

# ZERO BEAT

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SEMARA, W1AEC  
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## Announcing:

The results of the special election are in!  
The newly duly elected officers are:

Pete Carreiro, KA1WOJ, President  
Mike Ponte, WA1BZJ, Vice-President  
Mark Mahoney, N1IEP, Secretary  
Pat Carreiro, KA1YUH, Treasurer  
Charles Pelletier, KD1DA, Director

## Meeting Highlights

Here are the highlights from the June 3rd,  
SEMARA business meeting:

(Many thanks to Karen Peckham, N1UE, and Mark Mahoney,  
N1IEP for this information, due to the fact the your humble  
editor was on the west coast.)

After the pledge and roll call, the meeting  
was presided over by Pete, KA1WOJ.

There was no secretary's report due to  
the resignation of the secretary at the last  
meeting. The treasurer's report was read  
and accepted.

Under old business, Bill, K1IBR, reported  
that the repeater's touch tone decoder  
has been replaced, and the machine is  
now back in operation. Bill also indicated  
he would take responsibility for the con-  
struction of the shed.

After a discussion of the security of club  
property, there was general agreement  
that nothing of value should be stored at  
the club. Bill, K1IBR, agreed to inventory  
and store the remaining candy bars.

Mike, WM1S, reported that the bike tour  
scheduled for June 19th and 20th was  
cancelled due to the sponsor's difficult  
time in recruiting participants.

After some discussion, a motion to in-  
definitely table the proposed changes to  
the constitution and bylaws was passed.

A couple of conditional members were  
voted in as full members: Joseph Rose,  
WA1ETS, and John Andrade, K1VOY.

Mike, WA1BZJ, the chairman for the  
nominating committee, reported on the  
committee's meeting, and presented a  
proposed slate of officers to fill the vacan-  
cies. Being that there were no nomina-  
tions from the floor, the nominations were  
closed.

Pete, KA1WOJ, then resigned his office  
of treasurer, and nominations were  
opened to fill this new vacancy. Pat,  
KA1YUH, was nominated, with no other  
nominations being made.

After a motion was passed to waive the  
rules and allow the election of officers to  
take place immediately, a motion to  
waive the secret ballot was also passed.  
As such, the officers were elected with no  
opposition.

Pete, KA1WOJ, thanked Dave DeCosta,  
N1MVZ, for a donation of a lawn mower.  
Pete also asked for a volunteer to climb  
the tower and examine the antenna and  
connections.

After little discussion, the meeting was  
adjourned.

## Next Meeting

The next SEMARA business meeting is  
July 1, 1993, 7:30 pm. The club meets  
every Thursday, with business meetings  
on the first Thursday of the month.

## Question Pool Change

On June 30, new question pools take  
effect for elements 2 and 3A. A new "Now  
You're Talking" is available which has the  
changes.

## Novice Exams now under VEC Program

Effective July 1, 1993, all Amateur Radio  
license examinations will be coordinated  
by VECs.

The FCC released on May 14, 1993 their  
Report and Order in PR Docket 92-154  
(adopted May 3, 1993), "Amendment of  
the Amateur Service Rules to include  
Novice Class Examinations in the Volun-  
teer-Examiner Coordinator Examination  
System." The changes include:

- Three (3) General (or higher) class  
licensed volunteer examiners will be  
able to administer Novice and Tech-  
nician license examinations (Elements  
1A, 2, and 3A) once they are ac-  
credited by a VEC.
- In order to administer the Novice and  
Technician examinations, General  
class amateurs must be accredited,  
and may seek accreditation with one  
or more of the VECs.
- All license examinations, including  
Novice, must be publicly announced  
(date, time, and location) before they  
can be administered.
- A CSCE must be issued to an ex-  
aminee who scores a passing grade  
on an examination element, including  
Novice elements. Effective July 1st, the  
Form 610 will no longer be issued for  
element credit (610 Forms issued on  
or before June 30, 1993, will continue  
to be valid for 365 days from the date  
of issuance - no 610 may be accepted  
for Element 1A or Element 2 credit after  
July 1, 1994).
- VEs and VECs may be reimbursed for  
their out of pocket expenses in the  
preparation and administration of  
Novice examinations.

## Construction Project

We started the project last month, and promised the construction part of the project this month. We're building a *Compact Attenuator for Transmitting Hunting*.

Again, the plans and information for this project came from Kevin, WB1MUP, John, WN9T, and Mike, N1EVH.

The best material to make the case from is double-sided copper pc boards. The outside dimensions of the unit, shown in figure 1, should be about 5 inches, by 1

3/4 inches, by 7/8 inch. You may need to expand the dimensions depending on the switches you use.

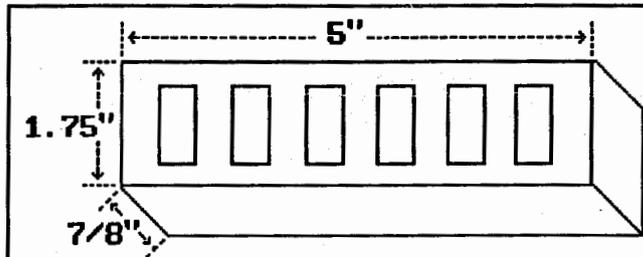
The schematic for the attenuator is shown in figure 2. The resistor values shown come from the PI value chart printed in the previous issue. You can use 1/8, 1/4, or 1/2 watt resistors, since it's not recommended to transmit through the attenuator.

All of the thick lines represent double-sided copper pc board. All the joints should be soldered to cut down signal

leakage. The switches are double pole double throw. Slide switches are recommended, but toggle switches may also be used. Be sure to cut the switch holes just big enough to fit through, to cut signal-leakage.

The holes in the dividers, to feed the wires through between steps, should be made with a No. 43 or 1/16" drill bit. Use 3/8" holes on the ends to mount BNCs.

The resistors can be mounted right on the switch lugs, with the R1 resistors ground leg soldered right to the side of the case.



*This is the general layout of the case. All pieces are double-sided copper PC board soldered at all joints. Brass screws and nuts may be used to attach the bottom plate.*

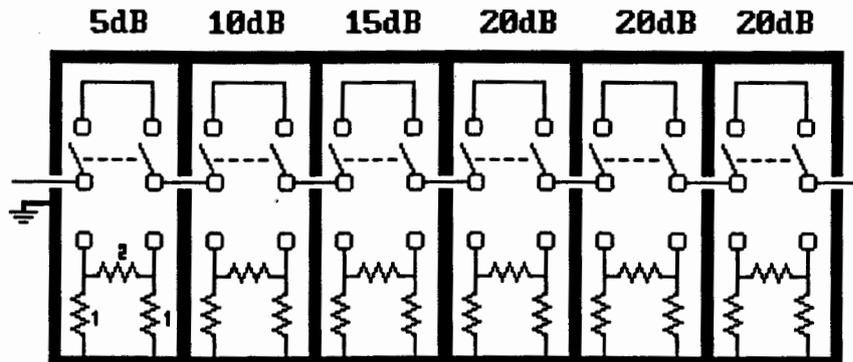
Figure 1.

To attach the cover, mount some 4-40 brass nuts in the corners of the unit, then drill some holes in the bottom cover so you can use 4-40 brass screws to hold the cover on. Once it's all soldered and assembled, it can be shined up with some steel wool. Add some labels for each switch designating the step's attenuation, then apply a coat or two of clear lacquer to protect the whole case.

This is the schematic for a 90dB attenuator in 6 steps. For each step, use the resistor values from the following chart. All values are in ohms and may be 1/8, 1/4 or 1/2 watt.

	5dB	10dB	15dB	20dB
R1	200	100	75	62
R2	33	75	150	240

Figure 2.



## Packet Directory

144.990 NS1N  
145.010 Fara Digi  
145.010 KA1THM  
145.570 WA1OAJ  
145.530 KQ1K

## Repeater Directory

145.150 - WA1DGW, Fall River  
145.490 - KA1WBF, Fairhaven  
146.700 - WA1RBT, Cranston  
146.655 - WA1GPO, Falmouth  
147.000+ W1AEC, South Dartmouth  
147.135+ Taunton  
147.180+ Bridgewater  
147.315+ Wareham  
  
442.200+ Fall River  
443.450+ Westport  
444.350+ W1ACT, Fall River

## Volunteers Needed

On July 9, 10 and 11, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, SEMARA will operate an information and demonstration booth at the Whaling City Festival.

The purpose of the booth is to inform the public about Amateur Radio and SEMARA. We hope to distribute ARRL and SEMARA information, as well as demonstrate different aspects of Amateur Radio. Sign up sheets will be available for classes, newsletters and public service projects.

We need as many volunteers as possible. Contact Bob Peckham, KA1YDG, at 995-9137 to offer your services and assistance.

## Field Day

Field day(s) this year is on June 26 and 27. If you are interested in working a few hours (or ANY hours) for the event, contact one of the officers for more information. You can also read the article published in the June 1993 QST about getting ready for field day.

There's rumor of a cookout for all who attend!

## ★ Limbaugh Net

There appears to be a great interest in the forming of a "Rush Limbaugh" net. In the first week of a survey to determine the



## The Packet Racket

Larry Houbre 6/93

CONNECT ZEROBEAT.WIAEC.SEMARA.MA  
SB ALL

Packet Radio can be used to send a message via the NTS (National Traffic System). Entering a message for the NTS is basically the same as entering a private message, with a few little twists.

Before sending an NTS message via packet, you must first prepare the message just as you would any NTS message. Follow the standard ARRL Radiogram Format. Information from the standard NTS message (as well as the message) is needed.

To enter the traffic into a packet message and start it on it's way, you send it to the zip code and state. For example, to send a message to 02740 in Massachusetts, you would simply enter:

ST 02740 @ NTSMA

Make sure you use "NTS" followed by the proper state abbreviation.

The system will then ask for a "subject" line. On this line, you enter the city, state abbreviation, Area Code, a "slant bar" (/) and the Exchange. For example, if the addressee is in New Bedford, Mass., the subject line could be:

New Bedford MA 508/991

You next enter the NTS message just as you prepared it, including the preamble. Instead of an "X" for sentence breaks, you can just press "enter" on the keyboard. End the message with "/EX" alone on a line.

An NTS message will "automagically" be forwarded to a Packet BBS that services the given state, where another HAM who's handling the given zip code will forward the message from there.

/EX  
DISCONNECT

interest level, over 120 positive responses were received.

On an experimental basis, the net will be on 20 meters at 14.250 at 0000 utc on Sundays.

To tune in, point your antenna towards Seattle and listen and learn! If the frequency is in use check out 14.260 and 14.270.

John, K17EA, the net founder, sends his Megga Dittos.

## Mystery Photo

Last month's mystery photo was Larry Lygren, WB1DBX. If you have a "mystery photo" you think will be of interest (or stump the club) please consider lending it to the editor.

## Kerchunk?

I kerchunk, therefore I am...a Ham.

Kerchunk: Either a verb or noun, but usually a verb. From the German "kerchunker" to kerchunk a repeater.

## June in History

- 1-1869: The voting machine was patented by Thomas A. Edison.
- 2-1966: Surveyor One landed on the moon and transmitted detailed pictures.  
1986: For the 1st time sessions of the U.S. Senate were broadcast on TV.
- 3-1949: "Dragnet" was first broadcast on radio.  
1965: During Gemini 4, astronaut Edward White became the 1st American to "walk" in space.
- 4-1896: Henry Ford made a successful test drive at nighttime with his car through the streets of Detroit.
- 6-1925: The Chrysler corporation was founded.  
1933: The 1st drive-in movie theatre opened.
- 6-1786: The 1st commercially-made ice cream sold in NY.  
1869: The vacuum cleaner was patented.
- 10-1977: Apple Computer shipped its first Apple II.
- 11-1867: Charles Fabry, who discovered the ozone layer in the upper atmosphere, was born.  
1895: The first automobile race.
- 12-1839: The 1st baseball game was played in America.
- 13-1963: Vostok 6 was launched by the USSR; pilot was 1st woman cosmonaut.  
1963: Pioneer 10 was the 1st man-made object to leave the Solar System.
- 14-1919: The 1st direct airplane crossing of the Atlantic.
- 15-1844: Charles Goodyear patented his process to strengthen rubber.
- 17-1947: The 1st commercial around-the-world plane flight began.  
1972: The Watergate Break-in.
- 18-1812: The War of 1812 began.  
1815: The Battle of Waterloo.
- 20-1893: Liza Borden was found innocent of the murders of her father and stepmother.
- 22-1847: The doughnut was invented. 
- 22-1978: The planet Pluto's partner, Charon, discovered.  
1983: 1st time a satellite was retrieved from orbit, by space shuttle.
- 23-1868: Christopher Sholes received a patent for his "Type-Writer".  
1912: Alan Turing, mathematician and pioneer in computer theory, was born.
- 24-1951: The 1st color television broadcast.
- 25-1630: The fork was introduced to American dining.
- 26-1870: N.J.'s famous Atlantic City boardwalk was opened to the public.  
1913: Maurice Wilkes, who invented the stored program concept for computers, was born.
- 27-1847: Telegraph service began as New York and Boston were linked.
- 28-1820: The tomato was proved to be non-poisonous.  
1894: Labor Day was established as holiday on the 1st Monday of September.
- 29-1927: First flight from the West Coast arrived in Hawaii.

I kerchunk, you kerchunk, he/she/it kerchunks.

Whenever I kerchunk, I always identify. This not only keeps many from being "rubbed the wrong way", but has resulted in many a nice QSO.

A good kerchunk tells you many things:

1. Your transmitter is working
2. Your receiver is working

## Calendar

Jun 20, MIT Flea Market  
Jun 26 & 27, Field Day

Jul 1, 7:30p, Business meeting  
Jul 18, MIT Flea Market  
Jul 24-25, ARRL NE Div. Convention, NH

Aug 5, 7:30p, Business Meeting  
Aug 8, Ham Fest, Wellsley  
Aug 14-15, ARRL National Convention  
Aug 15, MIT Flea Market  
Aug 28, Ham Fest, Gardner  
Aug 29, Ham Fest, Fall River

Sep 2, 7:30p, Business Meeting  
Sep 12, Ham Fest/Exams, Dartmouth  
Sep 18, BBS Chat Meet Show  
Sep 19, MIT Flea Market  
Sep 26, Ham Fest/Exams, Framingham

Oct 7, 7:30p, Business Meeting  
Oct 15-16, Hoss Traders, Rochester, NH  
Oct 17, MIT Flea Market  
Oct 30, National Exam Day

Nov 4, 7:30p, Business Meeting  
Nov 13, Ham Fest, Plymouth

Dec 2, 7:30p, Business Meeting

Jan 6, 7:30p, Business Meeting  
Feb 3, 7:30p, Business Meeting  
Mar 3, 7:30p, Business Meeting  
Apr 7, 7:30p, Business Meeting  
Apr 17, MIT Flea Market

3. Your antenna is working
4. The repeater is there
5. The repeater receiver is working
6. The repeater xmtr is working
7. The repeater antenna is working
8. The call of the repeater

Sometimes my kerchunk is answered by an anonymous kerchunk. But it seems my kerchunk is always of higher quality than his kerchunk.

## VE EXAMS

### June:

18 Plymouth, MA	Bob, 508-747-6022
19 Melrose, MA	Scott, 617-322-7654
19 Nashua, NH	Jim, 603-673-7395
20 Athol, MA	John, 508-249-5905
21 Concord, NH	Rob, 603-224-3899
23 Cambridge, MA	Nick, 617-253-3776
25 Holyoke, MA	Jim, 413-245-3228

### July:

5 Cambridge, MA	Bob, 617-593-1955
8 Providence, RI	Judy, 401-231-9156
10 Falmouth, MA	Geoffrey, 508-548-0969
10 Braintree, MA	Philip, 617-329-6446
11 Cranston, RI	Jane, 401-725-8752
17 Melrose, MA	Scott, 617-322-7654
21 Cambridge, MA	Nick, 617-253-3776
23 Holyoke, MA	Jim, 413-245-3228
24 Manchester, NH	Glenn, 603-434-4490

### August:

2 Cambridge, MA	Bob, 617-593-1955
12 Providence, RI	Judy, 401-231-9156
14 Falmouth, MA	Geoffrey, 508-548-0969
14 Brewster, MA	Henry, 508-255-2818
21 Melrose, MA	Scott, 617-322-7654
28 New Bedford, MA	Dave, 508-991-4291

Don't you just love the smell of kerchunk in the morning?

The local chapter of KA meets weekly.

Now available is a new Kerchunk Detector which will print out the date, time, and call for each and every kerchunk. The FCC will be charging 25 cents per kerchunk, which will be added to your income tax. The new 1040-K forms are even now being printed.

National Kerchunk Day will be established by congress next year. On this day ONLY kerchunking will be allowed on repeaters. Anyone actually engaged in a conversation will lose kerchunking privileges for a period of 90 days.

## SEMARA OFFICERS

### President

Pete Carreiro, KA1WOJ, 993-6262

### Vice-President

Mike Ponte, WA1BZJ, 996-0159

### Secretary

Mark Mahoney, N1IEP, 993-5942

### Treasurer

Pat Carreiro, KA1YUH, 993-6262

### Board Members

Dr. Norm Riley, W1ATI  
Marc Jodoin, KA1WBF  
Charles Pelletier, KD1DA

### Trustees

Dr. Norm Riley, W1ATI, Chairman  
Bill Field, WA1FYF  
Morris Fogaren, WB1GJO  
Joe Midurski, W1EKW  
Edward Blouin, KA1AW

**Activities/Public Relations Committee**  
Robert Peckham, KA1YDG, Chairman

**Buildings & Grounds Committee**  
Bill Field, WA1FYF, Chairman

### Technical Committee

William M. Miller, Jr., K1IBR, Chairman

### Ways & Means Committee

Pat Carreiro, KA1YUH, Chairman

### Education Committee

Mike Enos, WM1S, Chairman

Operators of the National People's Repeater in Peking have reported that when band conditions are right, there is much kerchunking by hams located in Taiwan.

The rules for a new award, "KAS" are currently under consideration.

Have you kerchunked YOUR repeater today?

SEMARA, Inc.  
54 Donald Street  
South Dartmouth, MA 02748

Scanned by N1TI  
January 2011

William Miller, K1IBR  
49 Old Westport Rd.  
No. Dartmouth, MA 02747

