



SPECTRUM



The Voice of the Humble Electron

Founded 1962

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: This is **Paul N1VTI** - March came in like a lion with over 6 inches of snow and put a damper on outside projects. I participated in a VE testing session at a new testing location in Braintree – at the Watson Building – the home of the **K1USN** Radio Club. Good news - **Michael Dowd KB1PVC** reported that he upgraded to General Class.

More good news - **Jim Havens W1GQN** started a WARC Morse code (CW) NET on 10-Meters where participants can practice sending and receiving Morse code and develop their operating skills.

Jeff Tracy N1SOM, Mike Supple KB1OEP and **Ron Stundze KB1OEQ** reported that they have been participating in Community Emergency Response Training with the Town of Whitman, Emergency Management Agency, that will finish up in April. As usual - **Bruce Hayden N1IX** and **Bill Hayden N1FRE** reported on the first Monday of the month RADIOGRAM training at the Taunton and Whitman Emergency Operations Centers. **Phil McNamara N1XTB** is assembling a battery box for use as an emergency power source at a local Emergency Operations Center.

We have the Framingham Flea Market coming up on March 29, 2009 and **Bill Hayden N1FRE** is coordinating a Youth Fair Amateur Radio Exhibit Booth at the Quincy Masonic Lodge on the same day. Come to the next meeting and share your radioactive projects with the members present or send **The Bruce N1IX** an update for the newsletter.



Paul Burbine
N1VTI

73 From: Paul N1VTI

TECHNICAL TOPICS - CONVERSION TO DIGITAL TV

Jeff Lehmann N1ZZN gave a presentation, at the March meeting, on the conversion to digital TV. If you have an older set that is not connected to cable or direct Satellite TV you will have to purchase a converter box. The converter boxes sell for \$45.00 thru \$60.00 less the government sponsored \$40.00 rebate.

Jeff N1ZZN showed the simple wiring and then ran through the user-friendly menu to set up the converter box using an indoor “rabbit ear” antenna.

There are several different makes of converter boxes and the menus may vary. The digital reception in Whitman, with a rabbit ear antenna, was very good. The final digital TV conversion date has been delayed to June 12, 2009.



Jeff Lehmann N1ZZN giving a presentation at the March meeting

SECRETARY'S NOTES OF THE MEETING OF March 4th, 2009 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-four members / guests were present, including the four elected Officers and three Directors. A quorum was present.



Jeff Lehmann
N1ZZN

K1AWB	Steve Laroe	K1VU	Bob Johnson		
KA1PJX	Don Keene	KB1CYV	Roy Logan		
KB1CHW	John Coombs Jr.	KB1ETW	Jim Halpin		
KB1KVL	Ken Kavaljian	KB1MTW	Paul Moss		
KB1NAX	Joan Smith	KB1ODS	John Chase		
KB1OEP	Mike Supple	KB1OEQ	Ron Stundze		
KB1OSV	Matt Paine	KB1PFL	Jim Madden		
KB1PFU	Dan Chase	KB1PHN	John Murphy	W1GQN	Jim Havens
KC1FZ	George Davis	KC1JET	Jim Tynan	N1FRE	Bill Hayden
N1NO	Dave Hammond	N1PXX	Ron Smith	N1SOM	Jeff Tracy
N1VTI	Paul Burbine	N1WIG	Sam Webber	N1ZZN	Jeff Lehmann
N2DEC	Don Cahill	NI1X	Bruce Hayden	W1IRK	Bruce McKim
KB1QKW	Chris Laroe	WQ1L	John Coombs	W1EKG	Ross Hochstrasser
SWL	Colben Laroe (guest)	WA1YKF	Warren Dickie (guest)		

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report for February 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 **Bruce NI1X** seconded by **Ross W1EKG** that the February secretary's report be accepted as published in the newsletter. The motion was approved.

HEALTH & WELLFARE: **Ray KB1ODU** is in the hospital, recovering from surgery. A get-well card was passed around the meeting, and will be sent to him.

NEW MEMBERS: **Paul KB1MTW** made a motion that **Pat Kavaljian SWL**, (**Ken KB1KVL's wife**) be accepted as an associate member, and **Elayne Tovet KB1IKH** (**Jim KA1EUI's wife**) be accepted as a full member. The motion was seconded by **Bruce NI1X**, and it was approved.

OLD BUSINESS: **Paul KB1MTW** has requested permission from the East Bridgewater YMCA to hold our Field Day there at their field once again this year. **Jeff N1ZZN** reported that the club wire and calendar information will soon be available on the club's wa1npo.org website.

NEW BUSINESS: **Bruce NI1X** reported that the USA ARDF Championship (fox hunting) will be held in this area this year, June 5-7th, at the Blue Hills Reservation. Details can be found at www.homingin.com. **Ross W1EKG** will be getting 20 tickets / vehicle passes for the Deerfield, NH NEAR-Fest in advance, and hopes to have them available at the April meeting. **Jeff N1SOM** reported that it is time to send in a donation for the Whitman-Hanson High School "Dollars for Scholars" program. **Paul KB1MTW** made a motion that \$400 be donated. **Jim KC1JET** seconded the motion, and it was approved. **Bill N1FRE** discussed having an amateur radio exhibit at the Youth Fair at the Masonic Temple in Quincy on March 29th from 10 AM to 3 PM.

SECRETARY'S NOTES OF THE MEETING OF March 4th, 2009 Cont: de N1ZZN

NEW BUSINESS Cont: Ken KB1KVL reported that Genesis ARS member **Bob N1COP** will be giving a tech license class at the South Shore Vo-Tech High School, where he is a teacher. **Paul N1VTI** reported that the Braintree VE sessions are now being held at the **K1USN** club location at the former Watson library on Route 53 in Braintree, just outside of Weymouth landing. **Jim W1GQN** discussed possibly starting up some CW practice exercises on the air. It was suggested to try it out after the Sunday morning WARPSN NET on 10-meters. **Jeff N1ZZN** reported that the Framingham flea market will be held on March 29th at 9 AM.

CLUB EQUIPMENT: Paul KB1MTW reports that all club equipment is accounted for.

NET CONTROLS: 3/8: Roy KB1CYV 3/15: Mike KB1OEP 3/22: Bruce N1IX
3/29: Jeff N1SOM

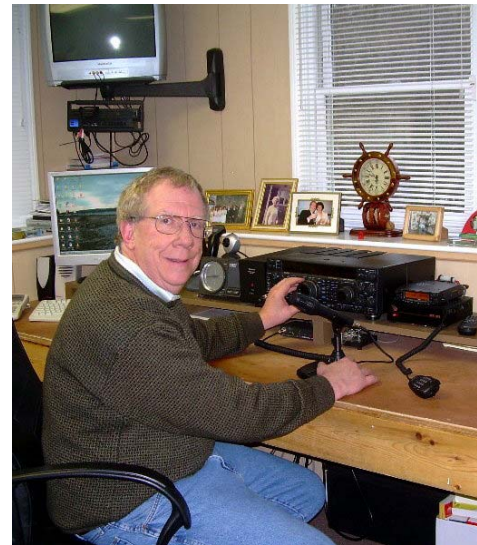
CLOSE: President **Paul N1VTI** closed the business meeting at 7:15 p.m. on a motion by **Ed N1NTZ** seconded by **Chris KB1QKW**. The motion was approved.

TECHNICAL TOPIC: **Jeff N1ZZN** demonstrated how to set up a digital TV converter box, and discussed the shutdown of analog TV coming up in June.

NEW MEMBER: **Elayne Tovet KB1IKH** lives in Holbrook with her husband **Jim KA1EUI** .



Elayne Tovet KB1IKH



Jim Tovet KA1EUI

Jim KA1EUI reports "We go to Dayton pretty much every year. We always drive out. In 2004 **Elayne** – then a SWL - studied all the way to Dayton! It was kind of a quiet ride! Anyway, she took the test first thing Friday morning and passed! We often split up at Dayton and later in the day I happened to see her sitting and talking with **Gordon West**...later that evening we had dinner at the AMSAT Banquet (we do every year) and she and I sat with **Bob Bruninga** (inventor of APRS)! Talk about getting comfortable in the hobby!

Elayne KA1IKH also has a 2-Meter rig and a Bearcat scanner in the kitchen. Her 2-meter rig is a Yaesu FT-2800 and the Scanner is a Bearcat BC-780. She also has a small Alinco 2-Meter walkie that she won at Dayton! It's great having an XYL who is a HAM!"

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH RADIOGRAM TRAINING

TAUNTON RACES VOLUNTEERS

Shown at the Taunton Emergency Operations Center following the March RADIOGRAM Training are L. to R. **Roger Desmarais KB1RTI**, **Bruce Hayden NI1X** and **Brenda Desmarais SWL** with **Rudy Burer KB1LXI** – Assistant Director of the Taunton Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) and Net Control for the night – standing in the back



Roger KB1RTI **The Bruce NI1X** **Brenda SWL**
with Rudy KB1LXI standing in the back

Roger KB1RTI is a Taunton Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteer who just passed the Technician Class License test in February.

Roger's KB1RTI first amateur radio contact was with **John N1UMJ** following the RADIOGRAM Training Session. **Roger KB1RTI** has a new Veritex VX-150 handheld transceiver. His wife **Brenda SWL** is also a TEMA CERT volunteer and is looking forward to the next Technician classes to be held in Taunton. **Loren Pimentel N1IQI** reported that he also participated in the RADIOGRAM training from home and took the messages for Bridgewater and Carver.



Paul Moss KB1MTW in Whitman



Mike Supple KB1OEP in Whitman

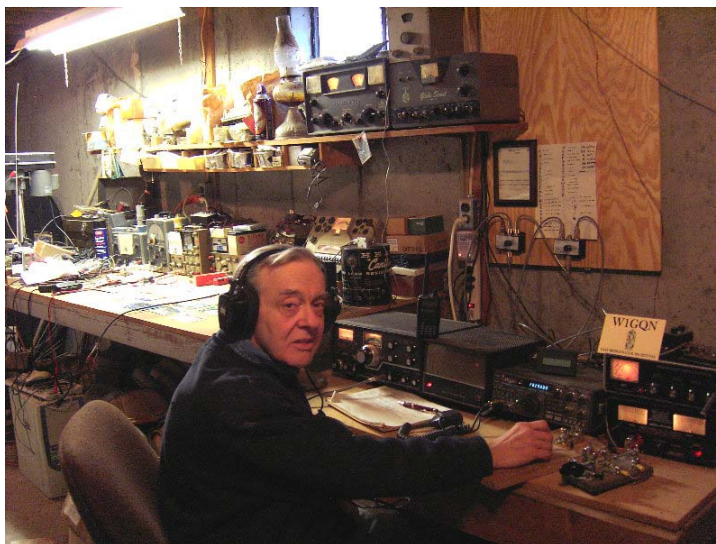
Bill Hayden N1FRE took pictures of **Paul Moss KB1MTW** (Net Control for the night) and **Mike Supple KB1OEP** in the Whitman REHAB / emergency communication vehicle where they operated during the March RADIOGRAM Training. The next session will be Monday, April 6, 2009. Come to the Whitman EOC located in the Central Fire Station (second floor at 7:45 p.m.) and participate in this informal training session or copy along from home by listening in at 8:00 p.m. on the Norwell REPEATER 145.250 (PL 77).

WARC - MORSE CODE (CW) NET

At the March meeting **Jim Havens W1GQN** proposed that a Morse Code (CW) training NET be established. It was agreed to hold the first WARC CW Net on Sunday morning March 8, 2009 following the Whitman Amateur Radio Public Service Net (WARPSN).

Jim W1GQN was NET Control – calling CQ WARC and he was answered by **Bill Hayden N1FRE**, **Bruce Hayden NI1X**, **Jim Tovet KA1EUI** and **John Murphy KB1PHN**.

The purpose is to practice sending our call, our name, our QTH, and other things like RST, rig and antenna information. Just like you would send during a CW contact.



Jim Havens W1GQN in his shack

The exchange would go like this:

CQ WARC CQ WARC DE W1GQN W1GQN K

W1GQN DE KB1PHN KB1PHN KN

KB1PHN DE W1GQN

R R R UR RST 579 579

NAME IS JIM JIM

QTH IS EAST BRIDGEWATER, MA. EAST BRIDGEWATER, MA.

RIG IS A KENWOOD 430S

ANTENNA IS A GAP DX8 VERTICAL

KB1PHN DE W1GQN KN



**Jim's W1GQN
Gap Vertical**

Jim W1GQN reports: "I received my Novice license in 1956 as **WN7FOZ**. I lived in East Wenatchee, WA. A year later I upgraded to Conditional dropping the "N". When I joined the Navy I had a couple of other calls and finally got my present call in the late 60's. I upgraded to Extra last year." I have not been doing much Morse code for the past 50 years.

My antenna is an 8-band HF GAP Challenger DX-8 vertical (80 thru 2 Meters) that is 32 feet high with three radials. It has tuned rods and gaps and it mounts in a post in the ground and does not require guying. I use a MFJ Deluxe Versa Tuner II with the antenna.

My shack is filled with mostly HeathKit test equipment. My main radio is a Kenwood Model TS-430S transceiver. I also have a Hammarlund HQ 100, a Globe Scout Model 680, a Swan 500C transceiver and a Kenwood TH-K2 handheld 2-Meter".

73 Jim W1GQN

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LET THE FUN BEGIN: **Mike Dowd KB1PVC**, first licensed in January 2008, upgraded to General class in January 2009.

Mike KB1PVC reports that his first contact was on 20-Meters with a female operator with a special events station **W4IX**, in Fort Myers, Florida, celebrating Edison's birthday Feb.17.

Mike KB1PVC reports: "I was sitting beside my Elmer, **David Ring N1EA**, who introduced me to HAM radio back in the mid sixties. It only took me forty years to follow through and get a license. We were using the ICOM Pro 746, which was advertised in the Whitman SPECTRUM newsletter and bought from **Father Henry Boivin K1DPH**, along with a 20-Meter dipole antenna.

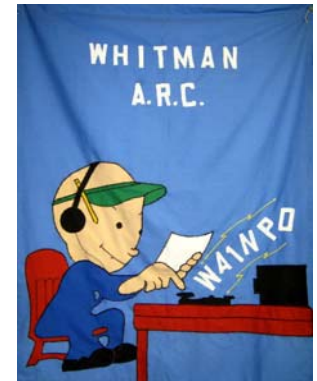


Mike Dowd KB1PVC

WHITMAN AMATEUR RADIO PUBLIC SERVICE NET

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. We need your updates for the newsletter.

As part of our training, we encourage everyone to practice sending routine RADIOGRAM messages. In February we had 4 sessions with an average of 17 area HAMs checking in each week and 8 messages were sent. Make up an NTS traffic message and send one to a friend.



**Sending N11X
an update**

ECHOLINK CONNECTION: **Jim Tovet KA1EUI** has volunteered to host the EchoLink connection to the Whitman REPEATER at his home in Holbrook. Connect to EchoLink Node **KA1EUI-R**.

CLUB HOUSE PROJECTS - NEW ELECTRIC PANEL



Paul Moss KB1MTW



WARC Club House on Pine Street

Paul Moss KB1MTW reported that the original 60 amp 120 volt electric panel at the Club House was recently upgraded to 100 amps and 120/240 volts. **Paul KB1MTW**, the Club House Coordinator, reported that he secured the volunteer help of a licensed electrician friend and scrounged up a used electric panel, used meter socket and left over service entrance cable. The total cost to the club was about \$120.00 that included the purchase of a new 100 amp main circuit breaker and some miscellaneous parts.

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (ARES) - UPDATE

BACKUP BATTERY SYSTEM

Phil McNamara N1XTB reports that he has been assembling a backup battery system for use at a local Emergency Operations Center. The battery will be housed in a plastic box that will protect the public from the dangers of an exposed battery. The battery box "DCtoGO" that was purchased was from West Mountain Radio (www.westmountain.com) and comes with an Anderson Power Pole RIGrunner mounted on the side. The system will include one of the new Super PWRgate PG40S – (an electronic transfer switch) - that includes a smart charger in place of the older version trickle charger. The smart charger allows for an adjustable (up to 10 amp) charging rate, if the battery needs it, once power is restored. This backup battery system would compliment any of the local Emergency Operations Centers to protect against a backup emergency generator failure.



Phil McNamara
N1XTB



PWRgate electronic transfer switch

You will need three heavy-duty #10 (red / black) power cables with Anderson PowerPole connectors. The three PWRgate connections are simple. The left one is connected to the power supply. The right one is connected to the battery. The middle one is connected to the Anderson fused distribution strip mounted on the battery box to which the loads (transceiver, etc.) are connected.



Backup battery system
powering an ICOM IC-2100

The finished product (battery – transfer switch – power supply – transceiver) as shown includes an ICOM IC-2100 transceiver and a lightweight samlex power supply with an MK brand size 24 AGM (Advanced Glass Mat) battery in the plastic box. Every HAM shack should have a backup battery system to power at least one radio. When all else fails – HAMs will be on the air first.

FOR SALE: Bruce McKim W1IRK reports: I have a "never opened" Kenwood TM261, still in the original factory wrappings, and box, for sale \$100.00

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

March 29, 2009 - Framingham, Flea Market – Sunday, March 29, 2009 at the Keefe Technical High School – 750 Winter Street in Framingham, MA. \$5.00 at 9 a.m.

March 29, 2009 - YOUTH FAIR - MASONIC TEMPLE IN QUINCY - April 29, 2009: **Pete Carlson N1POO** has asked the Whitman Amateur Radio Club members to set up a table at the Youth Fair being held by the Quincy Masonic Temple, 1170 Hancock Street, on Sunday, April 29, 2009 between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Along with explaining amateur radio - we hope to put the young adults “On The Air “ using the Whitman REPEATER. Your job, should you chose to accept it, is to answer the kids when the Control Operators put them “On The Air”. **Bill Hayden N1FRE** is coordinating this event. Contact **Bill N1FRE** at E-Mail wf.hayden@verizon.net if you want to help out.

April 4, 2009 - Braintree VE Sessions – **Paul Burbine N1VTI** reports that the next VE Session will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2009 at the Watson Building in Braintree. The home of the **K1USN** radio club. Contact **Bill Needham N1WN** at E-Mail k1wn@aol.com to pre-register.

April 4, 2009 – Multiple Sclerosis Journey of Hope – A walk in Newton

A 7.5 mile walk that starts and finishes at the Newton South High School. Assignments at 7:00 a.m. Sign up with **Rick Savage KB1LJY** at E-Mail rpsavage@comcast.net Tel: 781-289-7364

April 5, 2009 – Multiple Sclerosis Boston Walk – Boston (Brighton and Cambridge).

Both a 3 and a 6-mile walk start and finish at the Harvard Athletic Complex in Brighton. Assignments at 10:00 a.m. Sign up with **Rick Savage KB1LJY** at E-Mail rpsavage@comcast.net Tel: 781-289-7364

April 13, 2009 - TECHNICIAN CLASSES IN TAUNTON

– **Greg Glynn W1VFB** reports that the Taunton Area Communication Group will hold Technician Classes in Taunton at the DPW Garage starting April 13, 2009. Contact **Greg W1VFB** at E-Mail gglyn@comcast.net if you or someone you know are interested in attending the Technician Classes.

April 18, 2009 - Antique Radio Swap Meet - Manchester, NH. Saturday, April 18, 2009 at the Manchester Bingo Center - 165 John E. Devine Drive, Manchester, NH. \$3.00 at 8:30 a.m.

April 19, 2009 - MIT Flea Market – Boston, MA April 19, 2009 – Albany and Main Street. Free off street buyers parking. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Buyers \$5.00 - Third Sunday - April thru October – Call **Nick** 617-253-3776 Computers – Electronics – HAM Radio

April 20, 2009 - BOSTON MARATHON - LAST CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS **Robert DeMattia**

K1IW has put out a call for backup volunteers to help provide amateur radio communication at the 2009 Boston Marathon. As a backup volunteer you would be called on if they receive cancellations from previously enrolled volunteers. The Boston Marathon will be held on Monday, April 20, 2009. Please visit the Marathon Amateur Radio Communication (MARC) web site at <http://marc.mmra.org> to sign up. Generally, at least, a 2-Meter / 440 MHz handheld is required with batteries to last the entire day. If you have any concerns or questions you can reach **Bob W1IW** at 508-393-4148

Carl Aveni N1FY, the ARRL Assistant Eastern Mass. Section Emergency Coordinator, reports that the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Command Center located at the Bridgewater Emergency Operations Center will be activated and staffed during the Boston Marathon to monitor activities outside of the Boston Marathon area. Come and join us. If you are interested in joining ARES and we hope you are - sign up with ARES at <http://ares.ema.arrl.org/> – then under - EMA Policies – click on – Join Us! - and after registering you will be put in touch with your local Emergency Coordinator.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS Cont:

April 23, 2009 – SKYWARN TRAINING IN ATTLEBORO: The Attleboro Amateur Radio Club will be holding a SKYWARN Training Session at the Sturdy Memorial Hospital (Sturdy Auditorium) at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 23, 2009. Contact **John Miller N1UMJ** – President – Attleboro Amateur Radio Club – at E-Mail n1umj@verizon.net to sign up.

April 25, 2009 - INTERNATIONAL MARCONI DAY – Saturday, April 25, 2009. Radio Amateurs throughout the world who have an association with Marconi will be “On The Air

May 18, 2009 - SKYWARN TRAINING IN TAUNTON: Mark your calendar. **Greg Glynn W1VFB** of the TACGroup reports that plans are being made to hold a SKYWARN Training session in Taunton at the Morton Hospital on Monday, May 18, 2009. If you have not taken the SKYWARN Observer Training Course - this would be a great opportunity to get on board. Contact **Greg W1VFB** to sign up. His E-Mail is [gglyn@comcast.net](mailto:gglynn@comcast.net)

June 5 thru 7, 2009 – INTERNATIONAL FOX HUNT – Blue Hills Reservation – Boston, MA.

US ARDF Championships Registration Now Open: Registration is now open for the next USA Amateur Radio Direction Finding Championships, June 5-7, 2009, in Boston, Massachusetts <<http://www.bostonardf.org/>>. Radio-orientees of all skill levels will gather for a practice day, followed by two days of intense competition -- first on 2 meters and then on 80 meters.

This year's USA Championships will be combined with the IARU Region 2 championships. The events are open to everyone, with or without a HAM license. The contest will be at the Blue Hills Reservation <<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/metroboston/blue.htm>>, a 7000 acre open space, about 10 miles south of downtown Boston. To encourage first-timers and foreign visitors, the competition fee will be waived for persons who have never participated in the USA ARDF Championships and for competitors coming from outside North America. Learn more about ARDF here <<http://www.homingin.com/>>. -- Information provided by ARRL ARDF Coordinator **Joe Moell, K0O**

SCUTTLEBUTT: Ken KB1KVL set up a G5-RV antenna and reports it works well.

SCUTTLEBUTT: John Murphy KB1PHN reports that he picked up a 703Plus transceiver

ANTENNA PARTY: Jim Madden KB1PFL reported that he helped **Dave Beauvais KB1QMX** install a Diamond 50X 2-Meter / 440 MHz vertical antenna 10 feet above his house.

Dave KB1QMX is shown removing an old existing satellite disc before installing the HAM antenna on the same house-mounting bracket. We expect to hear **Dave KB1QMX** booming in to the Whitman REPEATER.



Dave Beauvais KB1QMX installing his new 2-Meter Base Station antenna



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. 1st at 6:30 p.m.
Whitman Public Library

CLUB OFFICERS

President	Paul	N1VTI
V. President	Ron	N1PXX
Secretary	Jeff	N1ZZN
Treasurer	Jeff	N1SOM
Director	Barbara	K1MRH
Director	Paul	KB1MTW
Director	Roy	KB1CYV
Director	Bruce	N1IX

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

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

Club REPEATER 147.225 MHz PL 67

*Whitman Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
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Whitman, Ma 02382*

