

# ZERO BEAT

Published Monthly by  
SEMARA, W1AEC  
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## Meeting Highlights

Here are the highlights from the August 5th, SEMARA business meeting:

Bill, K1IBR, of the technical committee reported that an electric eye was installed to keep the flood lights off during the day. Also, due to reports of trouble with the phone patch, Bill said he would check out the repeater, and put the back-up repeater on in it's place.

Bill also reported that the concrete block walls have been installed around the duct work between the buildings, and that the roof will be installed soon. He thanked all who helped.

Pete, KA1WOJ, reported in the installation of a new side door, and that they are preparing another door for installation in the front.

Bob, KA1YDG, reported that the Whaling City Festival booth was generally successful, although festival turn out was low due to the heat. Many people stopped by and took information. All who worked the booth had fun.

There was some talk about the upcoming ham fest. There will be some guest speakers. Those interested will be meeting to get things started.

Mike, WM1S, reported that there would be an exam session on Sept. 5 at 11 am.

Bill, K1IBR, brought to the attention of the club a donation which was made by Ernest Lovalette, W1FXH. Ernest donated a framed certificate of the "Royal Order of the Wouff Hong" which was

presented to him in 1937. The wouff hong that he made has been hanging over the side window for years now.

Dave, KD1GH, then took the floor to present citations to two members of the club for assistance in an emergency. Dave and some others were stranded and in trouble on a boat in October 1992. Calls for help were answered by Richard, KA1YZE, and Peter, KA1WBE. Neither recipient was at the meeting, so Dave said he would hold on to the citations until a moment of maximum embarrassment for presentation can be found.

The meeting adjourned just after 8 pm.

## ➡ Next Meeting

The next SEMARA business meeting is Sept. 2nd, 1993, 7:30 pm. The club meets every Thursday, with business meetings on the first Thursday of the month.

Don't forget the club's Ham Fest is September 12! There are chores to be attended and tasks to be handled!

## Prohibited Communications

The FCC has acted on permissible/prohibited communications in the Amateur Service July 15:

(Washington, DC) The Commission has amended the amateur service rules to allow amateur operators more flexibility in providing communications for public

## Beginnings

This is part one of a multipart column about the origins of SEMARA.

Amateur radio operators, or "hams" as they like to be called, have been part of American life since 1835 when Samuel Morse perfected his invention, the telegraph, and developed a system of dots and dashes, aptly named "Morse Code". The first commercial telegraph was set-up between Washington D.C. and the city of Baltimore only nine years later, ushering in the age of quick, efficient, long distance communication.

Shortly after the Morse system was accepted as the standard method for telegraph and with the advent of "wireless" communication, amateur enthusiasts of this growing industry began to experiment. The New Bedford area, in 1928, entered this new age when Alan Cooper W1HSR and eighteen others formed the New Bedford Short Wave Radio Club (NBSWRC). Using the call W1FX, they held weekly meetings at Mr. Cooper's home on Willard Street, to conduct business, experiments, and instruction for others wishing to become hams and to those licensed wishing to "upgrade".

During the great floods of 1936 members of the NBSWRC joined in a nationwide effort to aid people stranded in unsafe areas of their community. In the same year, with a membership of thirty and treasury of twenty-seven dollars, the group changed it's name to the New Bedford Amateur Radio Club (NBARC) and moved from Willard to 47 Sidney Street, an old store front, for rent of two dollars per week. By 1943 the club had formally changed it's name to the Southeastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association (SEMARA) and joined in a national communication link to aid the Office of Civilian Defense in the war effort. Only three years after the war had ended, SEMARA membership had grown to over fifty and the club voted to keep the Sidney St. station and hold regular business meetings at a larger location, the N. B. YMCA.

In 1954, Kenneth Dyer, W1AEC, a member since 1948, was aboard the ship Four Sisters, when it vanished without a trace. In memory and honor of Mr. Dyer, SEMARA petitioned the FCC for use of the W1AEC call for it's station license.

service projects as well as to enhance the value of the amateur service in satisfying personal communications needs.

Part 97 of the commission's Rules prohibits amateur stations from transmitting any communications the purpose of which is to facilitate the business or commercial affairs of any party, or as an alternative to other radio services.

The amendment would allow the amateur service to expand its public ser-

vice capabilities and to provide greater flexibility for personal communications. The amendment would allow licensees to use amateur service frequencies to facilitate events such as races and parades, to support educational activities, to provide personal communications such as making appointments and ordering food, to collect data for the National Weather Service, and to provide assistance voluntarily even where there are other authorized radio services available.

## The Packet Racket

Larry Houbre 8/93

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SB ALL

The Full Service Packet Radio BBS at AA1FS on 145.090 is finally in full operation! It's happily receiving and sending bulletins, and private "mail" into the packet network. The BBS now qualifies as a "Home BBS" for any who choose to use it, as some have.

For example, Rob, KD1CY, posts his daily weather report at AA1FS. The report is then transmitted into the network, and zooms its way around Eastern Massachusetts at the speed of radios and computers. Rob also posts reports on storms, tropical and otherwise.

The latest weather report for the day is available "instantly" by issuing the command WX at AA1FS. (There may be such a command at other BBSs also.)

For those who are interested, the latest ARRL propagation report and Keplerian elements are "instantly" available with the commands PR and KP.

If you are more into "chatting", the WHALE switch on 145.090 has a CHAT program with a CQ command. First connect to WHALE, then issue the command CHAT. Once you get the CHAT hello line, you can issue /CQ which will transmit a CQ CHAT on all the AA1FS ports. Issue /HELP for info on other CHAT commands.

The WHALE node also has the first (as far I as know) online Packet Radio Trivia Game! After connecting to WHALE, issue command TRIVIA and you'll be connected to the next available trivia category. The game tracks the top ten players, so if you're wiz at remembering obscure facts you'll get your name up in lights!

Next time, we'll discuss PaBeSS, a multi-player packet radio game that you participate in by sending messages to the PaBeSS server.

/EX  
DISCONNECT

## August In History

- 1-1858 First Class postage raised to 4¢ (was 3¢ for 26 yrs).
- 1881 Rock music cable TV channel MTV made its debut.
- 2-1776 Members of the Continental Congress began to sign the Declaration of Independence.
- 1883 3rd Monday of January was declared a federal holiday in honor civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.
- 3-1881 U.S. air traffic controllers went on strike.
- 4-1693 Champagne was invented by Dom Perignon. X
- 1790 The United States Coast Guard was founded.
- 5-1881 First U.S. income tax, 3% of income over \$800.
- 1884 The spectrum of a comet observed for 1st time.
- 1884 Cornerstone was laid for the Statue of Liberty.
- 1983 The Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was signed.
- 6-1826 The first woman swims the English Channel.
- 1945 Atom Bomb dropped on Hiroshima.
- 7-1789 The U.S. War Department was established.
- 1886 Louis Alan Hazeltine, who invented the radio neutrodyne circuit, was born.
- 8-1878 Thomas Edison received patent for mimeograph.
- 1978 Pioneer Venus II was launched.
- 9-1945 The Atom Bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.
- 1974 President Richard M. Nixon resigned as President; vice President Gerald Ford became the nation's 38th chief executive.
- 10-1848 The Smithsonian Institute was established.
- 1904 New two-story homes sold for \$5,000.
- 1948 Fun! 's "Candid Camera" made debut on ABC.
- 1981 Pete Rose beat Stan Musial's record of 3630 hits.
- 11-1962 The USSR launched cosmonaut Andrian Nikolayev into orbit for a 94+ hour flight.
- 12-1858 First police formed in America.
- 1851 Isaac Singer granted patent for sewing machine.
- 13-1907 The first taxicab appeared, in New York City.
- 14-1935 Congress passed the Social Security Act.
- 1945 VJ Day - Japan surrendered to end World War II.
- 15-1914 The Panama Canal opened to traffic.
- 1981 East Germany began building the Berlin Wall.
- 1989 Woodstock Music and Art Fair opened in NY.
- 17-1891 1st public bathhouse with showers opened in New York City.
- 20-1896 Dial telephone was patented.
- 1953 USSR announced it had conducted a test detonation of a H-bomb.
- 1977 The Voyager II was launched.
- 21-1945 FCC released 112-115.5 MHz. for amateur radio.
- 1968 The Soviet Union invaded Czechoslovakia.
- 23-1889 1st ship-to-shore wireless received in U.S.
- 24-1869 The Waffle Iron was invented. X
- 1909 Workers started on the Panama Canal.
- 1932 Amelia Earhart was 1st woman to fly non-stop across the U.S. from Los Angeles to Newark in 19+ hrs.
- 1989 The Voyager II flew past Neptune.
- 25-1981 The Voyager II flew past Saturn.
- 26-1873 Lee De Forest, inventor of the Audion vacuum tube, was born.
- 1920 The 19th Amendment passed guaranteeing women the right to vote.
- 27-1859 1st successful oil well drilled near Titusville, Penn.
- 1984 Announcement that a schoolteacher would be the 1st citizen astronaut to fly aboard the space shuttle.
- 28-1922 The 1st radio "commercial" broadcast in New York.
- 1963 Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his now-famous "I Have a Dream" speech.
- 29-1896 Chop Suey was invented in NYC.
- 1985 Gemini V splashed down after 8 days in space.
- 30-1963 The Hot Line went into operation between Washington and Moscow.
- 31-1887 Thomas Edison received a patent for his Kinetoscope, a device which produced moving pictures.
- 1895 The 1st professional football game was played in Latrobe, PA.