

ZERO-BEAT

SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS
AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.
54 DONALD ST. SOUTH DARTMOUTH, MA. 02748

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ISSUE 1

Club participation is not what it should be. Why? I can think of a few reasons. Lack of club sponsored activities is the biggest one. We seem to be caught in a vicious circle. I've heard it said that club membership is to high a price to pay for just the use of the repeater. The repeater has had it's problems and has been going through alot of changes this past year. Thanks to the work of Bill KLIER it is still on the air. The phone patch is still being worked on. But even with the repeater up and running it sees very little activity.

As far as other activities go, everyone wants some but there seems to be a lack of volunteers. So if we do not any help with the activities we can't have them. This then justifies the bad attitude, especially with 145.49 repeater around. While I think 145.49 is a nice repeater with all it's functions, it would be sad to see a club with the potential such as SEMARA has go to waste. I think it would greatly benefit the area to have two active repeaters. The only way to get double 0 active is to get on there and talk.

I found a March 1984 issue of Zero Beat and it seemed there was alot of activity going on back then. I know there are alot of guys who have put many hours and years into the club. It is true we need new blood and more help. I for one am willing to help out and I think there are many more of you out there who are also willing. I know there are many more experienced hams than myself and I need your help and suggestions the most. So if anyone has any ideas for club activity, be it to raise money for the club or just to get the group together please let it be known. We need all the help we can get.

I would like to see 1987 be a rebuilding year for SEMARA and it's members. It can't be done with just one or two members. I am volunteering and showing my interest in the club and ham radio. I hope we can get many more to do the same. If you have any ideas please let us know. If you can spare some time to do some work done at the club it would be a big help. Every member should have a key and can use the club station at any time. Lets put WLAEC back on the map. If anyone would like to voice their opinion by writing an article feel free we'll print it, or get to a meeting and be heard. Hope to see you this month.

73'S Ray NLEBW

P.S. If you have an articles to put in the paper, you can drop it off at the club. Or send it to SEMARA
PO Box P-105 South Dartmouth, MA 02748

One of the many questions I have received since taking the job of ARRL TC/SNJ has been "why do I have TVI?" Well, there are some real obvious places to start in the investigation of TVI complaints. Most hams are well aware of the most common fixes for MINOR TVI/RFI disturbances but MAJOR disturbances do not go away with easy work. It takes time & thought to track the evil demon but it can be a little easier to find than you think.

Let us consider the case of transmit interference to a neighbor's TV. It is the most common and will bring a smile to some and tears to others.

The first place to start: The Station Ground

Is it ground or a ground radial?

More often than not, BEST is not EASY. If you use a cold water pipe, unless you are next to the well's final plunge or close to it, you are too far. The best is a ground rod and some heavy braid or stranded conductor. If you are a basement dweller, it will be work but you may consider a floor bore through the concrete. Hidden in a corner, it will pay for itself. You must have a good earth ground to run any large power amplifiers. Moist earth is preferable to dry sand. Take this into consideration when selecting a perspective ground rod site. Enough said, I know you all have heard it before, just some different thoughts found through my own experience.

The next thing to think about is: Antennas

Aerial or Underground?

This can be a MAJOR consideration since you emanate and receive electrical energy from this point in a radio system. The first you have heard before. What is the SWR on the antenna? Is the antenna in any proximity to the receiving antenna? Does the complainant have an Antenna Preamp or Cable Television installed in thier home?

Usually hams like to get the antenna way up high but we don't always have our dreams fulfilled. No 100'oaks, so we deal with the problem at a realistic 30-40' level and works great for wire antennas but having them parallel to telephone and cable runs has been found to be a Trouble Zone! A typical situation is a 160 Meter "V" next to a neighbor's telephone run. Moved one leg of the antenna and the interference was gone.

I am going to explain CATV or Cable in finer detail since a MAJORITY of past instances have been related to cable television installations. I have assisted many people with regard to this facet of interference. I have also worked in the CATV industry, therefore, I have alot of hints to share with you.

If the complaint comes from someone with cable, is it overhead or underground entry? They both have the same characteristics but the plan of attack is different in each instance. All cable systems are subject to massive leakage. If our stations had 1000's of cable connectors, they would leak too! Think of what cable is: a matrix of RF cable, amplifiers and signal splitters to complete a signal path. Ahh! think of it as a giant RF swiss cheese! The problem is that if the cable system leaks out signals, we can leak in signals as well. Open shields and oxidized connector's are commonplace in the CATV industry because of the lack of Good Installation Practice. This is present in almost ALL above-ground systems. Underground systems are less prone to this problem since they use aluminum hardline and better quality connectors as opposed to aluminum foil coax and tinfoil connectors in above ground systems. Once your signal enters the system, it is amplified & amplified & amplified!

Everyones TV is different but all you need is one guy who don't want to hear why his 2 TV can't compete with your "I@#\$%&*%&0@! radio!" Cable TV companies are just as liable for their transmissions as we are but we are easier to blame. You must make sure your cable company is clean & tight or you stand to loose your credibility as a ham! If you have a 2 meter or 220 MHz handheld and an external antenna(preferably directional), please try this:

1. Connect your handheld and antenna so that you can easily take it outside.
2. Tune to the picture carrier frequency(*) +or-30 KHz(depends on local company). The frequencies are:

Cable Channel	Video Carrier	Color Carrier	Sound Carrier
E	*145.250 MHz	148.830 MHz	149.750 MHz
J	217.250 "	220.830 "	221.750 "
K	*223.250 "	226.830 "	227.750 "

* - Denotes places where a 30 KHZ AM carrier can be found in the Amateur bands. All other frequencies for information ONLY!

If you tune to (*) frequencies and hear a wide, open carrier, you are hearing the cable company's signal leaking from somewhere. By using the directional antenna, you can 'DF' the source(s) easily using an attenuator if necessary. If you detect and note leakages, Please call your local company and MAKE SURE THEY SEAL THE LEAK! I have heard pro & con on Field Engineers of such companies. Be POLITE and tell them you are a ham and you have found some leakage. You may be asked to or find a chance to demonstrate this method for them and get it fixed immediately. Some companies have leak detectors but never use them. In some instances, the detectors will not be believed by the techs because they go off so easily. That will be your que' to show them it is TRUE!

If you tune to (*) frequencies and hear nothing, don't be depressed, this is one you won't want to hear!

Be very careful not to think this is the only reason you have TVI/RFI but a well informed operator is the best defense in case the finger points at you. I do not lay all the blame on the above subjects, however, this article is written to expose some facts which have been ignored or hard-to-find. If you have tried the above and reside in the Southern New Jersey ARRL Section but haven't had any luck, please contact me by mail or packet:

Mr. Chris Crosby KA2RAF
83 Shady Lane Drive
Lakewood, NJ 08701
-or-
KA2RAF @ NN2Z

If you do not reside in SNJ Section, you can drop me a note but for official help, contact your local Section Technical Coordinator or The ARRL for further assistance.

Good Luck & 73,
de CHRIS
ARRL TC/SNJ

LOCAL NETS

Two Meter Nets Sunday
RACES-145,49, WB1DBX 9:00 AM-Fairhaven

ARES-147.075 WA1DGW 10:00 Fall River

SWAP NET

147.075 Following the ARES Net

TRIVIA NET

Sunday night on 147.075 @ 7:30 pm

Some of the guys get on Ten Meters on Sunday mornings, why not join us. The frequency is 28.700 MHZ @ 8:00

If you have any information on local nets please let us know so we can list them.

Equipment Update

Work has been done on the Tribander and rotor over the past few months. They are ready to go back up with the help and good weather, we are looking for both.

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the March 15 to help with communications for the Half Marathon being held in New Bedford. This is a National Championship. If interested please let Ray N1EBW know. More detailed information will be coming.

Club Update

Just a reminder the Club meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM. This the business meeting. It is hopeful that we will get some activities going on after these meetings or on other Thursdays. The idea of movies or speakers sounds good. If anyone has any ideas about this please drop us a line.

Club Officers voted in for 1987:

President: Mike Ponte-WA1BZJ

Vice-President: Ray Guillotte-N1EBW

Secretary: Bill Field-WA1FYP

Treasurer: Steve Spulock-N1DSN

Board of Directors:

Ken Howland-N1AVA

Armund Augustine-WB1BUG

Van Johnson-KA1KRI

Trustee: Norm Robitaille-N1DNI

Committee volunteers:

Technical: Bill Miller - K1IBR

Bill Pierce - K1YMW

John Hadfield - KA1TP

Buildings & Grounds:

Ray Guillotte-N1EBW

Pete Kodis

Activities: Ray Guillotte-N1EBW

Mike Ponte-WA1BZJ

Bill Field-WA1FYP

Joe Miderske-W1EKW

Thank you to all those who volunteered for 1987. Good Luck

NOVICE CLASS

A novice class has been started at the club, thanks to the efforts of Ken-N1AVA and Al-W1ZHC. It meets on Tuesday at 7:00PM. Good luck to Ken and Al and all the novice candidates. Hope to see some new faces down at the club soon.

NEW MEMBERS

The club welcomes two new members voted in last month. Welcome to John Hadfield-KA1TP and Pete Kodis who is working on his novice.

PACKET RADIO

A packet radio system has been set up at the club. It is operating on 145.090 Mhz. The equipment being used was loaned to the club by Mike-WA1BZJ. Thanks Mike for getting packet started at the club.

FCC TESTING

Testing will be held for all class licenses, novice thru extra, at the club on April 9th. The time is 6:30pm. Walk-ins are welcome, but you are advised to preregister to guarantee a test in your name. For more info. or a 610 form send a SASE to Bill Pierce, 666 Cottage St., New Bedford, MA. 02740.

FOR SALE

This spot will be reserved for anyone who has anything to sell or anything they are looking for.

The following items are for sale:

Desk Charger and Speaker Mic for the Yaesu 208R HT \$65

Nye Viking Iambic Keyer Model SSK--1--K with wall charger \$45
Call Art-WB1ERC @ 993-8352

Ten Tec Model 544 (Led Readout)

Matching power supply and mike

\$300 for the whole package if

interested call Mike-WA1BZJ-994-9464

Radio Shack Disc/Video Interface

for Model 100 \$225/B0

Clegg FM 22'er 2 meter rig \$40

Call Tim Smith--N1BTQ @ 758-9442