

ZERO BEAT

Published Monthly by
SEMARA, W1AEC
P.O. BOX 0007, 54 Donald St.
South Dartmouth, MA 02748

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Meeting Highlights

Here are the highlights from the October 7th, SEMARA business meeting: After the roll call, the secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported a Ham Fest cash inflow, after expenses, of \$709.35. There was a slight discrepancy in the hot dog count that was attributed to 'taste testing' by the chef(s).

During committee reports, Bill, K1IBR, reported: The front door had been installed, as well as the porch anchor plate. Andy, WA1FNM, had cleaned up around the club and threw out a lot of junk. The side porch had been sealed, as well as some other external areas of the club. The preamp for the repeater is still under construction. Most of the tower work will be deferred until spring, as there is too much building and grounds work to be finished before winter. The guy wires will be tightened as soon as practical. A new support is needed for the cables between the tower and the building. The radio clinic will be announced for a Thursday night in the future.

Pete, WA1WOJ, noted that he hoped to get the lumber for the front porch this week, and get it all prepared.

Andy, WA1FNM, reported that the painting will be done next spring because other preparatory outside wood work needs to be completed first.

There was no old business.

Under new business, it was noted by Ray, KC1XW, that October 30 is National Exam Day, and that there will be a VE

session held at 10:30 am. **THERE WILL BE A VE EXAM SESSION AT THE CLUB BUILDING ON OCTOBER 30, 10:30 AM.**

Pete, KA1WOJ, handed out the latest club roster, and asked members to look it over and report any errors.

A place, time, and date for the Christmas Party was discussed. It was voted to have the party on the evening of December 4 at Thad's. Postcards will be mailed to all members about the party, and about the nominations which open at the next meeting. The nominating committee will be the same individuals who were on the committee recently.

Scott, AA1EV, was voted a full member.

After some discussion about Ham Fest leftovers, the meeting adjourned.

➔ Next Meeting

The next SEMARA business meeting is December 2nd, 1993, 7:30 pm. The club meets every Thursday, with business meetings on the first Thursday of the month. **THERE WILL BE A VE EXAM SESSION AT THE CLUB BUILDING ON OCTOBER 30, 10:30 AM.**

Christmas Party

The menu for the December 4th Christmas Party is as follows:

Baked virginia ham with raisin sauce.

Beginnings

This is part three of a multipart column about the origins of SEMARA. The first part was presented in August.

Throughout the 80's the membership continued to promote Amateur Radio and community awareness by providing various public services. Volunteer Examiners (VEs) would administer tests. Some hams became teachers, and continued the tradition of providing instructional classes for those wishing to become part of the ever expanding world of electronic communication. Members of this world are from all walks of life. Astronaut John Glenn, movie actor William Holden, singer Ronnie Milsap, King Hussein of Jordan, and Senator Barry Goldwater are just a few.

Some members of SEMARA regularly volunteer their skills of communication for the Multiple Sclerosis Bike Tour, the Fairhaven Road Race, the March of Dimes and other fund raising events of charitable causes. Such events are wonderful ways to meet new friends and explore new places. The MS Bike Tour (north) travels through New Hampshire and Maine. For two days they assist with communications at various checkpoints and in turn are provided with meals and lodging in the University of New Hampshire Dormitory. Most importantly, our sense of accomplishment is enhanced, a great cause is supported and our community prospers from the services of these volunteers.

Recently, the club reassembled a 10' x 12' shed that had laid apart for five years. Several "repairs" to the building and grounds have been undertaken, such as replacing the doors. Other projects are in the planning stages for the near future.

SEMARA is family oriented and open to all who wish to explore. Regular business meetings are conducted the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm. Informal meetings occur other Thursdays at 6:00 pm. Come visit the club, meet some new friends or just look around. Coffee and donuts are served, there is usually lots of laughter and everyone has a good time. Occasionally, we even have "technical" seminars.

First year dues at SEMARA for all newly licensed "hams" are only \$5.00.

Turkey stuffing with gravy
Chopped sirloin with mushroom
sauce.

The price will be \$11 per person. Please
call Pete, KA1WOJ, and let him know
your intentions.

The Packet Racket

Larry Houbre 10/93

CONNECT ZEROBEAT.WIAEC.SEMARA.MA
SB ALL

Many hams have radios that can be modified, and many of these modifications can be found for free on the packet network. The only problem with getting a "mod" off of packet is finding the mod that you want!

Several PBBSs have "files" of "mods". You can usually connect to the PBBS, list the files, then print out the one or two (or more!) that you want. This is nice IF you know of a PBBS that has an extensive MODS database.

An alternative is to use a "MOD SERVER". The way most mod servers work is very simple. If you can send and read packet mail, you know half of what you need. The rest is sending the right message to the right place.

One available MOD server is at NS1N. It works like this: let's say we're interested in mods for the Ainco DR1200T Radio. What we do is send a "FIND" request to the server, to see what is available. Here's what to enter:

```
SP REQMOD @ NS1N
FIND 1200
/EX
```

This sends a message to "REQMOD" at the NS1N PBBS. The text is empty, and the subject is a command to FIND any descriptions with "1200" in the text. We usually send a find command of this sort, since we can't be exactly sure how the radio is listed in the database. It could be listed as "DR1200T" or "DR-1200-T". Searching for "1200" may yield more than we wanted, but we won't miss anything for the radio we're interested in either.

The REQMOD server at NS1N sends back a message with a list of files and descriptions. Once we know the name of the file, we can send a message to the server to retrieve the actual modification, as such:

```
SP REQMOD @ NS1N
DR1200.1
/EX
```

Again, the text is empty, and the subject is the name of the file that we want to get. We have to send one message for each file we want. The server responds with a message with the contents of that file...and then it's off to the workbench to tinker!

```
/EX
DISCONNECT
```

September In History

- 1-1896 Yosemite in California becomes a National Park.
- 1903 1st World Series.
- 1908 Henry Ford introduced the Model T car.
- 1962 Johnny Carson hosted his first Tonight Show.
- 1971 Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida opened.
- 2-1608 Hans Lippershey offered the Dutch government a new invention, the telescope.
- 3-1789 Washington proclaims national Thanksgiving Day.
- 1863 Lincoln designates last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.
- 1913 Federal Income Tax was signed into law (at 1%).
- 1968 Shuttlecraft Discovery landed after 85 orbits, the first attempt since the major Challenger disaster.
- 4-1957 USSR launched Sputnik, 1st artificial earth satellite. Its signals were audible on 20,005 and 40,010 MHz.
- 5-1821 1st radio broadcast of the World Series.
- 1970 Public Broadcasting System became network.
- 6-1878 American Library Association was organized.
- 1889 Thomas Edison showed his first motion picture.
- 7-1849 Edgar Allen Poe, author, died.
- 8-1871 Great Chicago Fire destroyed over 4 square miles.
- 9-1938 Laura Ingalls 1st woman to fly across the U.S.
- 1957 Brooklyn Dodgers announced move to LA.
- 10-1913 Atlantic and Pacific meet via the Panama Canal.
- 1980 Very Large Array radio telescope dedicated.
- 11-1968 Apollo 7 was launched, 1st manned flight of the Command & Service modules.
- 12-1933 Bank robber John Dillinger escaped from jail.
- 1960 Soviet Premier Khrushchev disrupted the UN General Assembly by pounding his shoe on the desk.
- 13-1775 Congress established the Navy.
- 1984 Shuttlecraft Challenger landed following the 1st space walk by a woman, astronaut Kathy Sullivan.
- 14-1774 1st declaration of colonial rights in America.
- 1947 Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier.
- 1964 Martin Luther King Jr. won the Nobel Peace Prize.
- 1977 Bing Crosby died.
- 15-1917 German spy Mata Hari was executed.
- 16-1868 A Boston hotel 1st to have indoor plumbing.
- 1916 1st birth control clinic opened, in New York City.
- 1962 Cuban missile crisis began.
- 17-1855 Bessemer Steel making process was patented.
- 1931 Al Capone convicted of income tax evasion.
- 18-1867 U.S. took formal possession of Alaska.
- 1873 Ivy League established rules for college football.
- 19-1988 Golden Gate Bridge tolls southbound cars.
- 1977 Supersonic Concorde's 1st landing at JFK Airport.
- 20-1820 Spain gave Florida to the United States.
- 1908 Dr. Lee DeForest demonstrates his radio tube.
- 21-1879 Thomas Edison perfected light bulb.
- 1929 1st air ambulance service was organized.
- 22-1936 1st commercial flight from mainland to Hawaii.
- 1939 1st pro football game was televised.
- 1981 U.S. National debt topped \$1 TRILLION. X
- 24-1940 40-hour work week began.
- 1945 United Nations Charter went into effect.
- 25-1854 Charge of the Light Brigade during Crimean War.
- 1870 Postcard was 1st used in the United States.
- 26-1861 Gunfight at the OK corral, in Tombstone, AZ.
- 27-1858 R.H. Macy & Co. opened 1st store in NYC.
- 1982 China announced the results of a population count by 5 million census takers: 1 BILLION people.
- 28-1886 Statue of Liberty was dedicated.
- 1904 Police try new investigation method: fingerprints.
- 29-1833 1st College Fraternity was founded.
- 1940 1st peacetime military draft began in the U.S.
- 30-1938 Orson Welles' broadcast of "War of the Worlds".
- 1961 Soviets test fired a Hydrogen bomb.
- 31-1926 Magician Harry Houdini died.

**THERE WILL BE A VE EXAM SESSION
AT THE CLUB BUILDING ON OCTOBER 30, 10:30 AM.**

Computer Kit Workshop

If you are interested in attending a computer assembly workshop, and possibly assembler your computer at wholesale prices, come to the next meeting to discuss details.

For-Sale

Swan Mark2 Amp. Original cartons, manuals. New condition. Call N1DNI soon at 995-4367.

Kits

Enjoy building electronic kits? Would like to start? Here is a list of kit manufacturers who'll be glad to send you a catalog.

Communications Concepts, Inc.
508 Millstone Drive
Beavercreek, OH 45434-5840
513-426-8600

They have filters, amplifiers, ATV converters and semiconductors.

DC Electronics
P.O. Box 3203
Scottsdale, AZ 85271-3203
602-945-7736

Kits include function generators, robotics, and parts you may need for your own homemade kits.

Hamtronics, Inc.
65 Moul Road
Hilton, NY 14468-9535
716-392-9430

They have receivers, exciters, amplifiers, and repeater controllers and accessories.

Mark V Electronics, Inc.
8019 E. Slauson Avenue
Montebello, CA 90640
213-888-8988

Mostly audio amplifiers and modifiers, but some power supplies and other audio/visual kits.

Ramsey Electronics, Inc.
793 Canning Parkway
Victor, NT 14564
716-924-4560

Radio kits include receivers, transmitters, amplifiers and more.

Xandi Electronics
Box 25647
Tempe, AZ 85285-5647
608-829-8152

Educational kits including miniature transmitters and fiber optics.

This list is by no means complete, but just a sampling of what's available. Call or write for your catalog today, then heat your soldering iron!

CB Talk

In the late 60's and early 70's, CB experienced tremendous growth. 23 channels were expanded to 40 to keep up with the demand. Licensing requirements were dropped. Up until then, CB was a low key, fun hobby with many service oriented groups. With the sudden infusion of new, untrained "operators", millions of new rigs clogged the frequencies, to the dismay of many who had made CB an honest hobby. The airwaves were choked with untrained, uncouth users, and much of what you heard was disgusting. Public service groups fell apart, and all the good things about CB were lost.

Amateur Radio faces a similar situation today. With the tremendous infusion of new "operators", particularly on repeaters, a lot of "CB" influence, habits, and mentality can be seen. Many have worked hard for their ham license, and

earning that license indicates that they have studied and trained to act professionally on the air. They can experiment, build and modify equipment, make new friends, and learn new technology. So why so much unprofessionalism?

The main reason for being professional, is that we are often called upon to provide communications for special events and emergency situations. Professional demeanor promotes smooth, accurate message handling, and makes a good impression with the community. Remember, that many non-amateurs listen to the ham bands!

In years past, many CBers have crossed over into Amateur Radio. They used to come slowly, one at a time, where they would easily blend with the group, learning the terminology and dropping the CB habits. With the sudden infusion of so many new users, the dropping of bad habits is going slowly. For example, many will say "N1KXC for ID". (Of course, they use their own callsign, most of the time.) Why add the "for ID" part? That you are IDing is already assumed.

Did you know that "73" means "Best Regards"? "73's" is incorrect, since "Best Regards" is already plural. Also, it has been noted that the use of obscure CB slang to identify police, vehicles, and other odds and ends isn't necessary, desired, or professional.

Repeater Directory

145.150 -	WA1DGW, Fall River
145.490 -	KA1WBF, Fairhaven
146.700 -	WA1RBT, Cranston
146.655 -	WA1GPO, Falmouth
147.000 +	W1AEC, South Dartmouth
147.045 +	WA1AIC, Yarmouth
147.135 +	ND1N, Taunton
147.180 +	WB1FLD, Bridgewater
147.315 +	N1BBT, Wareham
442.200 +	NY1D, Fall River
443.450 +	K1MYL, Westport
443.600 +	NS1N, Norwell
444.250 +	WA1GPO, Falmouth
444.350 +	W1ACT, Fall River
444.550 +	WA1ZUF, Bridgewater
446.325 -	KA1CLX, Plymouth
446.625 -	NC1K, Plymouth

Know of any local repeater frequencies not listed here? Send them in to the editor!

Is this being picky? Sure it is! If you are picky with the small things, the big things will take care of themselves. We want to do things right. We want to act professionally. We want to leave the juvenile habits behind. So let's take a hint, and let's just be a cut above some of the more common communications hobbies. Above all, let's have fun.

Adapted from the July 1993 MARA newsletter.

CALENDAR

- October**
 30: National Exam Day
 30: VE Exams, So. Dartmouth, MA
- November**
 4: 7:30p, SEMARA Business Meeting
 13: Ham Fest, Plymouth
 13: Flea, Boston
 21: Ham Fest, Mattapoisett
- December**
 2: 7:30p, SEMARA Business Meeting
 4: SEMARA Christmas Party, Thads
- January 1994**
 6: 7:30p, SEMARA Business Meeting
 16: Ham Fest, Mattapoisett
- February**
 3: 7:30p, SEMARA Business Meeting
 20: Ham Fest, Mattapoisett
- March**
 3: 7:30p, SEMARA Business Meeting
 20: Ham Fest, Mattapoisett
 29,30: Dayton
- April**
 1: Dayton
 7: 7:30p, SEMARA Business Meeting
 17: MIT Flea Market
- May**
 5: 7:30p, SEMARA Business Meeting
 15: MIT Flea Market
- June**
 2: 7:30p, SEMARA Business Meeting
 5: Flea, Newington, CT
 19: MIT Flea Market

SEMARA OFFICERS

President
 Pete Carreiro, KA1WQJ, 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

VE EXAMS

- October**
 30: Slatersville, RI Bob, 401-333-2129
- November**
 1: Cambridge, MA Bob, 617-593-1955
 3: Acton, MA Dave, 508-263-3712*
 6: New Bedford, MA Dave, 508-991-4291*
 6: Marshfield, MA Karl, 617-545-5653
 7: Cranston, RI Jane, 401-725-8752*
 8: Shirley, MA Tom, 508-425-6672*
 10: Billerica, MA Bruce, 508-851-2886
 11: Providence, RI Judy, 401-231-9156
 12: Holyoke, MA Charles, 413-323-4533
 13: Plymouth, MA Bob, 508-747-6022
 13: Braintree, MA Philip, 617-329-6446
 13: Falmouth, MA Geoffrey, 508-548-0969
 13: Marlboro, MA Bob, 508-485-7006*
 14: Gloucester, MA Rick, 508-283-2278
 17: Cambridge, MA Nick, 617-253-3776
 20: Melrose, MA Scott, 617-322-7654
 23: Stoughton, MA Bob, 508-583-3639
 27: Slatersville, RI Bob, 401-333-2129
- December**
 1: Acton, MA Dave, 508-263-3712*
 4: Marshfield, MA Karl, 617-545-5653
 5: Fall River, MA Jesse, 508-678-3623
 6: Cambridge, MA Bob, 617-593-1955
 8: Billerica, MA Bruce, 508-851-2886
 9: Providence, RI Judy, 401-231-9156



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Packet Directory

144.990 N1KBT	145.090 KC1CE
144.990 NS1N	145.090 KD1NU
145.010 Fara Digi	145.570 WA1OAJ
145.010 N1CSI	145.530 KQ1K
145.050 WA1ZUF	145.710 KA1THM
145.070 WQ1O	145.710 KC1KM
145.090 AA1FS	145.710 N1LDY
145.090 K1UGM	145.730 KC1UA

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 10: Holyoke, MA | Charles, 413-323-4533 |
| 11: Marlboro, MA | Bob, 508-485-7006* |
| 11: Braintree, MA | Philip, 617-329-6446 |
| 11: Brewster, MA | Henry, 508-255-2818 |
| 11: Falmouth, MA | Geoffrey, 508-548-0969 |
| 12: Gloucester, MA | Rick, 508-283-2278 |
| 13: Shirley, MA | Tom, 508-425-6672* |
| 18: Melrose, MA | Scott, 617-322-7654 |
| 19: Athol, MA | John, 508-249-5905 |
| 22: Cambridge, MA | Nick, 617-253-3776 |

*Some sessions require preregistration and do not allow walk-ins. Please check with the contact listed for each session to verify the exam date, time, and location.

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