



The Whitman Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

March 2011

SPECTRUM



The Voice of the Humble Electron

Founded 1962

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: This is **Paul N1VTI** – I made a modified air operated Spud Gun Launcher and brought it to the February meeting for Show and Tell. **John Coombs WQ1L** brought a portable J-Pole antenna to the February meeting for Show and Tell. Let me know if you have any ongoing radioactive projects that you would be willing to share with the other members at one of our meetings. Congratulations to **Dan Noyes KB1OAY** who became an Eagle Scout in February.



**Paul Burbine
N1VTI**

HAVING FUN: **Roy Logan KB1CYV** volunteered to be the Fox on March 12th and reported 13 Fox Hunters participating. Members are participating in local HF and 2-Meter NETs.

TRAINING: **Bruce Hayden N1IX, John Duprey KB1SVY, Mike Supple KB1OEP, Loren Pimentel N1IQI** and **Jim Madden KB1PFL** participated in First Monday of the Month RADIOGRAM training.

PROMOTING AMATEUR RADIO: **Jim O'Rourke WG1L** participated as a Volunteer Examiner (V-E) at the Braintree testing session in March. Discussion is under way on holding Technician and General Class study classes.

UPCOMING GUEST SPEAKER: At our April meeting we will hear a presentation by **John Frye N1OTY** on the new ICOM Digital Advanced System (**IDAS**) that uses the Next Generation Digital Narrowband (**NXDN**) radio technology. Some of our local REPEATERS have been equipped with this new technology.

73 From Paul N1VTI

NEW MEMBER: **Stan Rydell KB1VGN** lives in Hingham and received his Technician Class license in February.

Stan KB1VGN was introduced to HAM radio by **Karen Trask KB1UBX** and is looking forward to getting on the air with a new Wouxun KG-UV2D VHF/UHF dual band 2-Meter / 440 MHz handheld transceiver.

Stan KB1VGN has already participated in his First Fox Hunt.



Stan Rydell KB1VGN

REINSTATED FORMER MEMBER: **Brad Wilson W1AY** lives in Norwell, holds an Extra Class License, and has been licensed for 31 years.

Brad W1AY reports that he has a collection of old Drake radios and a collection of old Telegraph books.



Brad Wilson W1AY

SECRETARY'S NOTES OF THE MEETING OF March 2, 2011 de N1ZZN

OPENING: The members started gathering at the Whitman Public Library, Whitman, MA around 6:10 p.m. President **Paul N1VTI** opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.



Jeff Lehmann
N1ZZN

ATTENDANCE: Thirty-nine members / guests were present, including the four elected Officers and the four Directors. A quorum was present.

K1AWB	Steve Laroe	W1EKG	Ross Hochstrasser		
K1MRH	Barbara Rice	N1LWK	Ken Desruisseau		
K1REL	Bob Loring	KB1REQ	Jeremy Breef-Pilz		
SWL	Colben Laroe	N1COP	Bob Woodbury		
KA1KIJ	Bob Azanow	WA1YKF	Warren Dickie		
KB1CYV	Roy Logan	WA1MWF	Larry LeBlanc	KB1IKH	Elayne Tovet
KB1MTW	Paul Moss	KB1ODS	John Chase	KB1OEP	Mike Supple
KB1PFL	Jim Madden	KB1PHN	John Murphy	KB1QEM	John O'Neill
WA1ZKK	Al Craddock	KB1SVY	John Duprey	KB1UBX	Karen Trask
KB1VGN	Stan Rydell	KC1JET	Jim Tynan	KC1ML	Mark Loring
N1AMX	Tony Carlozzi	SWL	Susan Carlozzi	WQ1L	John Coombs
N1IQI	Loren Pimentel	W1JT	Jim Tovet	N1LQK	Dave Kaplan
N1OYH	Carl Davis	N1SOM	Jeff Tracy	N1SON	Bill Tracy
N1VTI	Paul Burbine	N1ZZN	Jeff Lehmann	NI1X	Bruce Hayden
W1AXB	Matt Paine	W1AY	Brad Wilson		

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's reports for January and February were read by **Jeff N1SOM**. **Bruce NI1X** made a motion seconded by **John KB1SVY** 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 **Jim KC1JET** that the January secretary's report be accepted as published in the newsletter. The motion was approved.

NEW MEMBERS: **Bruce NI1X** made a motion that **Brad Wilson W1AY** be accepted as a reinstated former member. **John WQ1L** seconded the motion and it was approved. **Karen KB1UBX** made a motion that **Stan Rydell KB1VGN** be accepted as a new member. **John KB1SVY** seconded the motion and it was approved.

HEALTH & WELFARE: **Barbara K1MRH** reported that a sympathy card was sent to **Ralph WA1TSL** for the passing of his father. Get well cards were sent to **Frank N1OGP** and **Joan KB1NAX**.

OLD BUSINESS: **Jim KC1JET** reported that **John Frye N1OTY** will be here for the April meeting to do a presentation on the IDAS / NXDN commercial digital radio system, which is now on several HAM REPEATERS including Norwell. There was some discussion held about holding upcoming General classes for the South Shore Hospital group. **Mike KB1OEP** volunteered to put together another team to give Technician classes to a group from Holbrook looking for help. **Ross W1EKG** has contacted the Mutual Bank, and they have given us permission to use the Saffler's parking lot for the Memorial Day weekend flea market. There was discussion held about possible locations to use in the future. **Ross W1EKG** now has tickets available for NEARFest, which will be held April 29-30 in Deerfield, NH.

SECRETARY'S NOTES OF THE MEETING OF March 2, 2011 de N1ZZN Cont:

NEW BUSINESS: It was decided that we are once again interested in using the East Bridgewater YMCA property for Field Day this June. More discussion will be held next month about antenna ideas, computers, etc. **Jim KC1JET** made a motion that a new clipboard be purchased for the meeting log. **John KB1SVY** seconded the motion and it was approved. **Bruce N1X** made a motion that the club purchase 2 admission/car passes for NEARFest for those that bring up the club items to be sold. **Al WA1ZKK** seconded the motion and it was approved. A club questionnaire was sent by section manager **Phil K9HI**. **Paul N1VTI** and **Paul KB1MTW** will work on filling it out. **Bruce N1X** and others decided that we are ready to resume Fox Hunts. The next hunt will be on Saturday, March 12th at 10 a.m. with **Roy KB1CYV** hiding in one of the Bridgewater towns. **Jeff N1ZZN** announced that Thursdays are "900 Day" to encourage those with 900 MHz radios to get on the air on any of the local REPEATERS.

NET CONTROLS: 3/6: **John KB1SVY**, 3/13: **Karen KB1UBX**, 3/20: **Bruce N1X**,
3/27: **Jeff N1SOM**, 4/3: **Mike KB1OEP**

CLOSE: President **Paul N1VTI** closed the business meeting at 7:25 p.m. on a motion by **John KB1PHN** seconded by **John WQ1L**. The motion was approved.

SHOW & TELL: **Paul N1VTI** showed off his new home-built antenna launching device. **John WQ1L** demonstrated his home-built simple 2 meter J-Pole antennas made out of common materials.

KIDS DAY

John Murphy KB1PHN reports: "On January 2, 2011 the ARRL held their annual Kids Day Event. My 12 year old nephew **Danny Murphy (SWL)** participated in this event as he has done the previous two years.

Danny only had one hour to spend with me but was able to make contact with 30 stations. He worked 20 different states and 3 DX entities. **Danny** used my Kenwood TS-520".

73 From: John KB1PHN



Danny Murphy (SWL)

6 – METER AM NET

Bob Callahan W1QWT reports: "Every Sunday at 5 p.m. local time we get on 50.4 MHz using amplitude modulation (AM). Some of the Whitman Club members checking in are **Jeff N1ZZN** and **Bruce K1CWS**. Some of the area HAMS checking in were Tom W1CC, **Kevin K1KOD** and **Karl NS1N**. If you're around on a Sunday - give it a try. **Jeff Lehmann N1ZZN** reports that he installed a 6-Meter 3-element beam at his home QTH

GENESIS CLUB 10-METER SSB NET

Jack Buckley W1AKN reports that the Genesis Club is holding a 10-Meter rag chew net on Friday nights at 8 p.m. on 28.485 MHz. Come join in. Technician Class operators have voice privileges on 10-Meters between 28.3 MHz and 28.5 MHz. All area HAMS are invited to join in.

TECHNICAL TOPICS -- PORTABLE J-POLE -- By: John Coombs WQ1L

John Coombs WQ1L was experimenting with several portable antennas while he was setting up and programming a mobile rig in the house. His goal was to make a portable J-Pole antenna out of readily available material. Another Go-Kit collapsible antenna.

Plan A: Antenna Number 1: The first antenna was just a vertical 19 inch length of wire stuck in the center of a 90 degree connector that was attached to the radio's PL-239 socket connector and a horizontal 19 inch length attached to the threaded portion of the radio's antenna connector.

Plan B: Antenna Number 2: **John WQ1L** made a J-Pole antenna out of solid 1/8 inch aluminum wire held in position with blocks of wood. This design is seen on the right, on the table. **John WQ1L** attached alligator clips to one end of a coax cable and slid the alligator clips up and down to get the lowest SWR at 147.225 MHz.

Plan C: Antenna Number 3: **John WQ1L** used a 4 inch square piece of 1/4 inch aluminum floor plate as a base and made the elements out of 1/4 inch threaded rod. The design is seen in the middle of the table and we followed up with a close up after the meeting.

The short stub was $(239 / \text{Freq.}) = (239 / 147.225) = 1.59 \text{ feet} \times 12 \text{ inches / ft} = 19 \text{ inches}$. The long stub was $(3 \times 19) = 57 \text{ inches}$ and can be cut into three sections with couplings for compact Go-Kit storage. The ends have threaded couplings for fine tuning the length. The spacing was 1-1/2 to 2.0 inches (not critical). **John WQ1L** had positioned two jam nuts at the location of the alligator clip attachment points.

Finally: **John WQ1L** found that, in his case, when operating at 4 watts or less, the RF from the indoor antenna did not interfere with televisions, radios and touch lamps and he could still reach the Whitman REPEATER from his home QTH in Marshfield.



John Coombs WQ1L presentation at the March meeting



close up of alligator clip attachment located just above pre-positioned jam nuts

NEXT FOX HUNT -- SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2011

The Fox will be hiding in one of the Bridgewater towns. The start time will be 10 a.m. and the Fox frequency is 146.535 MHz. The Fox Hunt will last until 12 noon or until all the Fox Hunters are in the Den. Coordination is on the Whitman REPEATER 147.225 MHz PL 67.

Let the Fox know who is out at the start of the Fox Hunt so that we do not close the Fox Hunt down before all the Fox Hunters are in the Den.

TECHNICAL TOPICS -- MODIFIED SPUD GUN -- By: Paul Burbine N1VTI

Paul Burbine N1VTI built a modified spud gun launcher out of PVC pipe that uses a tennis ball, operates using air pressure and is controlled by a ball valve.

The air chamber (white tube) is made of a 3 foot length of 3 inch, thick wall, PVC plumbing pipe rated 125 pounds pressure.

The launch tube barrel (painted blue) is made of a 1-1/2 foot length of 2-1/2 inch electrical PVC pipe, chosen because a tennis ball fits snug in the barrel.

Air is inserted through a bicycle / car tire air valve and the fittings incorporate a pressure gauge. Typical pressure is 30 – 60 psi. The trigger is controlled by a 1/2 inch water pipe ball valve.

A fishing reel is attached to the launcher and is loaded with 20 pound fishing line. The tennis ball is filled with expandable foam and a stainless steel fishing leader line is attached to the tennis ball and the fishing line is attached to the leader line.

Air can be supplied in the field by a bicycle pump.

Close up photo's by Paul N1VTI. Contact Paul N1VTI for more details.



Air valve and guage



Paul Burbine N1VTI at the March meeting



Firing - control valve

AMATEUR RADIO RELAY LEAGUE (ARRL) UPDATE:

The ARRL is lobbying against HR-607 - the Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011 - a proposal that would allocate a portion of the 700 MHz band just vacated by analog television, to Public Safety use. To offset the lost sale of the 700 MHz portion - this bill listed the amateur radio frequencies 420-440 MHz, among other bands, to be reallocated for commercial use – to make up for the loss in revenue.

While the ARRL supports the creation of a dedicated spectrum for Public Service use - the ARRL will oppose this legislation because of the inclusion of the amateur radio portion (420-440 MHz) as part of the spectrum to be swapped and auctioned to commercial users.

The Whitman Club is one of 37 ARRL Affiliated Clubs in Southeastern Massachusetts and **Phil Temples K9HI**, our ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager, urges your support of the ARRL and their efforts to represent the amateur radio community. In this case - the post <http://ema.arrl.org/node/1828> describes how to automatically generate a letter to the appropriate House Representative. - **Phil K9HI** reports that he used it and it works great!

To learn more see: <http://www.arrl.org> and click on "Regulatory & Advocacy" or click on "Membership" and then "Join ARRL". For local updates see: <http://ema.arrl.org>



Phil Temples K9HI

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH RADIOGRAM TRAINING

All area towns are encouraged to participate in First Monday of the Month RADIOGRAM Training conducted by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) through its headquarters in Framingham and the three MEMA Region offices. Region II covers Southeastern Massachusetts and is located in the “bunker” on the State Prison facilities property in Bridgewater. There are additional Hurricane Drills and Plymouth Evacuation Drills conducted by MEMA throughout the year.

Volunteering at MEMA Region II headquarters were **Mike Leger N1YLQ** Acting Region II Radio Officer, **Bruce Hayden NI1X** also representing Taunton and **John Miller N1UMJ**.



John Miller N1UMJ



Bruce Hayden NI1X

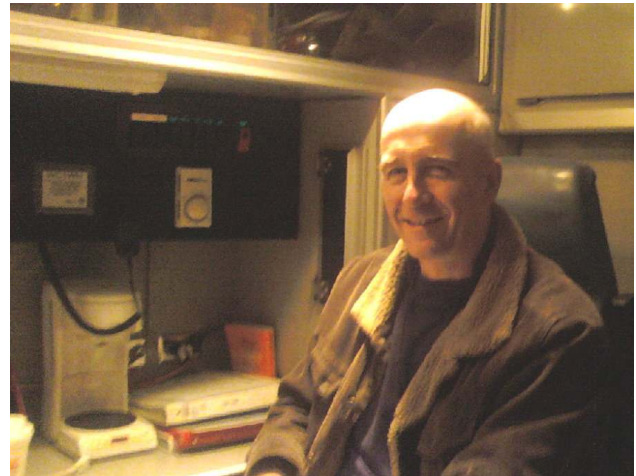


Mike Leger N1YLQ

Volunteering at Whitman and operating out of the CERT Mobile were **Mike Supple KB1OEP**, **John Duprey KB1SVY** and **Michelle Duprey SWL**



John Duprey KB1SVY
Michelle Duprey SWL



Mike Supple KB1OEP

Volunteering at Pembroke was **Jim Madden KB1PFL** with area HAM **Dave Spalding N1LUM**. Volunteering for Carver was **Loren Pimentel N1IQI** but he reported radio problems receiving the messages this month for some unknown reason.

Two messages were sent to all local Emergency Management Agency Directors with the expectation that the messages will be delivered within 24 hours by the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) HAM radio volunteers representing the towns. The next RADIOGRAM Training will be held on April 4th and all are welcome to join the team at the Whitman Emergency Operations Center (Central Fire Station) to learn more about this program. Contact **Paul Moss KB1MTW** or **Mike Supple KB1SVY** to make arrangements. You can also tune in at 8 p.m. on the Norwell REPEATER 145.250 PL 77 and copy along.

STRAIGHT KEY CENTURY CLUB -- CERTIFICATE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

MORSE CODE IS ALIVE AND WELL AT THE WHITMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

John Murphy KB1PHN participated in a CW event in January.

John KB1PHN reports "The Straight Key Century Club had their 5th annual K3Y event. This ran the entire month of January. The objective is to make contact with all 10 regional call areas. Each area had volunteer operators using the **K3Y/(0-9)** call sign. The exchange was RST, name, state, and SKCC number. A total of 2738 hams participated in this event. 314 hams made the sweep of all 10 regions.

I took part in this challenge and completed the sweep on the last day of January. I also made contact with the Alaskan station **K3Y/KL7** to get the Alaskan Endorsement. **K3Y/KH6** was the Hawaiian Endorsement but I was unable to hear him. I received a nice certificate for this accomplishment".



73 From: John KB1PHN

GENESIS CW TRAINING NET

Jack Buckley W1AKN reports that the Genesis Club is running a Morse Code CW training Net on Thursday and Sunday nights at 7 p.m. on the Plymouth REPEATER 146.685 MHz PL 82.5 Letters are sent at 20 words per minute and spacing is at about 8 words per minute – the "Farnsworth method".

ANTENNA PARTY

Richard Metcalf KB1TEH helped "**The Bruce**" **NI1X** replaced a broken Cushcraft R-8 with the old reliable R-5.

The double lined mast on the Cushcraft R-8 bent during the first blizzard and broke during the second blizzard. 90 percent cracked and 10 percent tear. The fracture was right at the drill hole for the black box mounting bracket. **The Bruce's NI1X** previous R-7 broke in a similar fashion.



Richard Metcalf
KB1TEH

FOX HUNT -- SATURDAY -- MARCH 12, 2011

Roy Logan KB1CYV volunteered to be the Fox and was hiding behind Ocean State Job Lot on Rt. 18 in East Bridgewater, MA. The weather was beautiful – a great day for a Fox Hunt – the sounds of a train was heard in the background – we would expect nothing less from **Roy KB1CYV**.



Shown standing L. to r. are **Bruce Hayden N11X**, **Dino Casieri KB1RXQ**, **Joe Casieri KA1JBE**, **Laura Valler KB1UTA**, **Stan Rydell KB1VGN**, **Judy Attaya-Harris KB1SRO**, **John Wittey N1PRK**, **Wayne Galvin N1MAG**, **Richard Metcalf KB1TEH** and **Roy Logan KB1CYV**. Shown kneeling in front L. to R. are **Jeff Lehmann N1ZZN** and **Anthony Attaya-Harris KB1UHV**. Not present when the group picture was taken was **Dave Spalding N1LUM**.



Dave Spalding N1LUM

First place goes to the team of **Jeff N1ZZN** and **Stan KB1VGN** who started in front of the Ocean State Job Lot and found the Fox in 11 minutes. Second place goes to the team of **Joe KA1JBE**, **Dino KB1RXQ** and **Laura KB1UTA** in 33 minutes.



Anthony KB1UHV
and Judy KB1SRO

Third place goes to the team of **The Bruce N11X**, **Anthony KB1UHV** and **Judy KB1SRO** who started at the St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Bridgewater with **The Bruce N11X** pointing North and **Anthony KB1UHV** pointing East. The Fox was actually North – East of this location – right down the middle between the two initial directions.

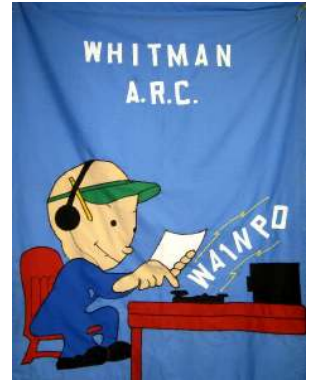
Fourth place goes to the team of **Richard KB1TEH** and **John N1PRK** in 1 hour and 19 minutes. Fifth place goes to **Wayne N1MAG** in 1 hour and 37 minutes. **Wayne N1MAG** had a late start and actually found the Fox in record time. Making the top teams possible was **Dave N1LUM** in 2 hours and 13 minutes – not bad for a first time Fox Hunter.

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. We need your updates for the newsletter.

As part of our training, we encourage everyone to practice sending routine RADIOGRAM messages. Make up a National Traffic System (NTS) traffic message and send it to a friend. You can find an explanation of the RADIOGRAM format at http://www.ncarrl.org/nets/mes_form.html

We also encourage everyone to try your hand at Net Control. Contact **Bill N1FRE** or **Bruce N1IX** for a Net Control handout.



Sending N1IX an update

In February we had 4 sessions with an average of 20 area HAMS checking in each week and 7 messages were sent. In March, **Juergen DL1NBR** checked in from Germany via EchoLink and **Chin 9M2CW** checked in from West Malaysia via EchoLink. After the NET, **Steve W1WSN** checked in from Orlando, Florida via EchoLink.

EAGLE COURT OF HONOR

Whitman Club member **Dan Noyes KB1OAY** became an Eagle Scout in February. Congratulations **Dan KB1OAY**.

EXTRA in YOUR **Enterprise**

**THRIFTY, BRAVE,
CLEAN AND REVERENT**

Daniel Noyes, left in photo above, of Stoughton, celebrated earning the rank of Eagle Scout on Saturday. For his service project, he

led volunteers in installing 70 garden boxes at Stoughton's veterans memorial squares. In the process, he came across some interesting stories of local military men and women, according to his father. More on those in the coming days. ...

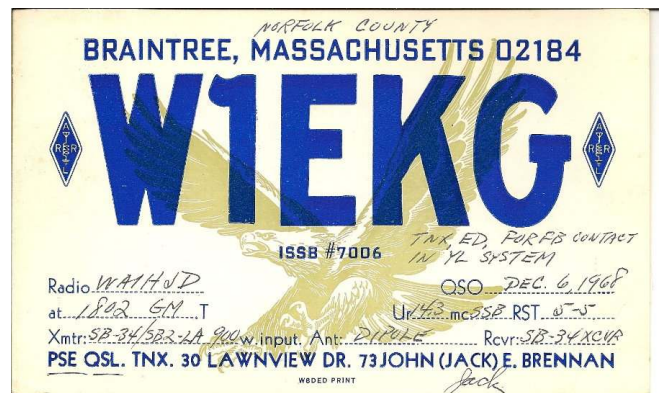


Dan Noyes KB1OAY

QSL CARD OF THE MONTH

Ross Hochstrasser W1EKG received this old post card QSL card dated 1968 when the call sign **W1EKG** was assigned to **Jack Brennan** of Braintree. Compliments of **Walter Fitzgerald W1WCF**.

Ross W1EKG reported that when he was looking for a vanity call sign – his son suggested he apply for the letters on his license plate, which is 328 EKG and that he has had for over 25 years.



UPDATE ON YOUTH ACTIVITIES By: Jeremy Breef-Pilz KB1REQ

Since I was appointed the ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Assistant Section Manager for Youth Activities by **Phil Temples K9HI**, the ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager, I have been reaching out to the youth in the area to find out what their interests are.

The following is an article I wrote about the fun and challenge of Fox Hunting. Please share this article with young and old alike.



Jeremy Breef-Pilz
KB1REQ

Hunting Foxes on the Air

As record amounts of snow fall here in New England I enjoy the time to operate HF DX and contesting, but I am always looking forward to the warm weather radio activities that lie ahead. One of the activities that I look forward to is amateur radio direction finding, more commonly known as Fox Hunting. The core idea of Fox Hunting is to locate a hidden transmitter by tracking its radio waves. The rules can vary greatly depending on the style of hunt the participants want. Some of the most challenging (a.k.a. fun) hunts forget the rules and let 'the Fox' make all the decisions.

The type of hunt that I am most experienced with involves 'the Fox' being a stationary person hidden in one of a handful of preselected towns or in a seven to ten mile radius of a well known landmark. The participants use their cars to move around and it is designed to last no more than two hours. One thing I have found, as a participant in these Fox Hunts, is that it really draws many younger HAMS like me, and it is no wonder since Fox Hunting, on top of being fun, is a fantastic hands-on learning experience.

Fox Hunting as an Introduction to Amateur Radio

We all get introduced to amateur radio in different ways, it can be from a friend, a family member or on our own, but Fox Hunting is one of the most engaging ways to introduce someone to our hobby. The reason is that the entire activity is receiving. Someone can fully participate in a hunt without having their amateur radio license. This allows you to share true HAM radio fun with someone who is studying for their license, or just interested in radio, even an unlicensed parent! Fox Hunting can provide genuine exposure to many aspects of amateur radio, including mobile and portable operating, vhf propagation, and antenna design, all without passing a licensing exam.

Photo 1: **Riley Burke SWL** and **Noah Burke SWL** brave the elements for a Fox Hunt. They use a tape measure, built by their father, to track down the origins of 'the Fox's' signal.

Photo Courtesy of **Don Burke KB1LXH**.



Riley & Noah Burke – The Fox Hunters

Hunting Foxes on the Air Cont: - By: Jeremy Breef-Pilz KB1REQ

A Team Sport

You might be led to believe that in a mobile Fox Hunt we younger HAMs would be at a disadvantage since we have neither a car or drivers license. The truth is, however, quite the opposite: a team of hunters is often in a better position to find 'the Fox' first. The need for a driver to accompany us is an advantage since it allows us to simply get out, find the direction of the signal and get back on the road to find the Fox. Multiple hunters can also help find 'the Fox' faster, especially if they are using different types of directional antennas. The team aspect of a Fox Hunt is enhanced by the lack of requirement for a license that controls other amateur radio activities. Your friends can be invited as extra hunters to help you track the Fox and the driver too, can be anyone who is interested in trying out fox hunting, again, unlicensed parent. (If you can't tell by now, none of my family members are radio amateurs.)

Antennas 101

While any good receiver that can tune your 'Fox frequency' and has an s-meter will serve you well for a Fox Hunt, the antenna is the most important part of your Fox hunting gear. When I started participating, I, like most Technicians, had a 2-Meter HT but no directional antenna. As a result, I learned about what makes an antenna directional and the many types of these antennas that exist, by building one myself. I found that it is one thing to read about or even see a Yagi or Moxon antenna, but quite another to build your own and find for yourself which sides have gain and which have nulls. Building antennas for fox hunting is a great way to build antennas on a manageable scale, which conform to the same principals as large HF arrays. These antennas do not have to be expensive or complicated either. One of the most popular and effective antennas for Fox Hunting is a three element Yagi, with a boom made from PVC pipe and elements made from a tape measure.

Photo 2: The author operating as 'the Fox'. Note the alternate antenna position, an omnidirectional radiation pattern is not always the best for a Fox that wishes to remain hidden.

Photo courtesy of **Bruce Hayden NI1X**



Learn Important Skills

Using a 2-Meter repeater is a very reliable way to communicate, the signal strength remains the same and you can hear the other station the whole time. Fox Hunting introduces an entirely different dimension to VHF FM. Fox Hunts are conducted in simplex, where no repeater is involved and usually a low-profile station, such as a mobile or HT, acts as 'the Fox'. This means that the signal will be generally weak even from a few miles away. Using a directional antenna can help you hear these weaker signals, but as a result, unlike most HT antennas, the signal can fade from full quieting to no signal in a few degrees of change. You also have to take into account your surroundings, VHF is line-of-sight propagation than can be affected by large buildings, hills and even dense forest. Having to consider the path of the signal and what is affecting it while competing to find 'the Fox' makes the principles of radio wave propagation seem more real than simply reading about them. Radio direction finding itself is a very useful skill, and can be useful in many ways from finding an interference source on a local repeater to locating the emergency beacon of a downed aircraft.

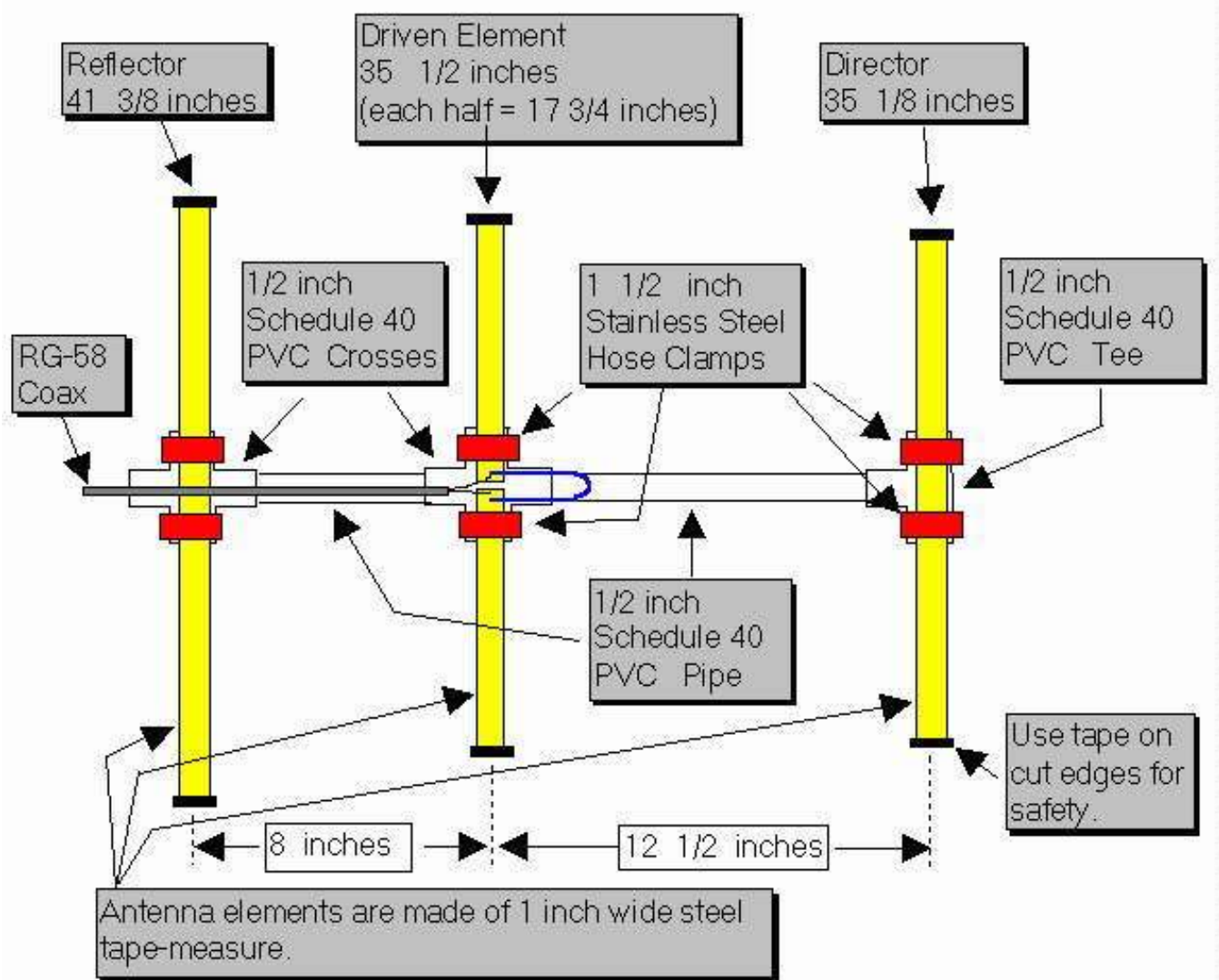
Jeremy KB1REQ – The Fox

Hunting Foxes on the Air Cont: By: Jeremy Breef-Pilz KB1REQ

A Social Gathering

It would be untrue for me to claim that everything I have stated in this article was learned by simply participating in Fox Hunts. As a matter of fact most was learned after the hunt. The gathering in the 'Fox's den' after the hunt is the best way to learn tips, tricks, and techniques for Fox Hunting. Successful hunters are proud to show off their antennas and suggest ways to improve yours. Everyone shares how they found the Fox, what threw them off and what drew them in to 'the den'. This is a great time to socialize and learn about all aspects of the hobby and it is a fun way to end a good Fox Hunt.

Fox Hunting is an activity that I enjoy within our great hobby and so do many other HAMS regardless of age. Fox Hunts can be held anywhere and in any climate, all that you need is a group willing to give Fox Hunting a try. I hope you can give it a try and have some fun for yourself.



A Tape Measure Beam antenna, this antenna is perfect for Fox Hunting and can be built out of accessible materials on a modest budget. <http://www.w1gz.org/Tape%20Measure%20Ant.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS -- MARK YOUR CALENDAR

3 April - FRAMINGHAM FLEA MARKET: Sunday, April 3, 2011 at the Keefe Technical School in Framingham. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. for buyers and sellers. Admission for buyers: \$5 (under-12 free with adult). The grand prize will be a new 2-Meter / 440 HT. For more info, visit <<http://www.fara.org/flea>>.

6 April - Next VE session at K1USN will be held on Saturday, April 9 @ 8:30. Contact Bill, K1WN (k1wn@aol.com) if you plan to take an exam.

16 April - ANTIQUE RADIO SWAP MEET: New England Antique Radio Club - Manchester Bingo Center - 165 John Devine Drive, Manchester, NH. 7:30-8:30 a.m. \$10.00 during dealer setup. 8:30 to 10 a.m. \$3.00 regular admission. 10 a.m. to 12 noon – Free admission

17 April - FLEA at MIT: Cambridge, MA. Third Sunday - April thru October.

18 April – BOSTON MARATHON: Sign up now to volunteer your help in providing communication support for this event. To sign up go to: <http://marc.mmra.org>

29 April & 30th – NEAR-Fest IX Deerfield Fairgrounds - Deerfield, NH. **Ross W1EKG** has some tickets for sale. Plans are being made to set up a Whitman Club vendor table. More details at the April meeting.

MAY 2ND HURRICANE AWARENESS TOUR: Plan to see the P3 Orion “Hurricane Hunter” aircraft at Otis Air Force Base on Cape Cod with the crew from the Hurricane Hunter aircraft and staff from the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida. More details in next months newsletter.

MAY 16TH SKYWARN TRAINING – MORTON HOSPITAL, TAUNTON, MA.

Monday, May 16, 2011: 7-10 p.m. - Morton Hospital and Medical Center - Margaret Stone Conference Room - 88 Washington Street – Taunton, Mass. Taught by Amateur Radio Coordinators. Pre-registration required. RSVP via **Rob Macedo-KD1CY** at email at rmacedo@rcn.com

JUNE 4TH SKYWARN TRAINING – BROCKTON V. A. MEDICAL CENTER

Saturday, June 4, 2011: 1-4 p.m. - Brockton VA Medical Center - Building 22 - Training Rooms 2 and 3 - located at 940 Belmont Street in Brockton, Mass. Taught by National Weather Service Forecasters. No pre-registration required.

SCUTTLEBUTT -- SCUTTLEBUTT -- SCUTTLEBUTT

Ross Hochstrasser W1EKG reports “ My delta loop is back up in the air and I am back on the air with 100 watts on AM on 75-Meters”.

Jim O'Rourke WG1L reports: “ My delta loop is back up and I am back on 40 & 80-Meters with scheduled contacts with friends”.

Loren Pimentel N1IQI reports he passed 1400 RADIOGRAM messages in February.

John O'Neill KB1QEM has set up a new packet station and **Paul Moss KB1MTW** is setting up a packet station.

Karen Trask KB1UBX, Stan Rydell KB1VGN and Joe Casieri KA1JBE have all picked up one of the Chinese dual band handheld radios that sell for about \$100.00.

Ralph Lanzetta WA1TSL reported in from the top of Blue Hill while hiking.



WHITMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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



Post Office Box 48
Whitman, MA 02382

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 p.m.
Whitman Public Library

CLUB OFFICERS

President	Paul Burbine	N1VTI
V. President	Paul Moss	KB1MTW
Secretary	Jeff Lehmann	N1ZZN
Treasurer	Jeff Tracy	N1SOM
Director 2011	Roy Logan	KB1CYV
Director 2012	Barbara Rice	K1MRH
Director 2013	John Murphy	KB1PHN
Director Past Pres.	Bruce Hayden	NI1X

Editor: Bruce NI1X

E-mail articles to: ni1x@arrl.net

Web Master: Jeff N1ZZN

Web Site: <http://www.wainpo.org>

Club REPEATER 147.225 MHz PL 67

Club IRLP Node 8691

Club EchoLink WA1NPO-R Whitman MA USA -- Club EchoLink Node 484193

*Whitman Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
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