



The Whitman Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

May 2004

# SPECTRUM



The Voice of the Humble Electron

Founded 1962

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:** This is "The Bruce" N1IX - The month of May started with several club members taking a trip to the Hosstraders Flea Market in Hopkinton, NH. Later in the month, two members joined a group of area HAMS and made the pilgrimage to the Dayton Ohio Hamvention. The club members plan to winding up the month of May by sponsoring a Memorial Day weekend fund raising Flea Market at Saftler's Parking lot in Whitman. Other members reported participating in ongoing Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) classes, Fox Hunting, Skywarn training and planning sessions involving the local Emergency Management Agencies.

At the May meeting **Gil Follett W1GMF** gave a very interesting presentation on the expanded development of PACKET Radio Nodes and Bulletin Boards in this area and on his message traffic handling activities. Come to the next meeting and help plan our Field Day activities and share your amateur radio related adventures with the other members and guests. In the mean time I hope to see you sometime over the Memorial Day weekend at the Saftler's Parking Lot fund raising flea market.

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## WHITMAN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (WEMA)

**Bob Burns K1RB** reports that he has been in contact with **Bob Schmitt**, Whitman's Emergency Management Agency Director, and agreed to take over as the Whitman EMA Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) Radio Officer and establish a communication group for Whitman. **Bob K1RB** has already completed the ARRL Emergency Communication Course Level 1, 2 & 3. **Bill Hayden N1FRE** has volunteered and has accepted the position as assistant RACES Radio Officer. **Bob K1RB** reports plans are in the works to schedule Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) courses for WEMA volunteers.



**Bob Schmitt & Bob K1RB**

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## MARSHFIELD FAIR AMATEUR RADIO EXHIBIT

**Bob Burns K1RB** reports that the Marshfield Fair will be held Friday August 20<sup>th</sup> through Sunday August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at the fairgrounds on Rt. 3A in Marshfield, MA. This year plans are to have an Amateur Radio Exhibit in the Non-Profit Exhibit area. The fair is open from 12 Noon to 10 pm on Monday through Friday and 10 am to 10 pm on Saturday and Sunday. **Bob K1RB** is looking for amateur radio operators to be at the Amateur Radio Booth and is seeking the support of the Whitman Amateur Radio Club and the USS Salem Radio Club. The Marshfield Fair Radio Club is the coordinator of activities and booth support people. The call sign is **NN1MF** and **Bob K1RB** has volunteered to be the QSL manager. He needs both operators and station equipment. Each person assigned to the booth will be provided fair passes for the days they will be present. E-mail **Bob K1RB** at [k1rb@arri.net](mailto:k1rb@arri.net) for more details and list any days you might be able to assist. He would like the minimum time at the booth to be a 4 hour shifts.



## HOSSTRADERS FLEA MARKET - HOPKINTON, NH



**HOSSTRADERS:** The weather was just beautiful – full sun and no rain – for the Hosstraders flea market. **Paul Burbine N1VTI** is shown with **Jeff Lehmann N1ZZN** on Friday.



**Jeff N1ZZN & Paul N1VTI**

**Paul N1VTI** reports he sold a few goodies and picked up a screwdriver all band vertical antenna with a High Serriera bracket. **Paul N1VTI** plans to combine his ICOM 706 with this motorized antenna for HF mobile operation. **Jeff N1ZZN** was operating “Hosstraders Radio” FM 103.1 for the third time . This was the best crowd yet.

**Jeff Tracy N1SOM** and **Vic Kairis N1OEH** were found chomping on French fries while **The Bruce N1X** was eating the Apple Crisp with Ice Cream. Also attending was **Dave Gurney WA1YZH** and **Ken Kavaljian KB1KVL**.



**Jeff N1SOM & Vic N1OEH**



**Bruce N1X** and **Walter MacNeil W1WMN** found the building with all the good stuff like whatchamacallits, doo dads, thingamabobs, gizmos, trinkets, what nots and doo hickies.

**Bruce N1X & Walter W1WMN**

**Paul N1VTI** went back on Saturday and participated as a Volunteer Examiner where he reported 27 people took amateur radio license tests and 7 passed. Also on Saturday **Ed Meehan N1NTZ** and **John Coombs WQ1L** were spotted and I am sure they sampled Angelino’s famous Hosstraders sausages.

## *WAINPO Traffic Messages*

Featuring our Traffic Manager, **Walt K1BZD**  
Submitted by Charlet N1VQZ



### April 2004 Traffic Report

Date	Prec	HX	Station of Origin	Check	Location of Orig	Date
04/25/04	R		K1BZD	11	WHITMAN, MA	4/25/04 09:02 est.
<b>Message Body</b>						
WARPSN			APRIL	REPORT	SESSIONS	4
ONI			62	OTC	14	73
<b>Signature: WALT K1BZD</b>						
<b>Rec'd From: K1BZD</b>			<b>On: 4/25/04</b>			<b>On:</b>

## TECHNICAL TOPICS - PACKET RADIO UPDATE

**Gil Follett W1GMF** gave a presentation at the May meeting on the expanded development of PACKET radio in this area.

**EQUIPMENT NEEDED:** All you need is a Terminal Node Controller (TNC) and a packet radio software program. **Gil W1GMF** recommends a Kamtronics KPC-3 TNC that costs about \$170.00 and WINPACK software. You connect one cable from the TNC to your computer and connect a second cable from your TNC to your 2 meter transceiver, replacing the mike cable. All you do then is load the software program, input the operating parameters (like your call sign) and run the packet program.

**BULLETIN BOARD:** **Gil W1GMF** has set up a local Bulletin Board BBS at his home QTH. This is a dedicated computer that handles 500 Bulletins per day from world wide sources. You can connect to the BBS by typing **C W1GMF-4** and read the bulletins.



**Gil Follett W1GMF**

**HOME BULLETIN BOARD:** Area HAMs could register and establish a “Home Bulletin Board” at **Gil’s W1GMF** main Bulletin Board. This would be your Home Mail Box. That way any packet messages being sent to you would be forwarded to **Gil’s W1GMF** Bulletin Board where they would be stored until you connected and accessed your mail. Or you could register and tell **Gil’s W1GMF** Bulletin Board where your Home Bulletin Board is located (Give call sign of your home BBS) so that your messages can be forwarded properly

**WEATHER STATION:** **Gil W1GMF** reports that **Paul Anderson N1OTX** has set up a weather station at his home QTH in Brockton that can be accessed via packet radio.

**DX CLUSTER:** Also **Gil W1GMF** reports that there is a local DX Cluster in Brockton on 145.03. To gain access to the DX Cluster you connect to **John Nelson’s WD1L** packet station by typing **C WD1L**.

**DIGIPETER:** **Gil W1GMF** has set up a packet digipeter on the Water Tower in Bridgewater called the **W1MV Node**. A digipeter is for packet just like a REPEATER is for FM voice and is used to extend your range. All you have to do is get your packet signal from your house to the nearest PACKET Node. From there you can jump to other digipeters and extend your range. **Gil W1GMF** provided a local packet BBS and node map and reviewed the list of available commands.

As a good example of node hopping – last summer club members were able to connect directly with **Joe Serrilla’s W1JOE** packet station that he set up at a Boy Scout camp in New Hampshire. You would first connect your packet station to the **W1MV Node** in Bridgewater on 145.09 MHz, then hop (type **C N1NMX-7**) to the **N1NMX-7 Node** in Pepperell near the New Hampshire boarder and hop (type **C BELNAP**) to the **BELNAP Node** at the south end of Lake Winnepesaukee and then hop (Type **C W1JOE-1**) back south to **W1JOE-1** ( **Joe’s W1JOE** packet mail box ) that is set up in a Boy Scout camp in Barnstead, NH just west of Rochester, NH where **Joe W1JOE** plans to be the chief cook and bottle washer for the third summer in a row. You can then follow **Joe’s W1JOE** packet mail Box instructions and leave **Joe W1JOE** a message.

## TECHNICAL TOPICS - PACKET RADIO Cont.

**NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM (NTS):** **Gil W1GMF** reviewed the typical message / packet format, the phonetic alphabet, the ARRL numbered radiogram messages and the Traffic Net schedules. **Gil W1GMF** reported that he sends about 4000 NTS messages per month via packet radio, sending a welcome to new HAMS and a reminder to HAMS that their call sign is about to expire and needs to be renewed two months in advance. Club member **Loren Pimentel N1IQI** is also extremely active on message handling via packet radio.

**HOMELAND SECURITY:** **Gil W1GMF** reports that he is working with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Region II to post MEMA Region II packet bulletins on the bulletin board or forward them to the local Emergency Management Directors in the various Cities and Towns. Both the City of Taunton and the Town of Bridgewater have packet radio set up in their Emergency Operations Centers.

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**CLUB HOUSE PROJECTS:** **Bruce Hayden N1IX** and **Walter MacNeil W1WMN** teamed up to help **George Davis KC1FZ** replace the door on the club house in April. The crew plan to return in May with **Bill Hayden N1FRE** to trim up the door and plan for the repairs to the floor.

The yard cleanup of branches from winter storm damage was minimal and now the grass is growing. **The Bruce N1IX** plans to stop by the club house after Fox Hunting on Saturday afternoons about 1 pm, time and weather permitting, to pick up the yard, cut grass or trim brush and make one run to the dump before it closes. Volunteers are welcome .



**Walter W1WMN, Bruce N1IX  
& George KC1FZ**

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**Rad Com MAGAZINES:** A stack of **Radio Communication Magazines** - The journal of the Radio Society of Great Britain magazine - were donated to the club by **John Alley W1MDM** of Raynham and handed out to members at the May meeting.

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## RADIO AMATEUR EMERGENCY SERVICE (RACES) VOLUNTEER – UPDATE

Club members participated in Radiogram message training and planning for a Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) coordinated Hurricane Drill to be held in June.

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## HAVE I GOT A DEAL FOR YOU – From Chris Tilden N1WWI

**Chris Tilden N1WWI** reports he is moving and has a 80 foot free standing tapered tower he would like to give away. His new QTH requires all towers to withstand a class 5 Hurricane. There are some damaged sections but **Chris N1WWI** reports you could easily build a 50 foot tower out of the usable 10 foot sections. If you are interested, contact **Chris N1WWI** at e-mail address: [candc98@verizon.net](mailto:candc98@verizon.net) and make arrangements to take a closer look.



## 53<sup>rd</sup> Dayton Hamvention

Whitman Club members **Bob Burns K1RB** and **Bruce Hayden NI1X** both had the opportunity to attend the Dayton Hamvention and outside Flea Market this year. **The Bruce NI1X** found that the local participants from Massachusetts also included Massasoit Club members **Don Benecchi K1DC** of W. Bridgewater along with **Steve Meuse N1JFU** of E. Bridgewater and **Mark Greenlaw N1NLR** a former Massasoit Club member who now lives in Columbia, MD. **Bob K1RB** knew most of the other 20 local HAMS, who coordinated their travel arrangements together, from his participation with the Saturday morning breakfast club, held at Bickfords in Hanover. The other area HAMS were associated with the USS Salem Radio Club, The Marconi Radio Club and members of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC).



**Pi Pugh K1RV** had help coordinate the travel and hotel arrangement so that **The Bruce NI1X** and **Bob K1RB** were staying at the same hotel with **Pi K1RV** and some of the local crew. A list of "wanted" items had been prepared and communication was via 440 MHz handhelds. The adventure started on Thursday, the day before the Hamvention, with a tour of the United States Air Force Museum in Dayton – a great tour of 300 aircraft and missiles and thousands of artifacts all under 10 acres of hanger space.

A funny thing happened on the way to Dayton - **Bob K1RB** reported their puddle jumper airplane was stopped while taxiing when a low tire was spotted by a ground crew member and they had to get off the plane while the tire was changed – now we know why they got the cheap rates Hi Hi.



Steve N1JFU  
& Mark N1NLR

The weather on Friday was cloudy and threatening rain when **The Bruce NI1X** pulled into a grass field (dry at that time) across the street from the Dayton Hara Arena Center where the Hamvention was being held. **The Bruce NI1X** decided to do the outside vendors Friday morning while the rain held off. There were 3967 call it 4000 outside vendor parking spaces all on the paved Hara Arena parking lot adjacent to the main buildings. Needless to say a backpack with wheels and extended handle, cruising over blacktop, made life a lot easier. The walking was on level ground and the rows and rows of vendors stretched on forever – if you need it you can find it. If you find it – just lug it inside and UPS was offering freight service from one of the inside booths – no problem.

On the inside **Pi Pugh K1RV** of Abington and **C.J. Cunningham W1AI** of Norwell had set up a booth to sell their Hamtestonline training program and all the area HAMS kept regrouping at their booth throughout the weekend. Don't ask about the scores when the area HAMS fired up the Hamtestonline computer invitational test program and started answering questions. There were several hundred inside manufacturers / vendor booths inside. Shown at the Hamtestonline booth are L. to R. **Bob Burns K1RB**, **Bruce Hayden NI1X**, **Don Benecchi K1DC**, **Pi Pugh K1RV** and **J.C. Cunningham W1AI**.



Hamtestonline Booth

## 53<sup>rd</sup> Dayton Hamvention Cont.

There were 657 inside spaces but some manufacturers took up several spaces. The place was full. A great place to get into a discussion of new and old products. For example **Bob Heil K9EID** of Illinois was available to discuss his Gold Line mike and Pro II hands free headset and reported he is working on another "Science of Audio" presentation and will be attending Boxboro this summer.

**Bob K1RB** ordered full color QSL cards for the Marshfield Fair from "Mr. Ham" **KB9K**. The price will be \$75.00 color one side and black and gray the other - price delivered. The cards will be printed in Bulgaria. On Friday night over a dozen of the area HAMS attended the 19<sup>th</sup> annual DX Dinner and heard a presentation on the latest **3B9C** Rodregus Island DXpedition. **Don Benecchi K1DC** of West Bridgewater was one of the "last HAMS standing" when the DXCC recognition ceremony was completed. **Don K1DC** has 352 countries confirmed. **Don K1DC** needs 3 more of the 336 active countries and his additional contacts are from deleted countries that are no longer in existence. To top the evening off **Bob K1RB** won a door prize.



**Ralph Butler W1BT &  
"Q" Callahan W1QWT** of  
Scituate with **Bob K1RB**

On Saturday it rained and was a good day to stay inside so **Bruce NI1X** and **Bob K1RB** started off by attending Forums on current FCC rulemaking and enforcement with **Riley Hollingsworth** and his boss and then listen to the President of the ARRL, **Jim Haynie W5JBP** bring everyone present up to date on the current issues of Broad Band over Power Lines and restructuring efforts. There were 37 different forums to choose from over the three day Hamvention – **so much to see and do and not enough time to do it all.**

On Saturday night **Bruce NI1X** and **Bob K1RB** attended the Contesting Dinner and the Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC) won an award for the 2003 Unlimited category for the ARRL DX Contest. They have won the first place award 5 years in a row for both the ARRL DX contest and the CQ WW DX Contest. The YCCC has 228 member stations participating from throughout six New England States and New York. Among the local members are Club member **Bob Burns K1RB** and area HAMS **Pi Pugh K1RV** of Abington, **Don Benecchi K1DC** of W. Bridgewater, **Henry Brown W1WCC** of E. Falmouth and **Bob Doherty K1VV** of Lakeville who are all members of the Saturday morning Breakfast Club in Hanover. To top the evening off both **Bob K1RB** and **The Bruce NI1X** won a door prize.



**Warren Dickie WA1YKF** of Holbrook  
**Karl Johnson NS1N** of Scituate  
**Ralph Butler W1BT** of Scituate  
**"HO" Johnson KC1HO** of Plymouth

On Sunday it was still threatening rain and by now the traveled areas in the grass in the general parking lot was really muddy. We met area Hams like **Phil Temples K9HI**, the ARRL EMA Section Manager and **Keith Lamonica W7DXX** of N. Easton who has the Internet Remote Base in the Boston area that is controlled and operated by other HAMS over the internet. There was time to take in one last Forum, check on the Manufacturers or take one last run around the Flea Market before the 1 PM final drawing and then it was back to Massachusetts. A good time was had by all and most important - **we survived the 2004 Dayton Hamvention.**



# WHITMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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



Post Office Box 48  
Pine Street  
Whitman, MA 02382

Telephone: (781) 447-1655  
ARRL Club #0082  
Club Call Sign: WAINPO

## MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings are held on the first  
Wednesday of each month

The next meeting will be held at the  
Whitman Public Library which is  
located at 100 Webster Street  
in Whitman, Mass.

### Next Meeting

Wednesday, Jun 2nd at 6:30 PM  
Whitman Public Library

## CLUB OFFICERS

President	Bruce	NI1X
V. President	Bill	N1FRE
Secretary	Roy	KB1CYV
Treasurer	Jeff	N1SOM
Director	Jim	W5IRW
Director	Paul	N1VTI
Director	Steve	W1WSN
Director	Chris	N1WWI

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Editor	Bruce	NI1X
E-mail articles to:	<a href="mailto:ni1x@arrl.net">ni1x@arrl.net</a>	

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

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Club Repeater Station:	147.225 MHz (CTSS 67 Hz)	449.875 MHz (CTSS 88.5 Hz)
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*Whitman Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 48  
Whitman, Ma 02382*

