



The Whitman Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

April 2011

SPECTRUM



The Voice of the Humble Electron

Founded 1962

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: This is **Paul N1VTI** - I volunteered at a V-E session in April in Braintree and I will be helping to set up a Club vendor table at NEARFest where I hope to have an eye ball to eye ball QSO with many of you. Congratulations to **John Ruppel W1JGR** who upgraded to General Class in March.



Paul Burbine
N1VTI

HAVING FUN: **Bruce Hayden N1IX** volunteered to be the Fox on Saturday, March 26th and reported 15 Fox Hunters participating. On April 9th **Richard Metcalf KB1TEH** volunteered to be the Fox and reported 10 Fox Hunters participating. On April 16th **Joe Casieri KA1JBE** volunteered to be the Fox and reported 10 Fox Hunters participating. **Bruce N1IX** reported at least 11 Whitman Club members were seen at the Framingham Flea Market on April 3rd. **Bruce Hayden N1IX** and **Richard Metcalf KB1TEH** reported they participated in a Barnstable Amateur Radio Club Fox Hunt on the Cape. **Ross Hochstrasser W1EKG** participated in an Antique Radio Flea Market in Manchester, NH.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Participating in First Monday of the Month RADIOGRAM training were **Bruce Hayden N1IX**, **Bill Hayden N1FRE**, **Mike Supple KB1OEP**, **Paul Moss KB1MTW**, **Jim Madden KB1PFL**, **Loren Pimentel N1IQI**, **John O'Neill KB1QEM** and **Jim O'Rourke WG1L**. **John O'Neill KB1QEM**, **Jeremy Breef-Pilz KB1REQ** and **Jim Tynan KC1JET** helped provide communication support at the Boston Marathon.

Come to the next meeting and help plan for our local Flea Market and Field Day 2011. Let me know if you have any projects that you would be willing to bring in for a Show and Tell presentation.

73 From Paul N1VTI



APRIL MEETING PRESENTATION BY John Frye N1OTY

At the April meeting it was a full house as the Whitman Club members and guests heard **John Frye N1OTY** talk about the digital mode of 2-Meter VHF communication and the ICOM Digital Advanced System (**IDAS**) REPEATERS that are being installed in this area.

SECRETARY'S NOTES OF THE MEETING OF April 6, 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.

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



Jeff Lehmann
N1ZZN

K1MRH	Barbara Rice	KB1UHV	Anthony Attaya-Harris (Guest)		
K1REL	Bob Loring	KB1SRO	Judy Attaya-Harris (Guest)		
K1XRB	Peter George	N1OTY	John Frye (guest speaker)		
KA1JBE	Joe Casieri	WA1ZJE	Bob Feltmate (guest)		
KA1KIJ	Bob Azanow	W1EKG	Ross Hochstrasser		
KB1CYV	Roy Logan	N1LWK	Ken Desruisseau		
KB1MTW	Paul Moss	KB1TEH	Richard Metcalf		
KB1OEP	Mike Supple	KB1OEQ	Ron Stundze		
KB1PFL	Jim Madden	KB1PHN	John Murphy	KB1QEM	John O'Neill
KB1QKV	Mike Anderson	KB1QMX	Dave Beauvais	KB1RXQ	Dino Casieri
KB1SVY	John Duprey	KB1UBX	Karen Trask	KB1UTA	Laura Valler
KB1VGN	Stan Rydell	KC1JET	Jim Tynan	N1AMX	Tony Carlozzi
N1COP	Bob Woodbury	N1FRE	Bill Hayden	SWL	Susan Carlozzi
N1IQI	Loren Pimentel	N1LQK	Dave Kaplan	N1OYH	Carl Davis
N1PRK	John Wittey	N1SOM	Jeff Tracy	N1SON	Bill Tracy
N1VTI	Paul Burbine	N1ZZN	Jeff Lehmann	N1IX	Bruce Hayden
W1AXB	Matt Paine	W1AY	Brad Wilson	W1JGR	John Ruppel
W1JT	Jim Tovet	W1RQW	Irving Spector	WA1UMT	Dave Darois
WA1YKF	Warren Dickie	KB1ODS	John Chase	WA1ZKK	Al Craddock

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report for March was read by **Jeff N1SOM**. **Bruce N1IX** made a motion seconded by **Jim KC1JET** that the treasurer's report be accepted as read. The motion was approved.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: A motion was made by **Jim KC1JET** seconded by **Barbara K1MRH** that the March secretary's report be accepted as published in the newsletter. The motion was approved.

HEALTH & WELFARE: **Barbara K1MRH** reported that cards were sent to **Jim KC1JET** who is recovering from carpal tunnel surgery, and **Pete N1POO** who is recovering from a fractured arm.

OLD BUSINESS: **Ross W1EKG** reported that we are still on for the spring flea market at the current Saftler's flea market location. **Paul KB1MTW** reported that he has confirmed the use of the East Bridgewater YMCA location for Field Day. A committee was formed for antennas and planning for field day, including **N1VTI**, **N1ZZN**, **KA1JBE**, **KB1RXQ**, **KB1SVY**, and **KB1PFL**. **Karen KB1UBX** volunteered to be in charge of the food at field day, and is looking for suggestions for some variety this year including healthier options. **Bruce N1IX** made a motion that \$300 be appropriated for food at field day, **Jim KC1JET** seconded the motion, and it was approved. **Bruce N1IX** reported that he will once again apply for the **W1N** call sign for use at Field Day. **Jeff N1ZZN** and **John KB1QEM** will work on networking the computer logs with our WriteLog software.

NEW BUSINESS: **Paul KB1MTW** reported that there will be a conflict at the library on the first Wednesday in June. He is exploring the use of the hall at the Whitman United Methodist Church for the meeting instead.

SECRETARY'S NOTES OF THE MEETING OF April 6, 2011 Cont: de N1ZZN

NEW BUSINESS Cont: Jim **KC1JET** reported that the **K1ZZN** group in Fall River operated a special event for baseball opening day at McCoy Stadium in Pawtucket, RI using the call sign **N1B**. Volunteers are needed for the Run Of The Charles on April 30th. The Hurricane Hunter plane will be on display at the Otis AFB on May 1st from 2:30- 5 PM. **Jeff N1SOM** brought up that it is time for our donation to the Whitman Hanson Regional High School Dollars for Scholars program again. **Bruce NI1X** made a motion that \$400 be given as in years past. **Stan KB1VGN** seconded the motion and it was approved.

NOMINATIONS: Here are the nominations we received for Officers for the upcoming year. President: **John KB1SVY**, and **Paul N1VTI**, Vice President: **Paul KB1MTW**, Treasurer: **Jeff N1SOM**, Board of Directors: **Jim KC1JET**, and **Roy KB1CYV**

NET CONTROLS: 4/10: **Bill N1FRE**, 4/17: **Roy KB1CYV**, 4/24: **Bruce NI1X**,
5/1: **Karen KB1UBX**

CLOSE: President **Paul N1VTI** closed the business meeting at 7:05 p.m. on a motion by **John KB1PHN** seconded by **John WQ1L**. The motion was approved.

GUEST SPEAKER: **John Frye N1OTY** gave a power point presentation on the ICOM IDAS / Kenwood NEXEDGE digital system, originally meant for commercial radio uses, but now being used by HAMs in the area.

FIELD DAY 2011

CALLING ALL COOKS AND CHEFS

Hi all – This is **Karen KB1UBX** - Mark your calendar – Field Day is June 25 & 26, 2011 and the location will be on the East Bridgewater YMCA property on Rt. 106.

“Calling all HAM Radio cooks and chefs. Do you have a killer side dish or dessert that people love for you to bring to those summer cookouts? How about sharing that dish with the Club members at this years Field Day 2011 Special Event ??

Can't deliver, no problem - we can arrange pick up. Can't cook, no problem - you can volunteer for the pick up crew.

Any assistance from members of last years crew will be greatly appreciated (**Bruce NI1X** sent me your pictures so don't be shy:) I had a great time last year and hope to see lots of folks again this year”.

See me at the May and June meeting – or better yet.- drop me an E-Mail at traskk@mac.com to volunteer your help.



www.arrl.org



Karen Trask
KB1UBX

DIGITAL MODE OF VHF OPERATION By: John Frye N1OTY

John Frye N1OTY – Secretary of the Pilgrim Wireless Association – an Amateur Radio Club in Taunton – gave a presentation at the Whitman Club April meeting on the digital mode of VHF operation. In this mode, your voice is translated into a narrow band digital format that allows REPEATERS to be spaced closer together. The system also has better weak signal voice quality. Digital radios are programmed through a computer and **John N1OTY** said he is always ready to lend a helping hand.



John Frye N1OTY
guest speaker

FIRST GENERATION: **John Frye N1OTY** explained that digital VHF communication has been around for 10 years. The first system was developed in Japan and was called D-Star (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio. ICOM was the first and only manufacturer to offer D-Star compatible radios. The radios are considerably more expensive. There is only one D-Star REPEATER in this area and it is located in the Fall River area.

SECOND GENERATION: **John N1OTY** explained that the second generation digital VHF communication system was developed by ICOM and is called ICOM Digital Advanced System (IDAS). This mode is supported by both ICOM and Kenwood and both the mobile and handheld VHF rigs cost about \$450.00 each.

REPEATERS: **John N1OTY** reports there are four IDAS digital REPEATERS under development in this area. There are plans in the works to link the Taunton, Swansea, and Plymouth REPEATERS together.

- Taunton 145.280 MHz - Digital only - owned by **David Rezendes KA1DTA**.
- Swansea 145.320 MHz - Digital only - owed by **Jim Tynan KC1JET**.
- Plymouth 147.315 MHz - mixed mode – FM and Digital – owned by **Kenny Campbell Jr. WG1U**.
- Norwell 145.250 MHz - mixed mode – FM and Digital – owned by **Steve Johnson KC1HO**

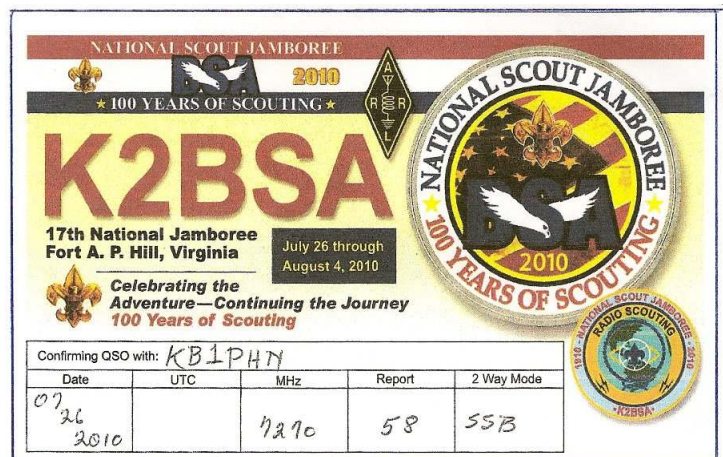
The 2-Meter VHF digital radios available are: The mobile is the ICOM 5061. The handheld is the ICOM 3061 and the Kenwood NX-200 and NX-210. For more info contact **John N1OTY** at n1oty@comcast.net

QSL CARD OF THE MONTH

John Murphy KB1PHN made contact with the Boy Scout Special Event station set up at the 17th National Jamboree that was held at Ft. A. P. Hill in Virginia last July and just received the QSL card shown here.

Paul Moss KB1MTW attended the Jamboree as a volunteer Scout leader.

How are you doing at making your one contact a day ??



FOX HUNT -- SATURDAY MARCH 26, 2011 By: "The Bruce" NI1X

The Bruce NI1X volunteered to be the Fox on Saturday, March 26, 2011 and was hiding in West Bridgewater just off West Center Street (Rt. 106) in the Hockomock Swamp Wildlife Management Area parking lot beside the Hockomock River, close to the Easton line. The temperature was 28 degrees and the sun was out. A beautiful day for a Fox Hunt. There were 15 Fox Hunters participating.



Bruce Hayden NI1X	Richard Metcalf KB1TEH	Stan Rydell KB1VGN
Jim Madden KB1PFL	John Wittey N1PRK	Laura Valler KB1UTA
Dave Spalding N1LUM	Walter Fitzgerald W1WCF	Joe Casieri KA1JBE
Judy Attaya-Harris KB1SRO	Roy Logan KB1CYV	Dino Casieri KB1RXQ
Anthony Attaya-Harris KB1UHV	Sly the Fox	

First place goes to the team of **Richard KB1TEH** and **John N1PRK** in a time of 50 minutes.

Second place goes to one of our stealth Fox Hunters **Walter W1WCF** in 56 minutes.

Third place goes to the team of **Joe KA1JBE**, **Dino KB1RXQ** and **Laura KB1UTA** in a time of 1 hour and 5 minutes.

Fourth place goes to another stealth team consisting of **Wade KB1TXH** and his 2 ¾ year old son **Grant SWL** who came in right behind **Joe's KA1JBE** team.

Fifth place goes to the team of **Roy KB1CYV**, **Stan KB1VGN**, **Judy KB1SRO** and **Anthony KB1UHV** in a time of 1 hour and 36 minutes.

Sixth place goes to the team of **Jim KB1PFL** and **Dave N1LUM** in a time of 1 hour and 58 minutes.



Sly the Fox
Grant Morse SWL
Wade Morse KB1TXH

FOX HUNT -- SATURDAY MARCH 26, 2011 Cont: - By: "The Bruce" NI1X



Jim Madden KB1PFL



Bruce Hayden NI1X – The Fox for the day

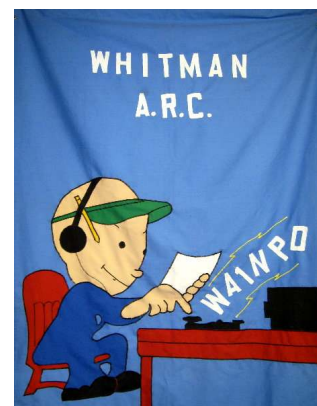
The **Bruce NI1X** was the Fox and positioned the antenna horizontal on the car door facing west - away from the direction the Fox Hunters were coming from. It took the first Fox Hunters 50 minutes to find the Fox – great hunt. **Jim Madden KB1PFL** was experimenting with a piece of military equipment, connected to his handheld, that had a directional loop antenna and built in attenuator.

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. We also encourage everyone to try your hand at Net Control. Contact **Bill N1FRE** or **Bruce NI1X** for a Net Control handout.

In March we had 4 sessions with an average of 20 area HAMS checking in each week and 8 messages were sent. Checking in via EchoLink were **Chin 9M2CW** from West Malaysia and **Juergen DL1NBR** from Germany.



Sending NI1X update

After the Net, **Kevin O'Donnell K1KOD** checked in via EchoLink from a Norwegian Cruise Line Ship leaving Miami, Fl.

THE NEW ENGLAND AMATEUR RADIO FESTIVAL (NEAR-Fest IX)

April 29th and 30th NEAR-Fest – The Northeast's largest and best HAMFEST. Gates open at 9 a.m. Admission \$10.00 per person and \$10.00 per vehicle inside. Free parking outside. See Web site at www.near-fest.com The Deerfield Fair grounds is located on Rt. 43 approximately 15 miles northeast of Manchester, NH. Follow Rt. 93 north and take Rt. 101 East to Exit 3 and follow Rt. 43 north to the fairgrounds.

The Whitman Club will be setting up a vendor table. Contact **Paul Burbine N1VTI** or **Paul Moss KB1MTW** for details on how you can help out.

FRAMINGHAM FLEA MARKET -- Sunday, April 3, 2011 By: "The Bruce" N11X

The Framingham Flea Market, sponsored by the Framingham Amateur Radio Club, had a good turnout and the Flea Market gave us a chance to meet some of the area HAMS that we have been talking to over the airwaves.

Quicksilver Radio was set up selling their parts and accessories. See their Web site at www.qsradio.com We met **Bob Feltmate WA1ZJE** of Norton, who was selling custom made antenna mounting bracket and sidearm antenna mounts for towers. See www.wa1zje.net

We may have missed a few - but - the Whitman Club members who ventured out to check out the Flea Market were:

KB1QEM John O'Neill
N11X Bruce Hayden
KC1JET Jim Tynan
W1ICU Tom Wilson

WQ1L John Coombs
KA1KIJ Bob Azanow
NM1F Jim Ford
KB1REQ Jeremy Breef-Pilz

N1ZZN Jeff Lehmann
KB1PHN John Murphy
WA1YKF Warren Dickie



Jim Ford NM1F & his daughter Emily SWL at their vendor table



John Murphy KB1PHN
John Coombs WQ1L



Bruce Hayden N11X
Bob Azanow KA1KIJ



Jeremy Breef-Pilz KB1REQ
Jeff Lehmann N1ZZN

Jeff Lehmann N1ZZN picked up a 440 MHz beam antenna for one of his REPEATER linking projects. **Jeff N1ZZN** reports that he is helping his friend **Jed Barton N1JBC** link the 220 / 440 MHz REPEATER in Newport, RI with the 220 / 440 MHz REPEATER in North Providence. Another 220 MHz REPEATER is being set up in Coventry, RI.

Bob Azanow KA1KIJ reports that he is setting up 10-Meter transceiver in his vehicle.

FRAMINGHAM FLEA MARKET -- The Lucky Ones

Two of the lucky winners of the door prizes were **Tom Wilson W1ICU** who won a \$25.00 gift certificate to the ARRL store and to **Jim Tynan KC1JET** who won a \$50.00 gift certificate to the ARRL store.



Warren Dickie WA1YKF and
Tom Wilson W1ICU - \$25.00 Gift certificate



Jim Tynan KC1JET
with his \$50.00 Gift certificate

South Shore Hospital Amateur Radio Club Update By: John O'Neill KB1QEM

South Shore Hospital Solves 2-Meter Reception Problem.

South Shore Hospital conducted a 2-Meter simplex range test the beginning of this year and found that the hospital's paging system was causing reception problems. The signal reception from remote stations was greatly reduced, and in some instances totally blocked every time the hospital's paging system would transmit. The paging system was overloading the receiver of the hospital's 2m / 70cm radio. A filter was borrowed that was tuned to block the paging frequency and a test was conducted with the filter in place. The problem was eliminated and remote signal reception was greatly improved. The hospital was able to communicate perfectly on simplex with mobile stations in Plymouth, Norwood, on the North Shore, Cape Cod, all the way down into Taunton.



John O'Neill KB1QEM

The filter was manufactured by PAR Electronics of Greenville NC. I immediately contacted Dale @ PAR Electronics and discussed the problem and how his filter had completely remedied it to my amazement. I ordered a VHF DN 152 filter and supplied Dale with the paging frequency we needed to eliminate. **Dale** made up a filter for us in pretty short order considering how busy they are. They also have a commercial line of products and after this antenna battering winter you can imagine they are quite busy.

The notch filter is small (2½ X 1 X 2) and lightweight. It easily attaches to the rear of the hospital's 2m / 70cm radio. Since it is a notch filter, only the paging frequency is affected. It doesn't interfere with normal 2m / 70cm operation, NOAA weather, or public safety frequency reception.

Par Electronics manufactures a number of different filters for both 2m and 70cm. I'm giving serious consideration to purchasing one for my QTH to remedy a similar problem.



notch filter

73's From: John KB1QEM

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH RADIOGRAM TRAINING By: Bruce N11X

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) runs monthly RADIOGRAM Training Nets, annual Hurricane Drills, Plymouth Evacuation Drills and other Simulated Emergency Tests (SET) throughout the year to prepare for activation in case of an emergency. MEMA activations have occurred during major snow storms, ice storms, blizzards, hurricanes, tornados, and flooding events. The MEMA communication plan includes linking all cities and towns with backup amateur radio communications.

Boy Scout

Troop 40

from Taunton

on tour of the

MEMA Region II

Headquarters in

Bridgewater, MA.



Don Burke KB1LXH set up a tour of MEMA Region II Headquarters situation room and radio room for Boy Scout Troop 40 from Taunton. Shown in the photo - Back row Left to Right are **Don Burke KB1LXH** , **James Mannion – MEMA Region II Manager**, **Tyler Winslow**, **Ellen Leite**, **Brenda Spillane**, and **Bob Winslow**. Front row Left to Right are **Noah Burke**, **Thomas White**, behind **Austin Sardinha**, **Damien Sardinha**, behind **Joey Leite**, **Matt Spillane** and **Brianna Leite**. Camera shy and not in the picture were **Joe Leite** and **Kristen White**

Don KB1LXH reports: “On Monday, April 4, 2011 my son **Noah’s** Scout Troop visited the MEMA Region II bunker in Bridgewater. The 7 Scouts from Troop 40 in Taunton are working on *Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge*. Requirements 6 ask the Scouts to meet with their local Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director and learn how that person **prepares**, **respond to**, **recover from** and **mitigate** and **prevents** emergency situations in our community.

In the photo – **Noah Burke SWL** calls “State Control this is Region II for a communications check” While **Thomas White**, **Austin Sardinha**, **Matt Spillane** and **Damien Sardinha** look on. **Mike Leger N1YLQ** is the Control Operator.



Noah Burke SWL – Radio Check

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH RADIOGRAM TRAINING Cont. By: Bruce N1X

James Mannion, The MEMA Region II Manager gave the Scout a great presentation about hurricanes, storm surge and tornados. **Mr. Mannion** was recently in Florida to visit the National Hurricane Center in Miami. He came back with new video of damage caused by storms across the Gulf coast and the Eastern US states. The Scouts also toured the RACES radio room where **Mike Leger N1YLQ** acting Region II RACES Officer, talked about the role Amateur Radio Operators play in Emergency Management Agency events.

Mr. Mannion also explained the role MEMA Region II and the surrounding cities and towns play in Plymouth Nuclear Power Plant drills. He allowed the Troop members a chance to use a Geiger counter and dosimeters. Each Scout also was given an MRE (meal ready to eat) which they may make use of on our next backpacking trip. MEMA has MREs stored at Otis Air National Guard Base for shelter operations on the Cape. Also on hand were **Bruce Hayden N1X** and **Bill Foster KD1NX** Region II RACES radio operators”.

73's Don KB1LXH



Bruce Hayden N1X
MEMA Region II RACES Operator



Mike Leger N1YLQ
MEMA Region II RACES Operator



Jim Madden KB1PFL
Dave Spalding N1LUM
at the Pembroke EOC



Bill Foster KD1NX
MEMA Region II RACES Operator

Participating at the Whitman Emergency Operations Center were **Bill Hayden N1FRE**, **Mike Supple KB1OEP** and **Paul Moss KB1MTW**. Participating for Carver was **Loren Pimentel N1IQI**. Participating as a home station from North Weymouth was **Jim O'Rourke WG1L**. Participating for the South Shore Hospital was **John O'Neill KB1QEM**. **Jeff Lehmann N1ZZN** was heard as Net Control for the State-wide Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Net that follows the first Monday of the Month RADIOGRAM Training Net on the Minuteman linked REPEATER system.

FOX HUNT -- SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2011 By: The Bruce" NI1X



Richard Metcalf KB1TEH

Dave Spalding N1LUM

Jim Madden KB1PFL

John Wittey N1PRK

Sly the Fox

Roy Logan KB1CYV

Walter Fitzgerald W1WCF

Dino Casieri KB1RXQ

Joe Casieri KA1JBE

Bruce Hayden NI1X

Not present when the picture was taken was **Gary Cumiskey W1GRC**

Richard Metcalf KB1TEH volunteered to be the Fox on Saturday, April 9, 2011 and was hiding in the woods of the Hobomock Wildlife Management Area off Maple Street in West Bridgewater.

First in with a time of 37 minutes was the team of **Bruce NI1X** and **John N1PRK** who started at the Olde Scotland Links Golf Course on the Raynham / Bridgewater line and got a great reading of 340 degrees - north along Rt. 24 – right through the Fox's Den - using the tape measure beam. Right behind the first place team was **Gary W1GRC** in a time of 37-1/2 minutes. **Gary W1GRC** reported that he rolled out of his QTH on the west side of Bridgewater and got a strong signal meaning that the Fox was in his back yard. Third place goes to the team of **Joe KA1JBE** and **Dino KB1RXQ** in a time of 39 minutes.

In fourth place was our stealth Fox Hunter **Walter W1WCF** in a time of 1 hour and 13 minutes. Fifth place goes to **Roy KB1CYV** who reported that he was getting good signals at the start of the hunt but bad directional readings while on top of High Street hill in Bridgewater. **Roy's KB1CYV** time was 1 hour and 54 minutes.

Fighting to make the top teams possible were **Dave N1LUM** in a time of 2 hours and 26 minutes and **Jim KB1PFL** in a time of 2 hours and 27 minutes. **Jim KB1PFL** had triangulated the Fox's location as being 1-1/4 miles north of the Fox Den – not bad. **Dave N1LUM** reports he will stay off the hill tops from now on. Great fun was had by all.

FOX HUNT -- CAPE COD STYLE -- By: The Bruce" NI1X

The Barnstable Amateur Radio Club was holding a Fox Hunt in Dennis, MA. on Friday night April 15th between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. **The Bruce NI1X** read about it in the ARRL Eastern Mass. news and found out that it was open to all area HAMs. **Richard Metcalf KB1TEH** and **The Bruce NI1X** decided to team up and give it a try.

We read the published rules and met at the designated starting point where the vehicle odometers were recorded. This Fox Hunt is won by traveling the least amount of miles. The Fox was called by cell phone and given the names and vehicle descriptions.

The Fox Frequency was the Dennis REPEATER input. The Fox made sure that all Fox Hunters could hear the Fox with a handheld receiver from the starting point.

The Fox was hiding 3 miles away in an unmarked car, between parked cars, in a rather large Stop and Shop parking lot in front of a busy Wine and Spirits shop. **The Bruce NI1X** and **Richard KB1TEH** found the parking lot in a relatively short time – passed by the Fox – circled the complex and then started searching west, east, and south. The tape measure beam antennas seemed to be working OK and, when combined with signal strength, keep bringing us back to the parking lot.

From 1200 feet away – with the Fox watching – **"The Bruce" NI1X** could not attenuate the strong signal. **Richard KB1TEH** was able to get a direction back into the busy parking lot. From there it became a search of parked cars. The Fox only transmitted on the designated 5 minute intervals - no bonus transmissions. Two people were spotted sitting in a car with an antenna on the trunk so we closed in behind them.

The Fox would give a 1 minute warning before the next transmission so that the Fox Hunters could stop and get set up. Next transmission – The Fox was found by **"The Bruce" NI1X** and **Richard KB1TEH** in a time of about an hour

Our mileage was recorded and we were asked to move to the other side of the parking lot – making it just as difficult for the next Fox Hunters to find the unmarked car. Hunters were asked not to give any locations or tell if the Fox had been found. There were no hints given until the last 30 minutes.

After the Hunt the crew gathered at a local watering hole to go over the results and to pick the next Fox by random drawing.



The Fox – Mark Avery N1CPO



Richard Metcalf KB1TEH
Bruce Hayden NI1X



Chris Dean K1KEK
wife Celeste W1CMD
daughter Olivia KB1RPC

FOX HUNT -- CAPE COD STYLE Cont: By: The Bruce" NI1X

First place went to the team of **Bruce NI1X** and **Richard KB1TEH** who traveled 7 miles.

Second place goes to **Chris Dean K1KEK**, his wife **Celeste W1CMD** and daughter **Olivia KB1RPC** who traveled 15 miles.

Third place goes to **Paul W1NP** who traveled 25 miles.

Paul Laonto W1NP had a very interesting looking direction antenna. It was a large metal can with a rubber duck antenna inside that he could hold and rotate through the open sun roof window in his car. His theory was that when he pointed the open end of the can towards the Fox's den – he would get a stronger signal.

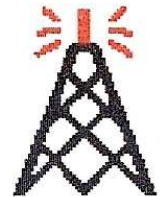


Paul Laonto W1NP

Paul W1NP reported technical difficulties when the batteries in his handheld radio went dead in the middle of the hunt and he had to rely on the signal strength meter on his mobile unit.

ECHOLINK PROBLEM SOLVER -- TIME TO UPDATE By: John Wittey N1PRK

EchoLink software allows licensed amateur radio stations, all over the world, to communicate with one another over the internet. EchoLink reports more than 200,000 validated users with about 5000 online at any given time. One good use of EchoLink in this area is SKYWARN reporting.



If you have not done so already - **John Wittey N1PRK** recommends you update your EchoLink program to the latest version, which is version 2-0-908, that was issued in May of 2007. Upgrading to version 2-0-908 is very easy. Go on the internet to www.Echolink.org, put in your call letters & e-mail address. Go to downloads and download the latest version, it will automatically upgrade your old version

John N1PRK reports: "I had an older version of EchoLink and as a result of my fumbling I came to realize something was wrong and not readily understood. It turns out that the older versions of EchoLink do not work 100% with the newer operating systems and the latest Echolink version.

One problem you might encounter with an older version is that it will not connect to ordinary users, however, it will connect to repeaters and links. You may also find that some older versions work but drop out causing the owner to have to reboot when one least expects trouble. If you are having any of these problems – time to upgrade".

2011 HURRICANE AWARENESS TOUR

May 2, 2011 – Otis Air National Guard Base, Falmouth, MA. The Public Tour of the Hurricane Hunter plane will be between 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. The Taunton Area Communication Group has volunteered to help provide communication support for this Special Event. If you are available and can commit to part of the day, or the whole day, please E-Mail **Rob Macedo KD1CY** at kd1cy@comcast.net with your availability. Every effort will be made to link up the Whitman REPEATER with this Special Event station so that the local HAMS can qualify for a QSL card.

FOX HUNT OF SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2011 By: The Bruce" NI1X

Joe Casieri KA1JBE, Dino Casieri KB1RXQ and Laura Valler KB1UTA volunteered to be the Foxes on April 16th and were hiding at the Radio Controlled Airplane airfield on the State Prison property off Conant Street in Bridgewater, MA. A little cool and a little wind but the model airplanes were flying.



Back row standing L. to R. are Roy Logan KB1CYV, Richard Metcalf KB1TEH, Laura Valler KB1UTA, Joe Casieri KA1JBE, Dino Casieri KB1RXQ and Bruce Hayden NI1X.

Front row sitting L. to R. are John Chase KB1ODS, John Wittey N1PRK, Anthony Attaya-Harris KB1UHV and Jeff Lehmann N1ZZN.

First in was **Richard KB1TEH** who started in Bridgewater Center and found the Foxes in 22 minutes. Second place goes to the team of **Bruce NI1X, Anthony KB1UHV** and **John N1PRK** in a time of 1 hour and 11 minutes. **John N1PRK** was experimenting with a home made 2-element 2-Meter beam. The team got hung up in the vicinity of the paint ball field off Rt. 18 in Bridgewater and it took a long time to leave that area. Third place goes to **Jeff N1ZZN** in a time of 1 hour and 33 minutes. **Jeff N1ZZN** got a late start. Making the top teams possible were **Roy KB1CYV** and **John KB1ODS** in a little over 2 hours.

K1USN BREAKFAST UPDATE: Tom Wilson W1ICU reports: The K1USN gang will be meeting at Jamies in Braintree (http://www.jamiesgrill.com/jamies_family_restaurants.php). "They said they would be thrilled to have our K1USN group each Saturday morning at 7 AM".

900 MHz RADIOS: Jeff Lehmann N1ZZN reports 900 MHz Motorola transceivers (MCS 2000 900) are going for \$125.00 on E-Bay. Transceivers with 900 MHZ antennas are going for \$125.00 See Jeff N1ZZN for details.

TAUNTON AREA COMMUNICATION GROUP (TACGroup)

PRESENTATION ON FOX HUNTING By: Vadim Afonkin KB1RLI

Greg Glynn W1VFB – President of the Taunton Area Communication Group (TACGroup) extended an invitation to all area Clubs to attend the TACGroup April meeting to hear their guest speaker **Vadim Afonkin KB1RLI** give a presentation on Amateur Radio Directional Finding. The following is from the notes gathered by “**The Bruce**” **NI1X**.

Vadim KB1RLI was the organizer and host for the Ninth annual US Amateur Radio Directional Finding (ARDF) Championship for the USA that was combined with the fifth biennial ARDF championship of International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 (both North and South America belong in IARU Region 2). The event took place in the Blue Hills in June of 2009 and along with participants from the United States there were international Fox Hunters from Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, Russia, Sweden, United Kingdom, and Ukraine. Because it is receiving only – participants do not need an amateur radio license.



Vadim Afonkin
KB1RLI

This international Fox Hunt was nothing like our local Fox Hunts where one person hides in a public place and the rest of us ride around our local streets, in our vehicles, using local road maps, searching for the Foxes Den.

In this case – the competitors were asked to stay out of the Blue Hills before the race so that no one knew the terrain better than anyone else. Ten minutes before their start time, the competitors are given their orienteering maps and mark the start, end, and exclusion zone.

SATURDAY WAS THE 2-METER FOX HUNT

Competitors start in at 5 minute intervals, timed with the start of transmitter #1. Each 2-Meter transmitter transmits for one full minute (all synchronized with individual internal clocks) and identifies itself as transmitter #1, #2, #3, #4 or #5. The standard 2-Meter 3-element YAGI antenna is used. **Vadim KB1RLI** say he finds readings from hill tops are true and readings from valleys and woods are distorted by reflections. **Vadim KB1RLI** says a good Fox Hunter can tell the difference between a consistent Fox Box reading and a changing reflection.

Vadim KB1RLI says he runs for the first 50 seconds taking readings to transmitter #1 on the fly and then stops for the last 10 seconds to get a final fix, check the compass heading and mark a line (marked #1) to transmitter #1 on his map. Then he is off and running again, all the time getting a heading to transmitter #2. Again he stops for the last 10 seconds to get a final fix, check the compass heading and mark a line (marked #2) to transmitter #2 on his map.

Vadim KB1RLI says he can tell if a transmitter is close or far away by signal strength or change in tone in the 80-Meter receiver case. The strategic part of the hunt involves deciding which Fox transmitter is closest and whether to head to the closest Fox by going straight through the woods and over hills or follow trails around the marsh land and hills.

Near the Fox transmitter is a bright 2 foot square marker and a flag that can be clearly seen. Attached to the flag is an electronic timing devise. You insert your personal chip into the devise and it records the time you found that Fox. Then it is on to the next Fox box. The optimum 2-Meter course was 3.5 miles.

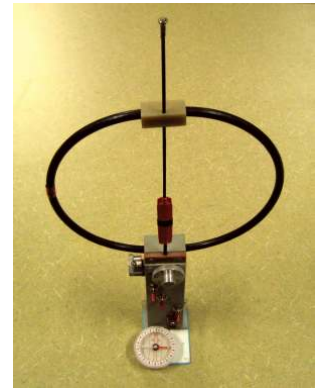
PRESENTATION ON FOX HUNTING Cont: By: Vadim Afonkin KB1RLI

SUNDAY WAS THE 80-METER FOX HUNT

The 80-Meter directional finding receiver is shown in the photo. It is a small hand held devise. When swung around at arms length - the audio tone changes (gets lower in pitch) when your arm is pointed towards the Fox. **Vadim KB1RLI** brought along an 80-Meter Fox Box and we had a chance to try out a hands on demonstration of the 80-Meter directional finding receiver..

Each 80-Meter transmitter transmits for one full minute (all synchronized with individual internal clocks) and identifies itself in Morse code as transmitter #1 (MOE), #2 (MOI), #3 (MOS), #4 (MOH) or #5 (MO5) and Finish (MO).

Vadim KB1RLI reported some interference on the 80-Meter Fox Frequency when participants were on top of the Blue Hills near the broadcast radio transmitter site (WGBH-FM). Less when in the woods closer to the Fox Box. The optimum 80-Meter course was 5 miles.



**80 -METER
RECEIVER**

For more information see www.bostonardf.org

NEW ENGLAND ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

VINTAGE RADIO SHOW AND SWAP MEET

April 16th -- Manchester, New Hampshire

Ross Hochstrasser W1EKG set up a vendor table at the April 16th Antique Radio Flea Market in Manchester, NH where real radios glow in the dark.

Ross W1EKG reports that he gave a demo class about capacitor replacement.



Ross Hochstrasser W1EKG

SCUTTLEBUTT -- SCUTTLEBUTT -- SCUTTLEBUTT

Paul Burbine N1VTI found a unique PPT switch that is ideal for motorcycle handlebar mounting

Paul Moss KB1MTW has assembled a packet radio system and is testing it now.

John O'Neill KB1QEM is testing a mobile packet system using his laptop

Paul Moss KB1MTW and **Mike Supple KB1OEP** have been assisting local Boy Scouts with the requirements of the Radio Merit Badge.

Dave Beauvais KB1QMX has two ARRL General Class study manuals to give away.

BOSTON MARATHON -- MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2011

It was reported that there were 250 amateur radio operators (HAMs) who helped provide communication support for the 115th running of the Boston Marathon. About half of the HAMs were dedicated to medical communication. There were 26 Red Cross stations and 24 Water stations along the 26.2 mile course that started in Hopkinton and finished on Boylston Street in Boston. This year the weather was great.



Jim Tynan KC1JET
at the start line



Jessica SWL & John O'Neill KB1QEM
at the finish line

Jim Tynan KC1JET was stationed in Hopkinton and assigned to shadow **Ron** – The director of the start vehicle escorts (State Police and Grand Marshall).

John O'Neill KB1QEM reports that he provided emergency radio communications for **Jessica** - the Zone 1 Medical Sweep Captain in the Finish Line area. Typical radio communications involved calling for wheelchairs, medical supplies, EMS, police, and coordination of resources in the sweep zone.

Jeremy Breef-Pilz KB1REQ reports he was one of the Net Control Operators at the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Command Center, used for the Boston Marathon communications.

Carl Aveni N1FY and **Pete Curley N1NVV** were monitoring the Marathon communication at the Bridgewater EOC and could hear **Steve Schwarm W3EVE** the ARES Course Communication Coordinator.



Carl Aveni N1FY & Pete Curley N1NVV
at the Bridgewater Emergency Operations Center

The radio communications monitoring included REPEATERS in Walpole, Boston, Brookline, Newton, and Belmont, along with the 6-Meter REPEATER on Mt Wachussetts - used by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), a computer interconnection called Pro Scan for Eastern Mass that monitors Public Safety dispatch of Police and Fire, and a phone line conference call to MEMA.



WHITMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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



Post Office Box 48
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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. 4th 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

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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

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