



SEMARA

54 Donald Street
Dartmouth, MA 02748-1902
(508) 997-7070

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BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by SEMARA President, Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD. Following the salute to the flag, roll call commenced with thirty-one (31) members and one (1) guest present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made, seconded and voted to dispense reading of the Thursday, February 1, 2018 business meeting minutes and to accept the report as posted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

SEMARA Treasurer, Michael J. McDonald, KB1NB reported total assets of \$89,585.04, with total inflows of \$161.05 and total outflows of \$535.77. As of tonight, the NETCOM balance is \$27,539.61. Discussion followed regarding the NETCOM balance. Mike stated that arrangements on the contract are being discussed tomorrow morning with an attorney. The current contract expires in February 2019. A motion was made, seconded and voted to refer to audit.

STANDING COMMITTEES

- **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

Martin F. Jordan, KA1YFV reported that if you bring any item(s) to the clubhouse to either sell or give away, please remove them from the club if a new owner is not found. The club does not have the resources to dispose of any unwanted items and it should not be considered a dumping ground.

Marty has donated a 24-hour clock to the radio room. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept Marty's donation.

Bradford E. Paiva, W1BEP noted that there are several wires outside of the building related to our antenna system that are either hanging low or are on the ground. It currently poses a potential liability to the club, should someone become injured as a result of said hazards. Some discussion followed with several members expressing willingness to rectify this issue.



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- **SCHOLARSHIP**

Chairman William E. Gifford, W1HA was absent. Nothing to report.

- **TECHNICAL**

Antone Souza, III, NN1D was informed by Carl of Sawejko Communications in Somerset that SEMARA member John C. Nery, WA1ESO recently met up with him to discuss alarm and entry system options for SEMARA. John then sent his findings out via email over the club discussion mailing list. John acted alone without any prior authorization from an officer, board or committee member to represent SEMARA. Tony and Carl were not pleased about this. Tony and Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD have an existing relationship with Carl and he had previously offered a special deal to the club, complete with free monitoring, that was approved at a prior business meeting. Discussion followed with some members agreeing that John was out of line in his actions. With that said, further discussion commenced about the system and its various options. Robert B. Kelley, K1KVV voiced his opinion that he feels progress on getting this installed is taking much too long and he would like to see us move forward to get it done. Tony plans to work with the SEMARA board of directors to draft a proposal on a system to be installed by Sawejko Communications and will present it at a future business meeting for discussion and voting.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- **ARES, RACES, SKYWARN**

Member Joseph E. Krisnosky, Jr., N1IXC reported that our 147.000 repeater is on standby with RACES for the coastal storm expected to hit on Friday, March 2nd into Saturday.

- **RADIO EVENTS**

Robert B. Kelley, K1KVV mentioned that he has posted the ARRL Contest Coral on the bulletin board at the clubhouse. It is also available to view on the SEMARA web site.

Bob is always looking to for interested members to join the radio events committee.

It was also noted that the Genesis Amateur Radio Society (GARS) of Plymouth, MA will be offering free training on two weekends in May for the general class amateur radio license.



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- **REPEATER**

Chairman Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC reported that a letter was drafted to SEMARA member James R. Cahill, N1TZM as requested at the last business meeting. The letter was unable to be mailed however, because Jim lives in Fairhaven and his information is not current with the FCC, which still lists his previous address in Fall River. Scott R. Smith, KE1CN stated that he will be meeting with Jim soon and that he would be able to acquire his current mailing address. Rick has asked Scott to please provide this to him as soon as possible.

- **WEB**

Robert B. Kelley, K1KVV reported that everything is well with the web site.

OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made by Donald A. Rosinha, II, WA1BXY, seconded and carried that we modify the certified letter to be mailed to SEMARA member James R. Cahill, N1TZM to expand on his restriction, that he is no longer allowed to use the 147.000 repeater for accessing any IRLP or EchoLink nodes via DTMF over air. The previous motion and subsequent drafted letter only specified that he was not allowed to link to the WIN System reflector via IRLP.

Joseph E. Krisnosky, Jr., N1IXC wanted to highlight an item of concern that was discussed at a recent board of directors meeting to please keep the clubhouse clean. If you use the clubhouse, please leave it in the condition you found it. This includes the condition of the clubhouse, radio room and restrooms. Recently, such things as coffee stains on the tables, dirt on the floor of the radio room and unsanitary conditions in the bathroom were discovered.

Donald A. Rosinha, II, WA1BXY recently sent out an email to the discussion mailing list itemizing equipment belonging to SEMARA, along with their estimated sale value, that we may want to consider selling. He was going to make a motion regarding selling some of this equipment, however due to some recent email issues noted with Comcast, some members stated that they did not receive the email. Don said that he will re-send the email and will bring it up again at a future meeting.



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NEW BUSINESS

Frederic S. Bacon, III, N1TF made a request that as trustee of the W1AEC license, he would like to have a copy of all contact logs made available to him. Donald A. Rosinha, II, WA1BXY advised that the log is electronic and it would be easy to make this available periodically to Fred as a PDF.

A motion was made by Michael J. McDonald, KB1NB, seconded and carried that we authorize the President and Treasurer to maintain an attorney for the purpose of reviewing the NETCOM balance and to negotiate a new contract.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to have SEMARA member Andrew T. Perron, AB1YN conduct a three-hour learning session at SEMARA in late April or early May, which will help him obtain college credit, while also creating an educational experience for all who wish to attend. A suggestion made by Robert B. Kelley, K1KVV was met with positive response by Andrew, that the topics may include how to operate on various modes of operation, how to use logging software and antenna building.

A motion was made by Donald A. Rosinha, II, WA1BXY, seconded and carried that we send the club's Elecraft K3 HF transceiver back to the factory to have it refurbished. It was noted that the audio amplifier that powers the local speaker has failed and we currently can only hear received audio through headphones. Discussion also followed that the cost of repair and round-trip shipping should be anticipated to be in the \$800 ballpark, based on other member's experiences with Elecraft.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

Donald A. Rosinha, II, WA1BXY stated that he would like to see new faces around the club's new radio room. Even if you are not into contesting, a little help to get the club station back on the air is always welcome. Don stated that he has been sending out emails and is getting limited interest in return. Some discussion followed as to which events the club has recently been involved with. Don stated that for weekend contests, he typically will open up the radio room on Friday night and over the entire weekend until the contest is over. He will continue to send out emails to the discussion mailing list regarding future participation in events and contests.

Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD issued a reminder to everyone that all expenditures involving the SEMARA treasury that exceed \$100 must always be approved first by the finance committee before the purchase(s). Michael J. McDonald, KB1NB also noted that each committee has a spending limit of \$100 per month.



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Donald A. Rosinha, II, WA1BXY suggested that it would be nice if we had a storage cabinet to keep cables, connectors and other accessories neat, organized and out of sight. Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD suggested that we take a look at an existing storage cabinet that is in the clubhouse for this purpose. It currently has items stored within it that may be considered junk and/or may be stored elsewhere. This would allow it to be repurposed for Don's request in the radio room.

Robert B. Kelley, K1KVV suggested that after several years without conducting a flea market, that we consider hosting a hamfest or auction in the near future. We have a lot of equipment that could be moved, including potential members' equipment that they want to get rid of. Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD reminded us that Donald A. Rosinha, II, WA1BXY has the compiled list of club equipment that we may wish to sell and that this might be a good outlet to do so. Bob noted that in the past few years, there was interest in conducting a flea market, but those efforts did not go anywhere. He suggested that several months in advance, we should begin to place ads in local media, QST and other publications to get the word out ahead of time to ensure a successful event. Marcel mentioned that this could be approved by the board at any time, as long as someone comes forward that is willing to be Chairman of this committee. Marcel suggested that Bob lead this effort, but he declined.

Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD mentioned that a few recommendations to the membership were documented at the recent board of directors meeting regarding membership with our association. One concern was the fact that applicants come in and we vote to accept them as members into the club, sometimes without doing any sort of background check. The problem observed in the past few years seems to indicate a trend where new members join and then we never see or hear from them. Marcel asked that Secretary Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC read the four recommendations that were agreed upon at the board of directors meeting. Rick read them verbatim as they appeared in the board of directors meeting minutes, noting that some of these may require an amendment to our constitution and/or bylaws:

- a. New applicants are to be voted on at the next business meeting cycle following 30 days after the application date. This will allow time for the officers to review and gather information about the applicant and to present it during voting into membership.
- b. When voting to accept the new applicant into the association, they should not be present during the voting. Since guests are welcome at our business meetings, it was suggested to have them leave the room during the voting.



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- c. Establish a grace period (i.e., six months or one year) where new members are not yet full lifetime members. During that probationary period, they must prove to the association that they are a contributing active member. It was suggested that they must participate in a certain number of meetings or events over that period before we approve them as a full member. If they do not meet those requirements, the \$20.00 membership initiation fee would be refunded and they would no longer be a member.
- d. Membership renewal to be required (i.e., every two or five years). Membership to the association is lifetime, so membership renewal would be free of charge, but an action from the member would be required to renew. This would allow for inactive members who do not bother or wish not to renew, to become an expired member of the association.

After reading, Michael J. McDonald, KB1NB read an excerpt from our bylaws, in which it was discovered that provisions for items a and b already exist and no changes are necessary. It was noted that going forward, we will execute those two items; especially item a, in which we were in violation of by voting on applications prematurely. Regarding item c, there were differences in opinion on what should constitute an active member. One opinion that was met with a heated debate, was that members in the probationary period should be required to come down to the club and operate the club station. A more popular opinion was that they should be required to attend a certain number of business meetings, work parties and/or club events.

In order to institute items c and d, the constitution of our association would need to be changed. This may include striking some existing verbiage and adding new or revised content. Paul G. Sadeck, K1PGS made a motion that we amend the constitution, however this motion was rescinded after discussion, as a motion is not necessary. Per our constitution, ARTICLE VIII — AMENDMENTS states that “Amendments to the Constitution or the Bylaws may be submitted in writing at any business meeting. Such requests for amendment must be signed by five or more full members in good standing. The proposed amendments shall be read aloud under the heading of new business. Members shall be notified of the proposed amendment by one or more of the following means.” It goes on to list those means. With that noted, Paul mentioned that he would be willing to draft the amendment, obtain the five or more signatures required and present it at a future business meeting.



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A motion was made, seconded and *defeated* to adjourn the meeting.

Scott R. Smith, KE1CN brought up an issue regarding intermittent bursts of noise on weak signals while operating on the 147.000 repeater. It was noted that the noise occurs sporadically, sometimes several times over the period of a minute. Each occurrence appears to be for a second or less. Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC mentioned that this could be our APRS station on 144.390 desensitizing the repeater receiver when it transmits, causing the weak signal to be perceived as weaker momentarily. When time allows, he will look into the issue and try to mitigate it.

A motion was made, seconded and *defeated* to adjourn the meeting.

Michael J. McDonald, KB1NB announced that an application for membership was received along with the \$20.00 initiation fee. The applicant is Paul I. Castro, KC1IRQ and he was present as a guest at the meeting. This application will be voted on at the next business meeting.

ADJURNMENT

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC
SEMARA Secretary



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BUSINESS MEETING ROSTER

Thursday, March 1, 2018

- Thirty-One (31) Members Present:

CALL SIGN	NAME	POSITION
W1MLD	Marcel L. Dumont	President
AG1Y	Jean P. Chiron	Vice President
KB1NB	Michael J. McDonald	Treasurer
W1RJC	Richard J. Cabral	Secretary
KA1YFV	Martin F. Jordan	Board of Directors
N1IXC	Joseph E. Krisnosky, Jr.	Board of Directors
W1BEP	Bradford E. Paiva	Board of Directors
AB1YN	Andrew T. Perron	
K1AHA	Richard J. Halliwell	
K1KVV	Robert B. Kelley	
K1MLD	Michael L. Dumont	
K1PGS	Paul G. Sadeck	
KA1UNP	Kevin M. Sullivan	
KB1FRL	Charles W. Moszczenski	
KC1BGF	Joseph A. Tavares	
KC1BYI	Jonathan B. Copelano	
KC1GVV	Ernesto A. Cabral, Jr.	
KD1YZ	David A. DeCosta	
KE1CN	Scott R. Smith	
N1JBC	Edwin S. Barton, IV	
N1PMB	Donald T. Manley	
N1TF	Frederic S. Bacon, III	
N1WCO	Eric J. Pierce	
NN1D	Antone Souza, III	
W1BUG	Armand F. Augustine	
W1DJD	David J. DeMoss	
W1EAV	Christopher W. Washburn	
W1MMD	Marc M. Dumont	
W1VRP	Joseph P. Frois	
WA1BXY	Donald A. Rosinha, II	
WA1CCM	Wayne C. Kingsley	

- One (1) Guest Present

KC1IRQ	Paul I. Castro	Applied For Membership
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