

# ZERO



# BEAT

S.E.M.A.R.A.

September 1996

## ZERO BEAT'S NEW LOOK

Zero Beat has a new look. In fact, Zero Beat has a new editor!

Due to a recent increase in his business, Larry, AA1FS, could no longer spare the time required to properly edit and produce our newsletter. Therefore, he reluctantly resigned as editor. We all owe Larry a big "THANK YOU" for the many years he was editor of Zero Beat. Under his direction Zero Beat evolved into a professional looking newsletter chock full of news and information, such as the net and repeater directories.

**Bill Miller, K1IBR**, is the new Zero Beat editor (again).

## FLEAMARKET READY TO ROLL ON SEPTEMBER 8th

The annual SEMARA Flea-market will be held September 8th on the clubhouse grounds at 54 Donald Street in South Dartmouth.

The event is advertised in 73, QST, CQ, and Nuts & Volts magazines. It is listed on the Internet, MIT and ARRL ham flea market lists. Fliers have been sent to all 38 amateur radio clubs in Eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Three weeks prior to the flea market, 500 fliers will be mailed to hams from Somerset to Marion.

☛ FLEAMARKET - page 3

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The August business meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. After the salute to the flag and roll call, the Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Committee reports followed: Fleamarket - Publicity completed. The Treasurer will calculate the total cost of all flea market supplies required, and donations of money will be solicited at the next business meeting. License Class - plans are on target, and classes to start on September 10th. Scholarship - plan is posted on the wall for members to review. The plan will be voted on at the October business meeting.

Next, President **Bill Miller, K1IBR**, gave his report: He thanked **George Souza, N1MWB**, for folding the 500 flea market fliers, and the new members of the club painting crew **Dave DeCosta, KD1YZ**, and **Marty Jordan, KA1YFV**, for painting the north sides of the club and Quonset hut. A round of applause followed. He reported that a new club member recently received his license - **Tony Duarte, N1XRS**.

Under new business, the following motions passed: 1) A motion to reaffirm the club's financial support of Zero Beat. 2) A motion to buy tar to repair the leaks in the Quonset hut. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.



I WON! I WON! WHOOPEE!

## AND THE WINNER IS...

Following the August 1st business meeting, a foxhunt on the FM radio band was held as a prelude to the 2 meter hunt scheduled for this fall. Using the FM band allowed everyone to participate. Due to rain, however, the micro-powered FM transmitter was hidden in the clubhouse instead of outside. As the meeting was gavelled to adjournment, the fox hunters took off like ants in search of sugar. The hunt was on! After several minutes, the monitor receiver on the president's desk fell silent as the fox was found and shut off. All hunters ceased movement upon hearing the monitor fall silent. After a few minutes of suspense, the winner appeared from the old Quonset hut with the fox in hand! And the winner is... **Russ Bonneau, N1KKL**. Russ ripped the wrapping paper off the prize box and found he had won a boxed set of precision screwdrivers. Congratulations, Russ!



### KEY ADDRESSES

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## A CALL TO ARMS TO PROTECT OUR 144 AND 450 MHz BANDS FROM A TAKEOVER BY COMMERCIAL INTERESTS

The 144 and 450 MHz amateur bands are threatened with takeover by commercial interests. Amateurs must act now. It is important that this threat be defused as early as possible, when chances for success are highest.

The takeover is proposed by an industry working group known as IWG-2A. They are drafting US proposals for the 1997 World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC). Our 144 and 450 MHz bands are included in a list of candidate bands they are proposing for use by low-earth orbit mobile satellites (little LEOs). These satellites primarily offer paging services.

The ARRL formally objected to the inclusion of the amateur bands on the IWG-2A list, but received no assurances that the amateur bands would be removed from the list. Therefore, the ARRL issued an appeal for all amateurs to work for the derailment of this ill-considered proposal by IWG-2A. Specifically, the ARRL recommends that all amateurs write to key personnel involved with the IWG-2A proposal and explain the vital services amateurs provide using these bands.



Your letter (E-mail, or FAX) should strive to educate and inform its recipient about the valuable services amateurs provide using the 144 and 450 MHz bands. Do not threaten or intimidate. Do, however, point out our use of the bands to provide emergency communications during storms and other natural disasters. Stress the use of the bands to provide communications for non-profit groups. Emphasize public service. You get the idea.

Now write. *Right now.*

### SERVICES AMATEURS PROVIDE USING THE 144 AND 450 MHz BANDS

✍ Emergency communications following natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and earthquakes when normal lines of communications are down or overloaded.

✍ Emergency communications following explosions, fires, bridge or dam failures, and similar disasters when normal communications links fail.

✍ Collection (or disbursement) of messages within a local area for relaying around the world via the amateur radio traffic networks.

✍ Communications for charitable fund raising events such as road or bike races and March of Dimes Walkathorns.

## FLEAMARKET

(Continued from page 1)

This year no donations of food from club members will be solicited. Instead, all food will be purchased and billed to the club. The amount of food bought will be based on the last three years usage. Pricing at Shaws Supermarket was about \$100 for the required food. Members wishing to help defray the cost of food should give their donations to the club treasurer.

The September business meeting will focus on the Fleamarket (which falls on the following Sunday). All members wishing to help make the Fleamarket a success should plan to attend this important meeting. Volunteers will be solicited for the various tasks that help to make the Fleamarket our premiere event of the year.

## SHORT AMATEUR RADIO QUIZ

OK, get your pencils out and test your amateur radio knowledge. No prize is offered for all correct answers except a sense of well being.

1. A "LID" is a:
  - a) cover for a pot.
  - b) Linear Interface Device
  - c) rotten CW sender.
2. PNP transistors operate with the base and collector positive with respect to the emitter.
  - a) True
  - b) False
3. A 14.275 MHz signal is on what amateur band?
  - a) 10 meters.
  - b) 20 meters.
  - c) 40 meters.

☞ Answers on page 4.

ARRL NE DIVISION  
CABINET MEETING

The ARRL New England Division Cabinet Meeting was held on Saturday, July 13, 1996, in Andover, Massachusetts. Attending were members of the New England Division Staff, Section Managers, and club presidents. A total of 35 attended the meeting.

**Walter Parker, KA1ODT**, was recognized as the *NE Division Volunteer of the Year*.

ARRL General Counsel, **Chris Imlay, N3AKD**, said it is time to encourage agencies we serve (Red Cross, Salvation Army, and municipal governments) to write letters describing the value of our services and the importance of the 144 and 450 MHz bands. The IWG-2A move to take away our 150 and 450 MHz bands must be stopped (See related article on page 2 for details).

**Rosalie White, WA1STO**, and **Rick Palm, K1CE**, presented updates on the Educational Activities and Membership Services Departments respectively. They are seeking suggestions on new ways to encourage people to become radio amateurs and then to improve their skills and knowledge base.

The renewed interest in the six meter band was discussed. Several manufacturers have come out with equipment that includes the 6 meter band. It was suggested that articles on 6 meter contesting and DX be featured in upcoming QST and New Ham Companion magazines.

## SEMARA ON LINE

You can now get free information and news about SEMARA and others via Dreamer's Online Mailing List Server in New Bedford.

To subscribe, send a message (with any subject) to:

*LISTSERV@dreamers.groupnet.org*

and include the text:

*SUBSCRIBE mailing-list-name*

where *mailing-list-name* is one of the following:

*SEMARA-L* (club news)

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*Your-Theater-L* (theater news)

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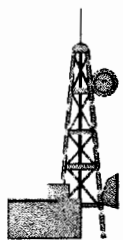


Call (508) 991-6058 with your modem for more information, or if you wish, telnet to 204.87.235.20



## CLUB NOTES

August was a busy month at the club. The night of the business meeting it was raining - inside the clubhouse too! Well, actually in the Quonset hut. Under new business, there was no problem securing the necessary funds to repair the roof on the Quonset hut. It was a two day repair job! The first day, **Bill, WA1FYF**; **John, W1ZYV**; **Dick, KA1YVI**, and **Bill, K1IBR**, rebuilt the northeast dormer on the hut. The second day **Bill, WA1FYF**, and **Bill, K1IBR**, put roofing paper on the dormer and tarred several cracks on the huts roof. Meanwhile, **Bill, N1LTY**, cut the grass with the riding mower.



A trap vertical for 80 thru 10 meters was erected by **Bill, N1LTY**; **John, W1ZYV**; **Bill, WA1FYF**, and **Bill, K1IBR**. It was mounted on the tower attached to the walkway between the meeting hall and Quonset hut. Eight radials were strung out to act as a ground plane. The antenna was constructed from trap verticals donated by **Steve, N1DSN**, and **Don, WA1PLT**. SWR testing revealed good readings below 2/1 on all bands except 80 meters where the SWR was over 3/1 across the whole band. To correct this, a single 80 meter

radial about 62.5 feet long was added to the antenna. The SWR came down to 1/1! However, on 80 meters the bandwidth is rather narrow. A chart with the SWR readings on all bands is posted by the transmitter.

The south porch was treated with a combination sealer-preser-



## Hot News

vative to protect it from the suns rays. The front porch was treated with waterproofer last month, and the railings and deck were treated with the leftover sealer-preservative this month.

Meanwhile, inside the club a railing was installed on the stairway between the Quonset hut and the main meeting room.

On ARRL video night, **Larry,**

### SHORT QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1)c - Although all answers to question #1 are valid, the correct answer for amateurs is C.
- 2)b - PNP transistors require a negative voltage on the base and collector with respect to the emitter.
- 3)b - 300 divided by the frequency gives you the band in meters. Remember?

**AA1FS**, brought in a big box of videos! Wow, so many choices. It was finally decided to show the video on antennas. What a great video! It covered just about all antennas made. The instructor used a 3 GHz transmitter with various antennas to demonstrate radiation patterns and polarization. The biggest surprise was that a quad antenna doesn't radiate any vertically polarized waves.

Late in the month, **Andy, WA1FNM**, and **Bill, K1IBR**, finished painting the back of the club. The total stain used to paint the clubhouse was 12 gallons!

It was like painting a sponge. The trim and door on the boiler room were also painted with the leftover brown trim paint. Next year the south side of the club should be stained again. It was very, very dry.

**CORE**, the band that rents space in our club, has donated a 1997 wall calendar for club use. The calendar is twice as big as our present one, and has an added feature - it is laminated to allow the use of erasable dry markers.



**Marty, KA1YFV**, took several Fleamarket fliers to the MIT Fleamarket in Cambridge this month. He made sure every dealer up there got a copy. Thanks, **Marty**, for the great promotional work. Hopefully, several of the dealers will setup shop at our Fleamarket on September 8th.





# ARRL VE AND LICENSE NEWS

## ARRL/VEC Offers Free Electronic Filing of FCC Form 610 for ARRL Members

Effective immediately, the ARRL/VEC will electronically file with the FCC Form 610 for ARRL members. License renewals as well as address, name, or call sign changes can be electronically filed. This service is free to current ARRL members.

To use this ARRL service, members must send a correctly-completed, signed and dated original Form 610 to the ARRL/VEC. The form should be sent by US mail, courier, or hand delivered to: ARRL/VEC, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Applications must have an original signature. Do not send Form 610 by FAX.

### Special information regarding applications:

● **RENEWALS (BOX 4F)** - Only applications for renewal made on FCC Form 610 may presently be electronically submitted by VEC's. For now, VEC's cannot process computer-generated Form 610-R which the FCC mails to upcoming expirees. VEC's cannot process Forms 610-A, 610-B, 610-R or 610-V. FCC rules stipulate that renewals be submitted no earlier than 90 days before the license expiration date. Expired licenses less than two years old can be reinstated by submitting Form 610 to a VEC or the FCC. The grace period for such renewals is limited to two years.

● **SYSTEMATIC CALL SIGN CHANGES (BOX 4E)** - Be sure Box 4E is checked and initial the line next to the box.

● **ADDRESS CHANGES (BOX 4D)** - Addresses must be within the US or its possessions/territories and have US Postal Service delivery.

● **NAME CHANGE (BOX 4C)** - A copy of the legal documentation of name change must be submitted. The former name must be written next to box 4C. Typographical errors can be corrected using this section.

# SEPTEMBER VE EXAMS



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.

1	Shirley, MA	Tom	508-425-6672
4	Acton, MA	Towne	508-263-8742
8	Gloucester, MA	Rick	508-283-2278
8	So. Dartmouth, MA	Larry	508-991-6055
8	East Providence, RI	Paul	508-761-5296
9	Boston, MA	Bob	617-593-1955
11	Billerica, MA	Bruce	508-851-2886
12	Providence, RI	Judy	401-231-9156
13	Ware, MA	Tony	413-967-7426
14	Falmouth, MA	Ron	508-540-0977
14	Marlborough, MA	Bill	617-891-9079
15	Shirley, MA	Tom	508-425-6672
17	Stoughton, MA	Bob	508-583-3639
18	Cambridge, MA	Nick	617-253-3776
18	Lunenburg, MA	Paul	508-597-6535
21	Lynn, MA	Herb	508-468-2780
21	Melrose, MA	Scott	617-322-7654
27	Holyoke, MA	Ann	413-245-3228
28	So. Dartmouth, MA	Larry	508-991-6055
28	Worcester, MA	Bob	508-831-5435
28	Slatersville, RI	Bob	401-333-2129

## FLEAMARKET CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

- 7 Falmouth Auction @ 12 PM
- 8 SEMARA Flea @ 9 AM
- 15 MIT Flea, Cambridge
- 21 Flea, Forestdale, RI
- 29 Framingham @ HS @ 9AM

### OCTOBER

- 4,5 Hoss Traders, Rochester, NH
- 5,6 ARRL NE Conv., Boxboro
- 13 NUTMEG Cvn. Durham, CT
- 20 MIT Flea, Cambridge
- 26 Hamfest, Plymouth

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**ADVERTISING** Commercial ads the size of a business card will be accepted. Rates are \$5 for one insertion, \$20 for six insertions, and \$35 for twelve insertions. Non-commercial ads up to forty words will be accepted. Rate is \$3 for one or \$12 for six insertions. Club members have one free non-commercial ad per month.

Editor: Bill Miller, K1IBR (508) 996-2969

# REPEATER DIRECTORY

145.170 -	WA1DGF	Fall River	441.400 -	W2JGU	Acushnet
145.400 -	KAIWBF	Falsham	442.200 -	NY1D	Fall River
146.700 -	WA1EBT	Crofton	442.350 -	N2QWW	New Bedford
146.675 -	WA1GPO	Falmouth	443.450 -	K1MYL	Westport
146.685 -	N2OEG	Plymouth	443.600 -	NE1N	Norwell
147.000 -	W1AJC	Dartmouth	443.800 -	N1E7E	New Bedford
147.045 -	W1AJC	Yarmouth	444.250 -	W1JG	Falmouth
147.135 -	N2DN	Traute	444.350 -	W1ACT	Fall River
147.180 -	N1FDX	Bridgewater	444.350 -	W1JLU	Bridgewater
147.315 -	N1BET	Wareham	446.325 -	K1ACLX	Plymouth
224.340 -	N1BOK	Dennis	446.425 -	N21K	Plymouth
			447.075 -	N1DZD	Kingston

## CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

All events held at 7:30 PM unless otherwise indicated

### SEPTEMBER

- 5 Business Meeting
- 8 FLEAMARKET & VE Session
- 12 ARES Meeting
- 19 Tech Talk - Antennas and Transmission lines @ 7 PM
- 30 Board of Directors MTg. @ 6:30 PM

### OCTOBER

- 3 Business Meeting
- 17 2M Mobile Hunt @ 6:30 PM
- 19,20 Scout "On the Air" Jamboree @ club all day/night

### NOVEMBER

- 2 VE Session @ 10:30 PM
- 7 Business Meeting and nomination of officers
- 21 Tech Talk on Power Supplies @ 7 PM

### DECEMBER

- 5 Business Meeting and election of officers
- 19 Christmas Party at Thad's Steakhouse @ 6 PM

### NOQUOCHOKE ORCHARDS

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### 1996 SEMARA OFFICERS

*President* William M. Miller Jr., K1IBR  
*Vice-President* Marty Jordan, WA1YFV  
*Secretary* Lawrence Houbre, AA1FS  
*Treasurer* William Field, WA1YFV  
*Board of Directors:*  
Robert Peckham, KA1YDG  
William Vincent, N1LTY  
Scott Szala, AA1EV

**SEMARA**

Southeastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association, Inc.  
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South Dartmouth, MA 02748

**FIRST CLASS**

Scanned by N1TI  
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