



SEMARA

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BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 3, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 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. A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of SEMARA member Tony Gomes' mother and Paul E. Augustine, W1BMQ of Somerset, who passed away at age 55 on Saturday, April 15, 2018. He was the son of SEMARA member Armand F. Augustine, W1BUG.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made, seconded and carried to dispense reading of the Thursday, April 5, 2018 business meeting minutes and to accept the report as posted on the website and bulletin board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

SEMARA Treasurer, Michael J. McDonald, KB1NB was absent and running late. This order of business shall be revisited later in the meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEES

- **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

Chairman Martin F. Jordan, KA1YFV reported that he along with Raymond A. Arruda, KB1EVX had cut the grass this morning. He believes the choke has an issue and recommends that the club have the lawnmower serviced soon. The choke is not closing all the way to allow it start up properly.

Marty also reported that the Mosley tri-band beam that is on the ground makes it hard for him to cut the grass around it. He recommended that we offer it to the membership or otherwise get rid of it if we are not going to use it. He would like to plant seed in order to get the grass back growing in that area.

- **SCHOLARSHIP**

Joseph E. Krisnosky, Jr., N1IXC reported that no applications have been received.



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• TECHNICAL

Member Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC reported on upgrades and work that had been completed at the club in the past month. These are mainly technical in nature, with some leaning toward buildings and grounds. The old computers, monitors, keyboards, mouse and printers that were gathered in front of the kitchen area have been taken to Staples in Fairhaven to be recycled. They accepted the items without issue at no cost to the club. Three trash bags were taken from the club by Rick and placed at his residence for pickup by the town of Dartmouth.

Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD purchased a TV wall mount at BJ's Wholesale Club. Marcel and Rick mounted the TV on the wall to the right of the whiteboard at the front of the clubhouse hall. The old tube TV, which was donated to SEMARA by the Dartmouth Police department and was previously used in their dispatch area, is no longer needed. That old TV is in front of the kitchen area and any member may take it for free. Also, in front of the kitchen are several scanners, battery charging peripherals and other miscellaneous items. If no one takes these items within the next week, they will be discarded.

A Comcast technician visited the clubhouse on Tuesday, April 10th. The old SMC gateway (modem/router combination) and Linksys router was replaced with a Technicolor gateway and D-Link switch. The clubhouse Wi-Fi is now improved, plus 5.0 GHz is now available. Due to a limitation in the SSID (network name) scheme in the gateway which will not allow spaces, the SSIDs have been changed. Concurrently, we decided to simplify the Wi-Fi password to make it easier for members. The new password and SSID list is posted in two areas of the clubhouse and in the radio room. The Comcast technician also upgraded the SD set top box with an HD one.

The whiteboard at the front of the clubhouse hall, which was installed over ten years ago, needed to be replaced. The lubricating layer of the dry erase board had deteriorated and it lost the ability to wipe clean. As a result, Rick ordered a new one on Amazon. It came in a couple weeks ago and it was mounted in a temporary fashion, slightly to the left of the old board, to account for the width of the new TV. Rick proposes to move it a few more inches to the left along with the wooden support board beneath it.



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There are four tall metal file cabinets to front of the clubhouse; two on the left side and two to the right beneath the new TV. In an effort to become better organized, gain more space for tech talks and learning events, and to remove the eyesore of the old cabinets, Rick recommends that the club appropriate monies to purchase a 5-drawer steel lateral file cabinet. The contents of the old four cabinets could be audited, reorganized and stored into the new cabinet. The new single cabinet would be placed to the left of the door to the new entryway and radio room. Once this is completed, the whiteboard could be permanently mounted and there will be enough room to present the US flag to the left of the whiteboard in proper flag etiquette fashion.

Rick purchased a USB floppy disk drive, as all of the old drives in the now recycled computers had seized to operate. He went through several dozen old floppy disks and ZIP disks and copied all of their contents to the clubhouse PC's hard drive for now. One clean floppy and ZIP disk was formatted and saved for piece of history. Rick recommends that the club purchase the Dropbox Pro 1TB cloud storage service. Dropbox may then be installed on all four club owned computers for the purpose of file sharing and backing up vital documents, pictures, applications and backup data. There would be the ability to have sensitive files maintained by the officers in a separate storage area. It was noted that Dropbox is already being used by the officers, technical and repeater committees, but we have limited space with the free account.

Rick purchased two Polycom IP phones, their power adapters, a Cisco ATA (analog telephone adapter) and a phone service plan from CallCentric. It was determined that the club could benefit by switching to an IP/SIP based phone provider instead of Comcast. The monthly cost is significantly lower at less than \$10.00 per month based on usage on a per-call basis for calls to anywhere in the US or Canada. The club receives three phone lines, one for voice, one for fax and one for the future security alarm. Voicemail and faxes can automatically email the officers and board members. We also receive an IVR (auto attendant) feature when calling the voice line. Options for reaching the clubhouse or radio room phone, plus the President and technical committee which will forward to appropriate cell phones, informational recordings about the club and more are possible.

New wall plates and protective covers for the switches at the side entrance to the club have been installed by Rick. The top switches for the cellar and floodlights have a new clear cover over them to prevent them from being turned off. Two fluorescent tube bulbs on the clubhouse ceiling had burned out and replacements have been purchased. A few new signs were printed and posted around the clubhouse. This included a reminder to shut of lights and power down equipment upon leaving and notifications below the clubhouse and radio room HVAC unit to remind users not to shut them off and what to keep them set at in the winter and summer.



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Lastly, in light of the entire clubhouse receiving exterior vinyl siding soon, Rick recommended replacing the old drapes at the four front windows with vertical commercial blinds. Marcel checked with Joseph E. Krisnosky, Jr., N1IXC's wife, who had helped create the current drapes to ensure this would be okay. Rick got a quote for the cost of the blinds and will bring this up under new business, in addition to reimbursement for all of the costs associated with the aforementioned items.

Marcel and the membership present thanked Rick for the work that had been done in the past month.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- **ARES, RACES, SKYWARN**

Joseph E. Krisnosky, Jr., N1IXC reported that the next Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Region 2, Sector A, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) drill will be conducted this Monday, May 5, 2018. This drill for our section is held on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 PM on the 147.000 repeater.

Joe mentioned that he and Robert D. Macedo, KD1CY had volunteered for the Boston Marathon communications in April. There were no major issues to report and they both donated twelve (12) hours of their time to that public service event.

- **RADIO EVENTS**

Robert B. Kelley, K1KVV reported that for those of us that have email, he sent reminders about the NEQP and NEAR-Fest events. The 7th call area QSO party also happens to overlap with NEQP. You will hear them calling you, which is win-win for both QSO parties.

Bob mentioned a few other events like the 50 MHz Spring Sprint and Portuguese Navy Day. His Majesty The King of Spain CW Contest is this month for those that are into code. The Contest Corral for May is posted on the website and on the bulletin board at the clubhouse.



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• TREASURER'S REPORT

Note: Michael J. McDonald, KB1NB was absent earlier. Now present and prepared to give his report, this "Standing Committee" order of business was revisited.

SEMARA Treasurer, Mike reported total assets of \$83,984.72, with total inflows of \$40.00 and total outflows of \$12,002.24. As of tonight, the NETCOM balance is \$27,400 and after payments Mike received are applied, the new balance will be \$20,600.

Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD and Mike have still been unsuccessful in meeting with Alan Costello of NETCOM. They had also offered to meet with him in his hometown of Plymouth without success. He had recently been hospitalized, is still recuperating and we have not heard back from him. Mike mentioned that we soon will send a letter letting him know that we are not going to renew the current contract. Soon thereafter, we will send a newly drafted contract to him. Discussion followed on the state of the balance, bookkeeping, his unregistered vehicles on our property and other related items.

A motion was made, seconded and voted to refer the Treasurer's Report to audit.

• REPEATER

Chairman Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC reported that all is working well, aside from the known occasional crackle on the 147.000 repeater. The IRLP nodes on all three repeaters are now working properly since the replacement of the Comcast gateway.

• WEB

Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC reported that April was a very active month for the website. Several stories were posted, in which Rick printed an itemized list of the changes and posted it to the bulletin board at the clubhouse. As a reminder, all stories are assigned a category and you can choose to quickly find a story using the category drop down on the right side of the site. Also, the itemized list of updates is always sticky as the first story at the top of SEMARA.org.

Rick also noted that the "About Us" section has been reorganized and renamed "Info." We now have separate pages for about, membership information, the new ham program and for our association's history. At some point in the future, Rick hopes to convert the soft-cover book entitled "History of the Association 1932 – 1999" that was published by the late William M. Miller Jr., K1IBR into a properly formatted digital version that will be readable in this section.



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RATIFICATIONS OF NEW MEMBERS

A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept Timothy J. Brown, W1MKA of Mattapoissett and Alexander R. Shapiro, KC1JGI of Little Compton, RI as life members of the association. Tim and Alex had submitted an application prior to the April 2018 business meeting. Tim was present at the meeting and was hereby moved from guest to member on the attendance roster.

One new application for membership was received from Merton Smith, N1GKE of Warwick, RI. He is an annual ARRL member and is a general class amateur radio operator. A motion was made, seconded and carried to defer voting on this application until the next business meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC made a motion that we accept CallCentric as opposed to Comcast as the club's new telephone service provider, enacting three phone lines and an IVR (auto attendant), with a clubhouse and radio room Polycom IP SIP phone. The motion was seconded and carried.

The proposed modification to Article 4, Section 2 of our Constitution, which was presented at the April 2018 business meeting by Paul G. Sadeck, K1PGS and four other life members in good standing, was voted on and defeated.

Donald A. Rosinha, II, WA1BXY would like to sell old surplus equipment that SEMARA will no longer be using. The funds received would go back to the SEMARA treasury in order to purchase newer equipment. This motion had been deferred twice now at the March and April business meetings, as a few members stated that they did not receive the list of equipment in an email he sent to the discussion mailing list twice. In light of the time that had passed, Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC suggested that Don make a motion to sell the equipment so that we could vote whether or not to move forward. Don tendered the motion, then it was seconded and carried.

Donald T. Manley, N1PMB had a question about a Mosley TA-33 antenna that he said was previously under SEMARA ownership. He believed it was stored away in the shed or storage container. No one present could recall if we had sold or gotten rid of it, but it was noted that we are not currently in possession of it.



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NEW BUSINESS

Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC made a motion that we purchase a 5-drawer steel lateral file cabinet at a price not to exceed \$700.00 and to transfer the contents of the old file cabinets to them. The motion was seconded and carried.

Bradford E. Paiva, W1BEP made a motion that we reconsider the constitution amendment that was defeated under old business. He came to the meeting tonight after the vote and also mentioned that Paul G. Sadeck, K1PGS could not be present due to a previous engagement. Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD explained that the motion was already defeated by vote. Marcel also explained that Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC had consulted with the Board of Directors before the meeting tonight and that he is planning to present a more complete proposal shortly. Brad withdrew his motion.

Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC made a motion that we purchase four custom cut vertical blind window treatments at a price not to exceed \$300.00 for the four front clubhouse windows, replacing the existing drapes. The motion was seconded and carried.

Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC made a motion that we purchase the Dropbox Pro 1TB cloud storage plan, currently at a cost of \$99.00 per year, for the purpose of backing up association files and sharing between PCs. The motion was seconded and carried.

Andrew T. Perron, AB1YN mentioned that he is the instructor and lab technician at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy (MMA). He is trying to get their newly formed amateur radio club (call sign KC1IKY) off the ground. He has about fifteen to twenty students signed up for the amateur radio program and is hoping to run a VE exam session in November. He is in talks with Frederic S. Bacon, III, N1TF to possibly run a technician course once per year going forward.

Andrew stated that the newly formed MMA Radio Club is looking for donations. They need radios, antennas, power supplies and other items. Donald A. Rosinha, II, WA1BXY suggested that we donate the club's Kenwood TS-940 to MMA, which is on the list of items to sell. After a brief discussion, Don made a motion that we donate the TS-940 along with one of the Baofeng UV-5R radios that SEMARA uses for the New Amateur Radio Licensee Program. This motion was seconded and carried.

Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC made a motion that the club reimburse him for the total cost of the items purchased in the past month. This includes the whiteboard, markers, eraser, USB floppy drive, IP phones, ATA, wall plates, light bulbs and other miscellaneous related items. The motion was seconded and carried.



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Richard J. Cabral, W1RJG reiterated that a Constitution and/or Bylaw change is needed in order to address the recommendations that the board of directors presented to the membership earlier this year, should the membership wish to enact it. This includes changes in the way we handle new applicants that are non-amateurs and to provide a provision for flagging members as inactive. He had felt that it was not appropriate for him to present a proposal for an amendment, as he is a club officer. As a result, Paul G. Sadeck, K1PGS stepped up and presented a proposal at the last meeting, which was defeated earlier tonight.

In talking with Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD after the last business meeting, Rick and Marcel were in agreement that the proposal as presented by Paul was in the right direction, but the wording needed to be revised. As written, it would have been required that all members have a valid email address on file and places a lot of work on the secretary to check-in with all 400+ members on the date of everyone's birth constantly. Rick checked the Constitution and Bylaws and found that it does not disallow a club officer to present an amendment proposal. With that said, Rick proceeded with a new proposal.

Rick presented a proposal to make several modifications to both our Constitution and Bylaws. This proposal was signed by himself and four other full members in good standing. The proposed amendment was read aloud and was given to President Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD written exactly as follows:

Richard J. Cabral
24 Mishawum Drive
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SEMARA President, Marcel L. Dumont
c/o Southeastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
54 Donald Street
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(508) 997-7070

Thursday, May 3, 2018

Mr. Dumont:

In response to Paul G. Sadeck's proposal on April 5, 2018, we, the undersigned, hereby propose the following revisions to The Constitution and Bylaws of the Southeastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "Constitution" and "Bylaws"). The following revisions are intended to address both the definition of a member in good standing as intended by Mr. Sadeck, while also updating the types of membership.



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1) Revisions to Constitution **ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP, Section 1 – Types of Membership.**

- a. Revision to item **A. Life Member** to strike and replace the following text:

~~A life member shall be any person interested in amateur radio elected to membership. A life member shall have all the rights and privileges of the Association as outlined in Article IV, Section 3A.~~

A life member shall be any licensed Amateur Radio operator elected to membership. A life member shall have all the rights and privileges of the Association as outlined in Article IV, Section 3A.

- b. Members whose names appeared on the Charter of Incorporation have all since passed away. Therefore, item **C. Charter Member** and its following text are no longer necessary and shall be stricken:

~~Members whose names also appear on the Charter of Incorporation dated June 26, 1958 shall be deemed Charter Members.~~

- c. Addition of **C. Associate Member** with the following text:

An associate member shall be any person actively engaged in obtaining an Amateur Radio license or with a sincere interest in Amateur Radio. An associate member shall have all the rights and privileges of the Association as outlined in Article IV, Section 3C.

2) Revision to Constitution **ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP, Section 2 – Member in good standing.** The below text shall be stricken and replaced with the following text:

~~A member in good standing shall be one who observes and upholds the Constitution and Bylaws of this Association.~~

A member in good standing shall be one who observes and upholds the Constitution and Bylaws of this Association and is listed as active on the membership roster. A member shall be considered active if they respond to a request to verify and update their contact information with the Association. Such requests shall be permitted once annually per member at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

3) Revisions to Constitution **Section 3 – Privileges of Membership.**

- a. Revision to item **A** to remove a reference to Charter members. The following text shall be stricken:



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~~Life and Charter members in good standing shall have the following Constitutional rights except as provided otherwise in the Constitution and or Bylaws:~~

- b. Revision to item **B** to include a reference to associate members. The below text shall be stricken and replaced with the following text:

~~Honorary members may only attend and participate in Association meetings and functions and operate Association equipment if properly licensed. Honorary members shall have no vote and cannot place motions, nominate officers or be elected to serve as an officer.~~

Honorary and associate members may only attend and participate in Association meetings and functions and operate Association equipment if properly licensed. Honorary and associate members shall have no vote and cannot place motions, nominate officers or be elected to serve as an officer.

4) Revisions to Bylaws **ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP.**

- a. Revision to **Section 1 – Life Member** item **A** to require an Amateur Radio license. The below text shall be stricken and replaced with the following text:

~~Applicants for life membership shall have a genuine interest in amateur radio, and must agree to uphold and be guided by the Association's Constitution and Bylaws. Completed applications shall be brought up under "Applications for Membership" (Ratifications) during the next business meeting following submission of the application.~~

Applicants for life membership shall hold an active Amateur Radio license and must agree to uphold and be guided by the Association's Constitution and Bylaws. Completed applications shall be brought up under "Applications for Membership" (Ratifications) during the next business meeting following submission of the application.

- b. Removal of **Section 3 – Charter Member.** Members whose names appeared on the Charter of Incorporation have all since passed away. Therefore, this section and its following text are no longer necessary and shall be stricken:

~~Any life member listed on the Charter of Incorporation dated June 26, 1958, shall be deemed a charter member and have the full privileges of life membership.~~



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c. Addition of **Section 3 - Associate Member** with the following text:

Applicants for associate membership shall be any person actively engaged in obtaining an Amateur Radio license or with a genuine interest in Amateur Radio. Completed applications shall be brought up under "Applications for Membership" (Ratifications) during the next business meeting following submission of the application. Voting on new associate member applicant(s) follow the same guidelines as outlined in Bylaws Article I, Sections 1B and 1C.

5) Revisions to Bylaws **ARTICLE II - Initiation Fee, Dues, Section 1 - Life Members.**

a. The title of **Section 1** shall be stricken and replaced with the following text:

~~Section 1 - Life Members~~

Section 1 - Life and Associate Members

b. The below text shall be stricken and replaced with the following text:

~~All applicants for life membership shall pay an initiation fee as set each year by vote of the membership at the annual business meeting. Applicants not accepted into the Association shall have the initiation fee returned.~~

All applicants for life and associate membership shall pay an initiation fee as set each year by vote of the membership at the annual business meeting. Applicants not accepted into the Association shall have the initiation fee returned.

As per item 3 in Article VIII of the Constitution of the Southeastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (SEMARA), 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 means as outlined. We, the undersigned, request this proposal be posted on the Association website and to have it emailed to the membership in time for a vote at the Thursday, June 7, 2018 business meeting.



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Respectfully Submitted,

Richard J. Cabral
SEMARA Secretary

[Signatures and dates:

Richard J. Cabral
Robert B. Kelley
Ernesto A. Cabral
Edwin Barton
Donald Manley]

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

Raymond A. Arruda, KB1EVX mentioned that the Saturday date in October that is being considered for the SEMARA flea market appears to not conflict with any other known events, including NEAR-Fest. Discussion followed including concerns over the ability to keep the clubhouse quiet during the proposed VE session. The date will be made official by the next business meeting.

Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD advised that there have been problems with people making adjustments to the HVAC units beyond what they should be changing and also turning them off completely. Marcel proceeded to walk up to the clubhouse Fujitsu control unit on the wall and gave a demonstration on how to use it. When occupying the clubhouse and radio room, you should only be pressing the up/down arrows to adjust the thermostat temperature to a comfortable level. After a set amount of time, they will automatically reset to their default unoccupied setpoints, or you may wish to return them before exiting the building. The defaults that are set in the schedule are heat at 60° in the winter and cool at 80° in the summer. He also reminds everyone that you cannot put one unit on heat and the other on cool. They both run off of the same compressor and they must always match.

ADJURNMENT

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC
SEMARA Secretary



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BUSINESS MEETING ROSTER

Thursday, May 3, 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
(no call)	William L. Stack	
AB1YN	Andrew T. Perron	
K1AHA	Richard J. Halliwell	
K1KVV	Robert B. Kelley	
KB1EVX	Raymond A. Arruda	
KB1FRL	Charles W. Moszczenski	
KB1FVR	Brian T. Geagan	
KC1BGF	Joseph A. Tavares	
KC1BYI	Jonathan B. Copelano	
KC1EBB	David J. Fredette	
KC1GVW	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	
W1BZJ	Michael Ponte	
W1DJD	David J. DeMoss	
W1EAV	Christopher W. Washburn	
W1MKA	Timothy J. Brown	
W1MMD	Marc M. Dumont	
W1VRP	Joseph P. Frois	
WA1BXY	Donald A. Rosinha, II	

- One (1) Guest Present:

AC1EO	Christopher J. Bosse, Jr.
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