

ZERO BEAT

South
Eastern
Massachusetts
Amateur
Radio
Association

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Larry Houbre, AA1FS, Editor
Phone: 508-991-6055

Packet: AA1FS @ AA1FS.#EMA.MA
E-Mail: AA1FS@dreamers.groupnet.org



May 1996 Meeting Highlights

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. After roll call, the secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

For committee reports, the building committee reported that holes along the north and front sides were filled. The riding mower is working, and the grass was cut twice. The file cabinet has been refurbished, and Bill, K1IBR, is in the process of updating and organizing the records. It was also noted that the hamfest has been sanctioned as an ARRL hamfest.

On display before, during, and after the meeting were two DF antenna and equipment usable for a fox hunt. One was built by Larry, AA1FS and the other by Bill, K1IBR. Both were available for questions later.

Bill reported on the Board of Directors meeting held April 11th. Several recommendations were made:

- 1 - Raise dues \$5 for 1997 to \$25, and again in 1998 to \$30. More constitutional study needed.
- 2 - Revision of rental rates. Approved.
- 3 - Install rebuilt fiberglass 2m antenna, and establish a fund for future antenna replacement. Approved.
- 4 - A membership information package was developed, and proposed to be given to all new members, also to send one to each current member. Approved.
- 5 - Paint the building, outside. Approved.
- 6 - Donate an old desk to Cajmont Vending. Approved.

After other announcements and discussion, the meeting adjourned. The scheduled blind raffle was held.

2 Meter AND 70 cm BANDS Threatened

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Your help is needed to defend two meters and 70 cm. Yes, that's right — the two most popular and crowded amateur VHF/UHF bands!

The United States is preparing for the 1997 ITU World Radiocommunication Conference, WRC-97. One of the WRC-97 agenda items includes consideration of possible additional frequency allocations for the mobile-satellite service. So-called "little LEOs," low-earth orbit satellites below 1 GHz, already have allocations. Their proponents claim these are inadequate and are trying for more. The needs of little LEOs are being addressed in IWG-2A, chaired by Warren Richards of the Department of State. The ARRL technical relations staff participates in IWG-2A to represent Amateur Radio interests.

At the May 7 IWG-2A meeting, an industry representative proposed a list of "candidate bands" for little LEOs. Included are a number of bands that would impact existing services, and does not include others that would be technically more feasible but to which strong objection from incumbents could be expected, the point that some political, rather than purely technical, judgment already has influenced the list. Incredibly, 144-148 and 420-450 MHz were included on the list!

We do not need to explain the extensive use that is made of these bands by amateurs. The two bands provide the backbone of our local public service communications effort. Voice, data, mobile and fixed, even television. The list of present amateur uses is a long one, and of future uses is even longer. Both are already used for satellite services and for moonbounce and extended-range terrestrial operations requiring extremely sensitive receivers and high levels of effective radiated power.

CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

All events held at 7:30 P.M. at the clubhouse
unless otherwise indicated.

- June 6: Business Meeting and Raffle
June 20: "Coffee Hour" and social meeting. Club to provide free coffee, members to bring "potluck" pastery goodies
- July 2: Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30 pm
July 6: VE Session, 10:30 am
July 11: Business Meeting
- August 1: Business Meeting
August 15: ARRL Video Night

1996 SEMARA OFFICERS

President: William M. Miller, Jr., K1IBR, 998-2969
Vice-President: Marty Jordan, KA1YFZ, 993-5765
Secretary: William Field, WA1FYF, 998-4692
Treasurer: Lawrence R. Houbre, Jr., AA1FS, 991-6055

Board Members: Robert J. Peckham, KA1YDG
 William L. Vincent, N1LTY
 Scott Szala, AA1EV

Trustees: Joe Midurski, W1EKW
 Edward Blouin, KA1AW
 Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM
 William M. Miller, Jr. K1IBR
 Norman Riley, W1ATI

Buildings/Grounds: Bill Field, WA1FYF, Chairman
Technical: Robert J. Peckham, KA1YDG, Chairman
Ham Fest: William M. Miller, K1IBR, Chairman

Apparently we did need to explain all this to the little LEO industry representatives, so we did just that – both at the meeting and in a followup letter on May 15. We also explained that we had to regard the matter as extremely serious. No one with the slightest background in radiocommunication could possibly believe that a mobile-satellite service could be introduced into either band without disrupting existing and future amateur operations. Therefore, we said, if we did not receive assurance that they would be taken off the list of candidate bands we would have to bring the matter to the attention of the amater community.

This is a call to action. We must get across to the industry and government participants that the 144-148 MHz and 420-450 MHz bands cannot be considered as candidates for mobile-satellite services.

Here are the key addresses of folks to contact:

Cecily C. Holiday, International Bureau, FCC, Washington, DC 20554; choliday@fcc.gov; FAX (202) 418-0748.

Warren G. Richards, Chair, IWG-2A, Department of State, CIP 2529, Washington, DC 20520; richardswg@ms6820wpoa.us-state.gov; FAX (202) 647-7407.

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CALENDAR

June	September
16: Fairhaven Road Race	8: SEMARA Ham Fest, 9a-1p
18: MIT Flea, Cambridge	15: MIT Flea, Cambridge
22-23: Field Day	21: Flea, Forestdale, RI
July	October
21: MIT Flea, Cambridge	4,5: Hoss Traders, NH
August	5,8: ARRL NE Div Convention, Boxboro
18: MIT Flea, Cambridge	19-20: Jamboree On The Air
	20: MIT Flea, Cambridge

Tracey Weisler, FCC Rep., IWG-2A, International Bureau, FCC, Washington, DC 20554; tweisler@fcc.gov; FAX (202) 418-2824.

Mary Kay Williams, Final Analysis, Inc., 7500 Greenway Center, Ste. 1240, Greenbelt, MD 20770; FAX (301) 474-3228.

Leslie Taylor, President, LTA, 6800 Carlynn Court, Bethesda, MD 20817; ltaylor@lta.com; FAX (301) 229-3148.

Do comment. But be civil. Don't abuse people who are simply doing their jobs. We have to get across that casting covetous eyes on amateur bands is counterproductive, and contrary to the public interest. To accomplish this we need a lot of comments, including yours. But remember that the objective is to educate and persuade, not to intimidate. The facts are on our side.

To monitor ongoing WRC-97 preparations, visit its WRC-97 home page at: <http://www.fcc.gov/ib/wrc97/>.

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