

ZERO BEAT

South
Eastern
Massachusetts
Amateur
Radio
Association

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Meeting Highlights

Here are the highlights from the October 6th SEMARA business meeting:

After the pledge, and roll call, the secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The check book balance was \$1932.22. A comparison of this year's and last year's ham fest reports was passed around.

Bill, K1IBR, reported that he will be climbing the tower on October 15 to replace the connector, and make measurements.

It was mentioned that the railings were installed in the front porch, and that the building still needs painting.

There was no Old Business.

For new business, a discussion ensued concerning the insulation of the plumbing underneath the building. It was noted that the repeater will send COLD if it detects a heat failure.

A Christmas Party is in the planning stages, and is being booked.

It was also noted that a nominating committee was needed, as nominations for next year's officer begins with the November meeting.

News Briefs

A new FCC service

The FCC has instituted a toll-free phone line at its Gettysburg, PA, licensing division for customer service inquiries. Amateurs may call 800-322-1117 weekdays between 8 AM and 4:30 PM Eastern Time to access an automated information system with recorded messages on interference complaints, form requests,

records, and Amateur Radio call sign assignments. Other messages regard fee information and processing times. A TouchTone telephone is required.

The FCC said the new service was part of its response to a presidential order that the federal government be "customer driven." The FCC said it used a series of focus groups with external customers to identify the desire for an 800 number at its licensing division.

"Within the next 18 months," the FCC said, "customer service standards will be developed for other areas of Commission operations to ensure that FCC customers receive the highest quality of service possible. As these new standards become available, the FCC will inform its customers."

BRAILLE NOVICE EXAM

Dave Allen, WD8LDY says that he has transcribed the most recent Novice question pool for Examination Element 2 into grade two Braille. Anyone who needs it, may contact Dave at (214) 235-9821, between 9:00am and 9:00pm central time. WD8LDY adds that he will try to get the Technician Element 3A done soon, and will look into others if requested.

FINES WILL BE COLLECTED

The FCC will continue to issue and collect fines against regulatory violators in various services including land mobile, citizens band, emergency services and Amateur Radio. This, even though a federal appeals court has ruled that the practice of issuing base forfeiture fines in other telecommunications services is illegal on constitutional grounds. A Washington, DC Court of Appeals ruled the FCC's revised method of assessing fines against broadcasters, cablecasters and telephone companies was improper because those most affected by the 1991 change had not been given time to comment on it before the regulation was enacted. The court said that the FCC knowingly failed to give all interested parties the opportunity to comment on the policy change before it was adopted.

VE EXAMS

November

5:	S. Dartmouth, MA	Ray, 508-995-0334
6:	Attleboro, MA	Gary, 401-724-8238
6:	Shirley, MA	Tom, 508-425-6672*
7:	Cambridge, MA	Bob, 617-593-1955
8:	Cambridge, MA	Yuzuru, 617-322-7165
9:	Billerica, MA	Bruce, 508-851-2886
10:	Providence, RI	Judy, 401-231-9156
12:	Braintree, MA	William, 617-843-4400
12:	Marlborough, MA	Bill, 617-891-9079
12:	Falmouth, MA	Geoffrey, 508-548-0969
12:	Plymouth, MA	Bob, 508-747-6022*
13:	Gloucester, MA	Rick, 508-283-2278
20:	Shirley, MA	Tom, 508-425-6672*
23:	Cambridge, MA	Nick, 617-253-3776
26:	Slatersville, RI	Bob, 401-333-2129
December		
3:	Middletown, RI	Jack, 401-683-2250
4:	Shirley, MA	Tom, 508-425-6672*

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VE EXAMS (Continued)

5:	Cambridge, MA	Bob, 617-593-1955
7:	Acton, MA	Dave, 508-263-3712*
8:	Providence, RI	Judy, 401-231-9156
10:	Braintree, MA	William, 617-843-4400
10:	Marlborough, MA	Bill, 617-891-9079
10:	Stoughton, MA	Bob, 508-583-3639
10:	Falmouth, MA	Geoffrey, 508-548-0969
10:	Brewster, MA	Henry, 508-255-2818
11:	Gloucester, MA	Rick, 508-283-2278
14:	Billerica, MA	Bruce, 508-851-2886

CALENDAR

November	March
3: 7:30p, SEMARA Meeting	3-5: TAPR Annual Meeting
12: Flea, Plymouth	April
December	9: Ham Fest, Framingham
1: 7:30p, SEMARA Meeting	16: MIT Flea, Cambridge
11: Ham Fest, Fall River	28-30: Dayton, OH

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