



# **PROSPECT HILL INTERMOD**

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WALTHAM AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

[WWW.WALTHAMARA.ORG](http://WWW.WALTHAMARA.ORG)

SPRING 2022

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## ***SPRING HAS SPRUNG!***

Patrick Whitney, K1PJW – Editor

Hello everyone! The nice weather is finally here! Time to start thinking of remote operations, field day, fox hunting, antenna maintenance, and all the other reasons our hobby gets us outside! Enjoy the season! Keep the suggestions coming for newsletter content. All input is greatly appreciated! Contact us at [news@walthamara.org](mailto:news@walthamara.org)

## ***Officer Elections***

Rich Comer, K1RBC – Treasurer

The Waltham Amateur Radio Association will be holding elections on Wednesday May 25th, during the monthly remote Chime meeting to fill two vacancies: Secretary and President. For the club to continue to function, we need members to volunteer and assume a little bit of extra responsibility to the group. These are 1-year positions. Anyone interested in either of these positions should contact Rich/K1RBC at [rich.comer@live.com](mailto:rich.comer@live.com) to have their name placed into nomination.

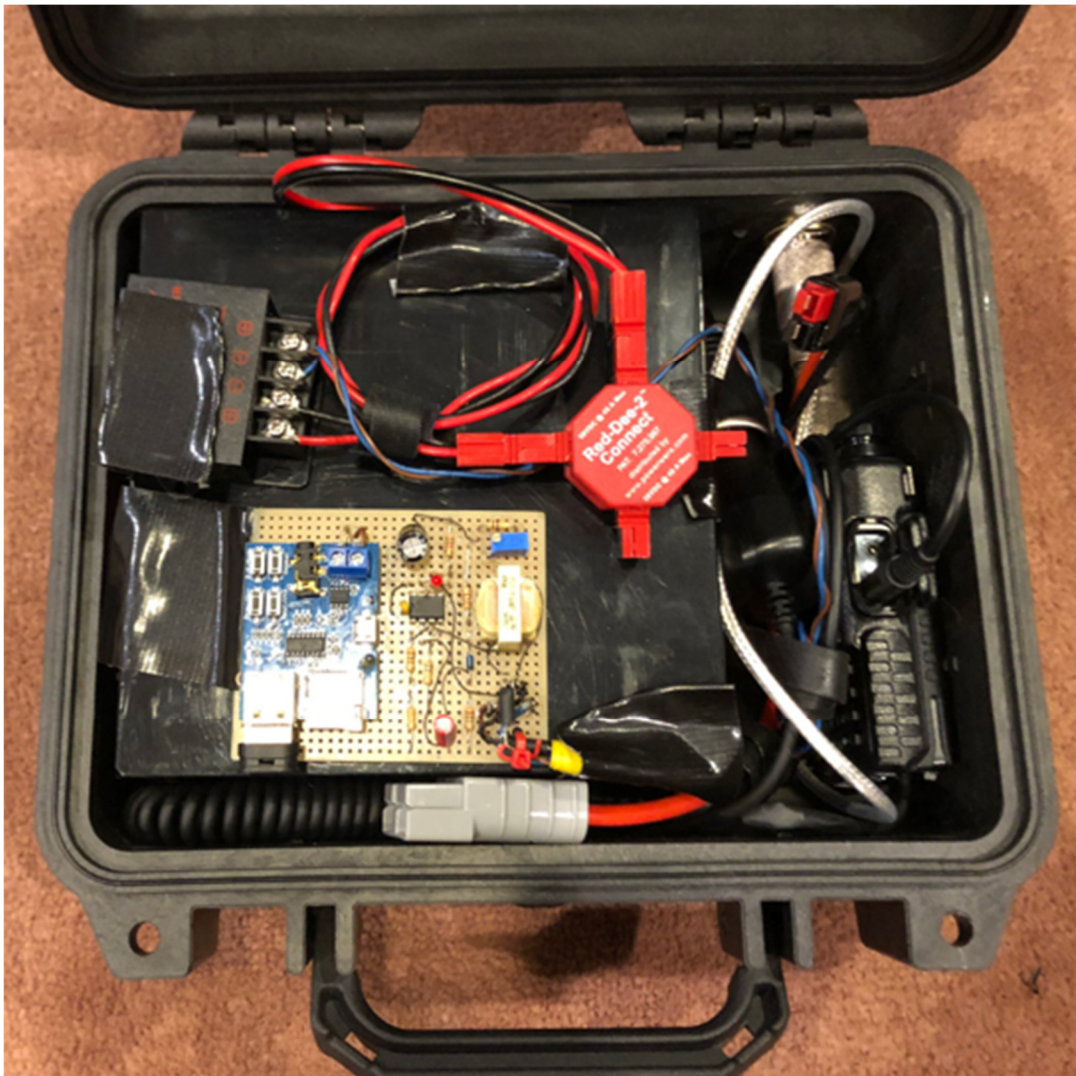
## ***Field Day Planning***

Rich Comer, K1RBC – Treasurer

This year's field day is June 25-26th. Last year's outing on Crow's Island (in Stow, MA) was a resounding success and current thinking is to return this year. To make this happen though, the club is looking for 2-3 people to form an ad-hoc Field Day committee to plan equipment, food, etc. and take the lead. If you are interested, please e-mail Rich/K1RBC at [rich.comer@live.com](mailto:rich.comer@live.com). We will kick off planning at the 25th meeting after the election of officers.

## ***Fox Design Ideas from the '64 Gang***

Eliot Mayer, W1MJ – Assistant Treasurer



*The battery occupies most of the fox box. The radio is on the right side.*

In the last issue of PHI, I briefly announced that I had built a 5-watt “fox”, an automated transmitter for use in hidden transmitter hunts. This fox consists of a very basic MP3 player containing voice messages, a Baofeng UV5R handheld transceiver, and a simple interface circuit to make them work together. I had already purchased a high-capacity battery for use on Field Day, which now resides in the fox box.

Technical details about this fox are available at <http://w1mj.com/fox>. What I want to tell you about here is how the gang on the WARA 146.64 MHz repeater contributed great ideas when they heard me talking about this project on the air. Their contributions lead to the project’s success.

Mike, K1MJC, suggested the use of an MP3 player. He was probably the one who also told me that some handheld VHF/UHF radios have a VOX (voice activated transmit) feature. As it turns out, the very affordable UV5R has a VOX feature, and it

may have sufficed for this purpose, though I ended up building my own VOX and having it key the radio's PTT.

Pat, K1PJW, told me about the availability of a Battery Eliminator for the UV5R. It has a part that looks and connects just like the radio's battery pack, and a cable from there to an automotive 12V power plug containing the required voltage regulator.

John, N1JAF, suggested the use of a Twin-Lead J-Pole antenna. This turned out to be a great idea. I built the antenna with dark brown twin-lead from my junk collection. It is naturally camouflaged when I hang it from a tree branch.

Bones, K1CE, a former editor of this newsletter and '64 regular, now edits the Public Service column in QST magazine and the ARRL Emergency Communications newsletter. He has highly recommended the use of Pelican cases in his columns, which helped me choose an appropriate water-tight box for my fox.

Outside of our repeater gang, other hams made this project possible with their online posts about interfacing to the UV5R and how to build a Twin-Lead J-Pole.

Please come and hunt for my fox. I announce deployments to the Northeast Massachusetts Fox Hunters groups.io email list, <https://groups.io/g/NEMassFoxHunters>. Fancy equipment is not required. Plenty of fox hunting tips can be found online, and the local hunters like K1MJC, K1PJW, and I, are always happy to mentor.





*The fox hiding in Rock Meadow, Belmont  
The most easily spotted part is the ferrite choke just below the antenna*

## ***MIT Flea is Back!***

Pat Whitney, K1PJW – Editor

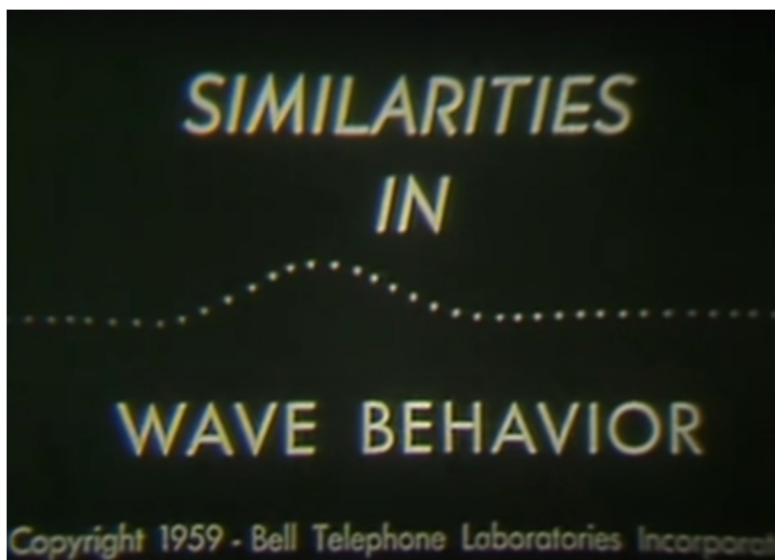
After a short hiatus, the MIT flea is back! It's every third Sunday of the month during the non-winter months. You can read more about the flea, find a coupon for admission, and the schedule, here: <https://w1mx.mit.edu/flea-at-mit/>

## ***Newbie's Corner***

Pat Whitney, K1PJW – Editor

This is a great video I came across explaining wave theory using a physical medium. It is a great primer for beginners and an entertaining refresher for the Elmer. One of the best explanations of Standing Wave Ratio I've found.

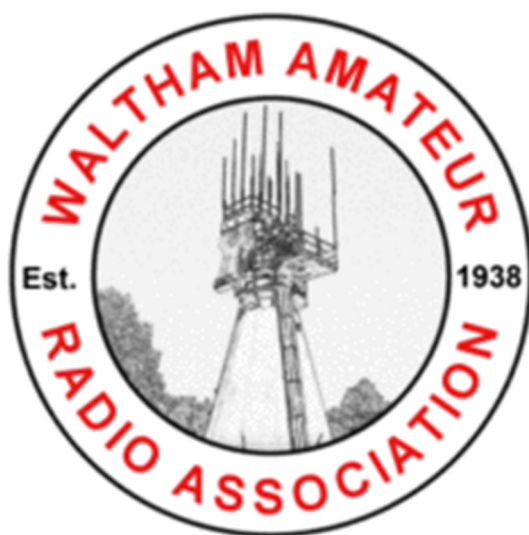
[AT&T Archives: Similarities of Wave Behavior \(Bonus Edition\)](#)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DovunOxIY1k>

### ***Waltham A.R.A Repeaters***

Input	Output	Tone In	Tone Out	Notes
146.040	146.640	136.5	136.5	NAC 293 for P25 use EchoLink W1MHL-R Node: 490278
223.34	224.94	None	None	
444.075	449.075	88.5	None	
902.1375	927.1375	131.8	100	Linked to NEAR 900 Network via IRLP



## ***Club Officers***

**President** – Ron Senykoff (KG1T)

**Vice President** – Glenn Shiffer (N1GAS)

**Secretary** – Ned Bannon (W1NED)

**Treasurer** – Rich Comer (K1RBC)

**Assistant Treasurer** – Eliot Mayer (W1MJ)