and **The Bruce NI1X**, lowered **John Alley's W1DMD** MFJ - 10 band vertical antenna that had been damaged by winter ice loading. We made some structural improvements, retuned the 30 and 80-meter elements and then put the antenna back up. Success – HAMs are always ready to lend a helping hand. **John W1DMD** reports that the antenna is now working just fine.

International Marconi Day: April 26 is a worldwide celebration of the birthday of Guglielmo Marconi. According to organizers it is an “opportunity for radio amateurs around the world to make contact with historic Marconi sites”

Promoting International Good Will: **Paul Moss KB1MTW** has set up a weekly schedule with Martin Medcalf G1EFL in Chelmsford, England and can be heard chatting on the Bridgewater EchoLink connection.

Update From: Bruce Beaman K1HTN: My wife **Barbara** and I left Ossipee, NH and 3 feet of snow on our way to sunny Florida for a three week vacation. I checked in on the Bridgewater REPEATER as we passed through the area. We are currently staying with one of my daughters and family in a town house at Windermere, FL. just West of WDW in Orlando. My daughter works for the Orlando YMCA on Disney property. We will be going to Disney, Seaworld and to the Science Museum in Orlando with 2 grandkids in tow.

HAM radio wise – I got on the air on 40 CW and had 3 QSO's. My end fed longwire is 76 feet long and runs from the Elecraft T-1 tuner located on an outside table, to the window on the second floor and then over the garage roof and is tied to a small tree on the other side of the garage. The tuner is hooked to my FT-817 transceiver. The system tunes on 40-30-20 and 17-Meters. I had 1 QSO with **K1PUG, Hank**, a friend in Harwinton, CT. on 40 CW. I will be meeting my neighbor pilot friend next. We will be going to a fly in. Then we go to Ocala for a night to visit friends from East Bridgewater and then to Charleston, SC for a few days, then to Lancaster County, PA for 3 days and then home.

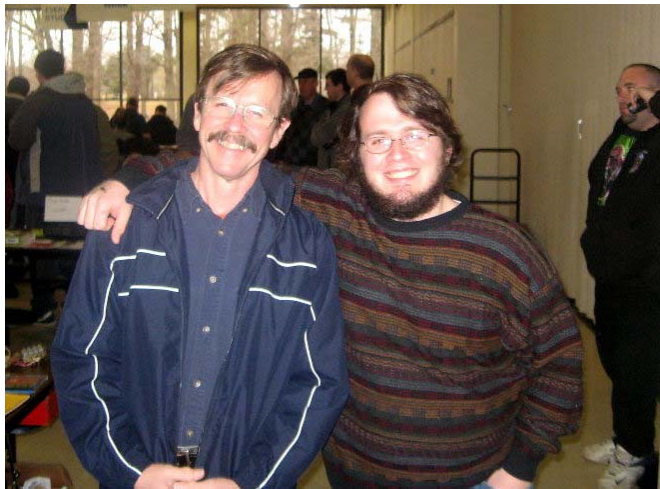
FRAMINGHAM FLEA MARKET - APRIL 12, 2008



Jim Ford NM1F at his table



Gary Cumiskey W1GRC and wife Sharon



John KB1ODS and Dan KB1PFU Chase



Paul KB1MTW, Bill N1FRE & Bruce NI1X



**Jeff Lehmann N1ZZN
and his 900 MHz handheld**



**Paul Burbine N1VTI
found an SWR meter
for his Go kit**



Ken Kavaljian KB1KVL

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL GOOD WILL

HELLO FROM PLYMOUTH ENGLAND

We first met **Laurie Hummerstone M0VRT** and his wife **Pam M3KYD** when they checked in with us via EchoLink during the Plimoth Plantation Special Event.

Laurie M0VRT has followed up by making contact with Whitman club members through the Bridgewater and Whitman REPEATER EchoLink connection and through E-mail exchanges.



Laurie M0VRT and Pam M3KYD Hummerstone

Laurie Hummerstone M0VRT reports "I have attached a picture of myself and my XYL, **Pam M3KYD**, taking a turn on the **G3PRC** stand at the Tavistock Rally. The Tavistock Rally is typical of the many such club events held throughout the year in the U.K. Local clubs hire a school hall or similar venue and invite Traders, and HAMs to rent a stand for bring and buy, and anything related to advertise their existence eg. Repeaters, local club details etc. These Rallies are an excellent opportunity to pick up bits and pieces of cheap gear, books, components, and computer stuff. Socially, we meet lots of HAMs and XYLs from far and wide.

The Club organizing the event reckons to swell club funds by charging a small entrance fee, and stall rents. Tavistock is a very nice old Market town, once an important tannery center, about 16 miles north of Plymouth, and the Dartmoor Radio Club run the Rally in the local College. Our (Plymouth) Rally is being held on September 21st. by the way".

Laurie M0VRT also reports – "We have just had our first field event of the year, on a very inhospitable day I might add! One of our members, **Frank G7LUL** had a clever idea in using his aluminum ladder as a makeshift tower. You can see a picture of this on **John's** site, "radioland.piczo.com"

73, Laurie M0VRT

NEAR-FEST - FLEA MARKET - MAY 2ND AND 3RD

Located in Deerfield, NH at the Deerfield fairgrounds on Rt. 43 approximately 15 miles East of Manchester, NH. Take Exit 3 off Highway 101 and follow Rt. 43 north to the fairgrounds.

Gates open Friday at 9:00 a.m. \$10.00 per person & \$10.00 per vehicle (RV's, Campers & Trailers - \$20.00) See www.NEAR-Fest.com for details.

Paul Burbine N1VTI and **Paul Moss KB1MTW** will be setting up a Whitman Club table.

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH RADIOGRAM TRAINING

Shown at the Taunton Emergency Operations Center just following the April RADIOGRAM training session are L. to R. Taunton Emergency Management Agency volunteers **Don Burke KB1LXH**, **Rudy Burer KB1LXI**, **Bob Barbour K1BAR**, **Bruce Hayden N1IX** and **Greg Glynn W1VFB**. Doesn't anyone but the Taunton crew carry a camera ??



Pembroke – **Jim Madden KB1PFL** reported that he checked in for the first time for the Town of Pembroke.

Taunton RACES volunteers

Whitman – Reporting in from the Whitman Emergency Operations Center were **Mike Supple KB1OEP** Net Control for the night, **Jeff Tracy N1SOM** and **Paul Moss KB1MTW**. The Whitman crew is working on cleaning up and equipping a used ambulance for use by the Town of Whitman.

Bridgewater and Carver – **Phil McNamara N1XTB** reported that he checked in for both Bridgewater and Carver.

Braintree – **Ray Bolduc KB1ODU** reported that he checked in portable for the town of Braintree

Brockton – **Barbara Anderson KB1NMG** reported that both she and **Bob Loring K1REL** were the two Whitman club members who participated with the City of Brockton Emergency Management Agency.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) NET - **Bruce Hayden N1IX**, **Jeff Lehmann N1ZZN**, **Ray Bolduc KB1ODU** and **Phil McNamara N1XTB** checked in with the ARES Net via the Norwell REPEATER 145.250 MHz pl 77 at 8:30 p.m. just following the RADIOGRAM Training session. Listen in on the Norwell REPEATER starting at 8:00 p.m. and copy along.

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (ARES)

ARES - ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP - By: Barbara Anderson KB1NMG

In April I attended the ARES Advanced Communications Workshop along with **Bob Loring K1REL**. **Roger Turner W1ZSA** director of the Walpole Emergency Management Communications Group hosted the event at the Walpole Town Hall, Senior Citizen Center. The talks were good but I still have a lot to learn, hi,hi.

Rob Macedo KD1CY did the opening talk on the workshop and explained how HAMS are an integral part of emergency communications. **Phil McNamara N1XTB** gave his talk on Packet radio and Winlink. Some of that was over my head but I am sure I will grasp it the more I look into it. **Frank O'Laughlin WQ1O** showed many interesting ways to set up radio Go Kits, with the help of **Dan Howard K1DYO**. He also showed how versatile PVC pipe could be in making antenna setups.

PLYMOUTH NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - PLYMOUTH EVACUATION DRILL
PART 3 - THE TAUNTON RECEPTION CENTER - FEMA GRADED EXERCISE



Tony Pinheiro - New HAM
Paula Farrales - Shelter manager
Neal Harrington KB1LXL



Bruce Hayden NI1X
Carlos Wharton WP4US
Don Burke KB1LXH standing
Richard Sproul KB1MBW

The Town of Plymouth evacuation drills finished up their graded exercises in April with a drill involving the local City and Town Emergency Operations Centers and a separate drill of the City of Taunton Reception Center. The HAMs communicated using 2-Meters, 220 MHz, 440 MHz and packet equipment. There were no amateur radio backup communication problems reported.

There is a need for amateur radio operators to help out with the local City and Town Emergency Management Agencies. Congratulations go to **Tony Pinheiro** is a Taunton Emergency Management Agency volunteer who just passed his amateur radio Technician class license in April. **Tony** is a recent graduate of the Taunton Area Communication Group (TACGroup) Technician classes taught by **Carlos Wharton WP4US**. Contact **Bill Hayden N1FRE** or **Bruce Hayden NI1X** if you are interested in volunteering to help with public service functions.

There is also a need for Red Cross trained Shelter Managers and **Paula Farrales** (still without license) of Taunton did a great job during the Plymouth evacuation drill as Shelter Manager for the Taunton Reception Center. Contact club member **Bob Barbour K1BAR** if you are interested in volunteering to help the Red Cross.

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (ARES)

Rob Macedo KD1CY, the ARES Eastern Mass. Section Emergency Coordinator and **Carl Aveni N1FY** – the ARES South Shore District Emergency Coordinator are promoting the use of training sessions like the advanced emergency communications workshops, Skywarn Nets and simulated emergency tests as ways to train area HAMs in emergency communications and encourage them to join ARES and SKYWARN.

You can sign with ARES at <http://ares.ema.arl.org>



Carl Aveni N1FY
Rob Macedo KD1CY

Repeater Etiquette By: Ken KB1KVL

Ken Kavaljian KB1KVL wrote the following Repeater Etiquette article for the Genesis club newsletter by summarizing a great list of Repeater Etiquette and Tips gathered by **David K2DBK** and published at www.10-70.org/repeater.htm **Ken KB1KVL** is referring to the new Plymouth REPEATER. Thanks **Ken KB1KVL** for sharing this article with the Whitman Club members.

By: Ken KB1KVL First and foremost let me say ham radio is a lot of fun, however we still need to adhere to certain guidelines and that's all this is - so by all means have fun and please read on!

One of the best things a new ham could ever do is listen to the repeater for a while. What I mean by this is listen to the way people conduct themselves, get a "feel" for the way folks who've been around for a while use the repeater.

Listen Listen Listen

I can't stress this point enough, when you get "scolded" for the way you use the repeater it might hurt your feelings and that is not usually the intent, it's only to help you understand how to use the repeater so if you listen for a while and learn some of the ways the "regulars" use the repeater you most likely won't get "scolded" for the way you use it.

Kerchunking

Please don't key your mike to check for a return carrier from the repeater. Observe the rules and identify yourself when you transmit. It can be as short and simple as: "**This is KB1KVL, testing, no response necessary.**" Let's set a good example and practice good operating procedures. Besides if all you're going to do is check to see if the repeater is there, you'll find out when someone talks, besides, if the repeater is down what can you do about it... nothing, so what is the point!

Listen before transmitting

One of the most important rules is **LISTEN FIRST**. Nothing is more annoying than someone that "keys up" in the middle of another conversation without first checking to make sure the repeater is free or having the volume turned down and not checking, open your squelch to make sure your radio's volume is turned up. If the repeater is in use, wait for a pause in the conversation and simply announce your call sign and wait for one of the other stations to acknowledge your call.

Signal Reports

Don't break a conversation just to get a signal report, it's rude! Wait until the conversation is done then ask for a radio check. When you are looking for a signal report, the right way to do it is to say something like (obviously using your own call instead of mine) **KB1KVL** looking for a signal report", not "**KB1KVL listening**". Saying "listening" or "monitoring" implies that you're listening to the repeater and would like to chat with someone.

Often, there will be others "lurking" who might be willing to jump onto the radio to give out a signal report, but won't answer a general "listening" call because they might not want to get involved in an extended conversation. Unless you have actually made some changes to your station, you may find that folks will tire of responding to you if you ask for a report day after day (or more often). If you're responding to a signal report request, make sure you're giving accurate information.

Repeater Etiquette Cont: By: Ken KB1KVL

Signal Reports Cont: If you can't hear the repeater itself well, it will be difficult to report back accurate information to the other station. Remember that the information that's useful is how the other station sounds coming into the repeater, not how the repeater itself sounds. Since the repeater itself should be more or less constant to you, you're just helping the other station figure out how well they are making it to the repeater.

Jammers or annoying users

If you hear a jammer, ignore him/her. Resist the temptation to "set the jammer straight." Don't acknowledge their presence in any way. Anything you might say about it probably doesn't belong on the band and may contribute to the problem. If the jammer has no audience, he or she won't have any fun and will soon be gone. Besides its not your job to do this, it is the responsibility of the control operators to babysit the repeater, let them do their job.

Leave a pause

When you are using the repeater leave a couple of seconds between exchanges to allow other stations to join in or make a quick call. Most repeaters have a "Courtesy Tone" that will help in determining how long to pause. The courtesy tone serves two purposes. Repeaters have a time out function that will shut down the transmitter if the repeater is held on for a preset length of time (normally three or four minutes). This ensures that if someone's transmitter is stuck on for any reason, it won't hold the repeater's transmitter on indefinitely. When a ham is talking and releases the push-to-talk switch on their radio, the controller in the repeater detects the loss of carrier and resets the time-out timer. When the timer is reset, the repeater sends out the courtesy tone. If you wait until you hear this beep (normally a couple of seconds), before you respond, you can be sure that you are pausing a suitable length of time. After you hear the beep, the repeater's transmitter will stay on for a few more seconds before turning off. This is referred to as the "tail". The length of the tail will vary from repeater to repeater but the average is about 2 or 3 seconds. You don't have to wait for the "tail to drop" before keying up again, but you should make sure that you hear the courtesy tone before going ahead.

Note: If you don't wait for the beep, the time-out timer will not reset. If you time-out the repeater, HAMS that are listening may expect a free coffee from the offender.

Limit your time on a given repeater to within reason. (This can vary a great deal and will depend upon the circumstance, but rag chewing for several hours straight is NOT recommended as a friendly practice!)

Waiting for the courtesy tone before transmitting also has another good reason. This allows time for other stations to break in, and allows the system to reset but most importantly it allows users with emergency traffic to get in. Just put yourself in their place, what if you were mobile and had an emergency but couldn't get into the repeater because everyone was "quick keying" and not allowing you to get in.

New or unfamiliar calls

Talk to strangers once in a while. (Many HAMS, all good people, sometimes slip into a habit of not talking with anyone they don't already know when operating FM repeaters. They forget that this is not what they do when on HF!) Again put yourself in their place, remember back when you were a new HAM and how intimidated you felt, then to have someone not even acknowledge you on the repeater. Let him/her know they are being heard and strike up a small conversation, it will make a huge difference.

Repeater Etiquette Cont: By: Ken KB1KVL

Use of Jargon & Q-signals

One very easy habit to fall into is the use of jargon. Instead of saying "I've arrived at my destination" you'll hear folks say things like "We're destinated". It seems to be a very common practice to use "we" when what you really mean is "I". This seems to be one of the hardest habits to break. A good practice is to just say, in plain English, what you mean. If someone doesn't understand, they'll ask you.

Q-signals

(QTH, QSY, QSL, QRT, QSO, etc.) were developed for use solely on CW (Morse code) where keeping things as short as possible is obviously desirable. A number of the Q-signals (the ones mentioned here in particular) have found their way into common use on phone (voice) modes. To some degree, that's ok and probably unavoidable, but when you can, try to just say what you mean. In particular though, don't start every sentence with "QSL" (or it's "plain-English" equivalent of "Roger"). Think about a telephone conversation with someone; You wouldn't say "Yes, I understand" every time it's your turn to speak, right? That's what's you're doing when you say QSL or Roger at the beginning of your transmission. Just talk like you would on the phone.

Information

If someone asks for information and you KNOW you can answer it go ahead, HOWEVER if you don't know the answer, don't key up and say "sorry I can't help you", just listen and you might learn something.

When NOT to Use a Repeater

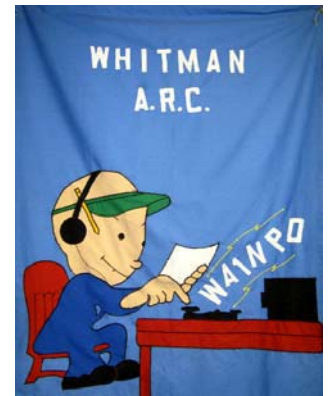
Use simplex channels when they make more sense. (Two cars traveling close together should NOT be using a REPEATER unless there is some compelling reason, i.e. looking for another friend to join in, or the contact is going to be brief, etc.).

WHITMAN AMATEUR RADIO PUBLIC SERVICE NET (WARPSN)

The **WARPSN** NET meets every Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. on the Whitman REPEATER 147.225 MHz PL 67. Come join in and share your amateur radio related activities with the other area HAMS and short-wave listeners as well.

As part of our training, we encourage everyone to practice sending routine RADIOGRAM messages. In March we had 5 sessions with an average of 14 area HAMS checking in each week and 9 messages were sent.

Ray Bolduc KB1ODU has set up an EchoLink connection to the Whitman REPEATER. You can join in via EchoLink by connecting to **KB1ODU-L**.



**Sending WA1NPO
an update**



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, May 7th at 6:30 p.m.
Whitman Public Library

CLUB OFFICERS

President	Paul	N1VTI
V. President	Ron	N1PXX
Secretary	Jeff	N1ZZN
Treasurer	Jeff	N1SOM
Director	Mike	KB1OEP
Director	Ken	KB1KVL
Director	Paul	KB1MTW
Director	Bruce	N1IX

Editor	Bruce	N1IX
E-mail articles to:	ni1x@arrl.net	

Web Master	Jeff	N1ZZN
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Web Site: <http://www.wa1npo.org>

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*

