

# ZERO



# BEAT

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

**December 1996**

## OOPS! CORRECTION TIME

The article on the 440 repeater in last month's issue had a few glitches in it (the proofreader has been severely chastised!).

First, the article stated that the repeaters sent "busy" if the phone line was not available. In reality they send "BZ", (in Morse code on 2 meters, and by voice on 440).

Second, the symbol for star on the phone keypad was shown as (k) when it should be (\*).

The corrected procedure is:

### 440 AUTOPATCH

**ON: \* + (phone number)**

**OFF: #**

## MEMBERS ONLY AUCTION AFTER DECEMBER BUSINESS MEETING

A members only auction will be held following the December 5th business meeting. An anonymous (non-ham) donor has gifted several pieces of test equipment to benefit the club scholarship fund.

Although most of the equipment is quite old, among the three oscilloscopes donated is a Tektronix 561B with an extra plug-in vertical amplifier. The scope comes complete with all manuals and schematics. This is a bench scope with a modern rectangular oscilloscope tube. If you're in the market for a scope, this is the one to buy! Someone is going to steal it - will that someone be you?



## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The November business meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. There were 31 members present. Following the salute to the flag and roll call, the Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted after a minor correction to the Secretary's report.

Committee reports followed: Technical - no report. Buildings and Grounds - no report. Code and Theory Class - 15 students taking the class!

Next order of business was ratifications. **Milt Francis, K1BOC**, was voted from conditional to full member. **Bob Metivier, N1XZJ**, and **Ted Przymierski, N1XXQ**, were voted in as conditional members.

A motion to send a check for \$50.00 to the spouse or next of kin of any club member in good standing that dies was passed. Members were urged to advise their spouse or next of kin to note the members radio club affiliation in their obituary.

Extra class licensee **Larry, AA1FS**, will be the new trustee of W1AEC. In the interim, until the club license is upgraded to extra class, members should identify all transmissions with W1AEC/ (your call).

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

## FRANK GADOMSKI WINNER OF TURKEY DINNER!



**Frank Gadomski, KA1ZDT**, won the club's Thanksgiving Turkey raffle. The raffle was upgraded to a turkey dinner when Noquochoke Orchards in Westport donated a basket with squash, turnip, apples, stuffing mix, and cranberry sauce to the club. Congratulations Frank! Bon appetite!



## LAST CALL FOR CHRISTMAS PARTY

SEMARA'S Christmas Party will be held on December 19th in the "Executive Room" at Thad's Steakhouse in New Bedford. The social hour will begin at 6 PM and the meal will be served at 7 PM.

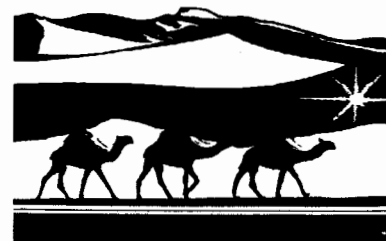
A gift exchange will be held following the meal. Each attendee that brings a \$5 wrapped gift is eligible for the exchange program. Women's gifts should be wrapped in red, pink, or orange, and men's gifts should be wrapped in blue, green, or grey. Stuck for colored paper? No problem - just write man or woman on the gift box!

Meal choices are as follows:

Prime Rib - \$15.00  
Broiled Scrod - \$12.00  
Baked Chicken - \$11.00

All tickets must be paid for by the December 5th meeting. **NO REFUNDS.** Contact Bill Miller at (508) 996-2969 to reserve your tickets.

The party is limited to the first 48 to sign up, and only 8 tickets are left as of mid November! Don't miss out. Get your ticket today.



## 1997 DUES DUE

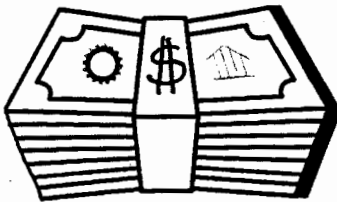
Are your dues paid to date? There is an easy way to find out without calling the club treasurer. Just check the top line of the mailing label on your issue of *Zero Beat*. The first two digits are the year and the second two digits are the month you are currently paid through. For example:

96-12 FULL/MEMB/VE/FAMLY  
Fenwick P. Sternwallow  
674 Lark St.  
Lidsville, MA 02777

According to this label, Fenwick's dues are paid to the end of 1996. He is also a VE and pays for a family membership. Therefore, his dues for 1997 will be \$30.00 to continue the family membership.

Life members will note that their labels are coded 00-01 and no dues are due. (However, any and all "good will" donations to the club's treasury will be gratefully accepted!)

Some lucky members who joined under the "Fleamarket Special" membership drive will find their code to be 97-12 and therefore no dues are due!



Dues can be paid at any business meeting or by mail to SEMARA, PO Box 80007, So. Dartmouth, MA 02748. If you pay by mail, your 1997 membership card will be mailed to you at the address shown on your *Zero Beat* label unless you specify otherwise.

## 1997 DUES RATES

LIFE - \$00.00  
ASSOCIATE - \$15.00  
CONDITIONAL - \$25.00  
FULL - \$25.00  
FAMILY - \$30.00

## AL CROOK WINS SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE

Al Crook, N1ALN, won the raffle to benefit the club's scholarship fund. The raffle was held following the November business meeting. The prize was hidden in a gift wrapped "surprise" box. Al eagerly opened the box to reveal a handy combo-screwdriver. Congratulations, Al!

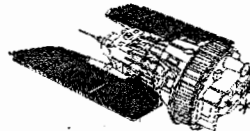


## USAF ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS CENTER

USAF pamphlets profiling their Electronic Systems Center are available at the clubhouse. The pamphlets were provided by the USAF Electronic Systems Center at Hanscom AFB, MA.

Bill Field, WA1FYF, our club secretary, was instrumental in procuring the books. He made several calls in an effort to get information on the role electronics plays in the USAF. His effort paid off. The USAF sent a huge "care package" of pamphlets to the club!

Members should feel free to take the pamphlets for their information and enjoyment. The electronic systems described in the pamphlet will open your eyes and boggle your mind! In today's jargon - "AWESOME".



## ARES UPDATE

The next ARES meeting is scheduled for December 12th at 7:30 PM in the SEMARA clubhouse. All ARES members and anyone interested in joining are invited to attend.

A little reminder that the ARES net is held twice a month on the 1st and 15th at 7:30 PM. The net is conducted on the 147.00 repeater on the 1st, and on the 145.49 repeater on the 15th. (Here is an easy way to remember which repeater to use - a "5" is common to the 15th and 145.49)

## BITS 'N' PIECES

Thomas Coffee, AC6XC, passed his amateur extra exam. That normally wouldn't be news except for one fact - he was ten years old when he passed the exam! Now Tom is putting his license to work on a Science Fair project measuring the gain and directivity of UHF antennas.

The ARRL has announced that full and associate member dues will increase by \$3.00 to \$34.00 annually effective July 1, 1997. Senior dues will go from \$25.00 to \$28.00 annually. You may renew membership at the old rate until the July 1st deadline. If you are going to renew your ARRL membership, be sure to do it through SEMARA as we get a portion of the money.

The ARRL has asked the FCC to allow Advanced Class VE's to administer the General Class exam. Under current rules, they can only administer Novice, Technician, and Technician Plus exams. The ARRL noted that in some geographic areas Extra Class VE's are in short supply and this limits the opportunities for upgrading to General Class.

1997 will be a low year in the 11 year sun spot cycle. The next high will be around the year 2002. This means that from 1997

onward you can expect skip and band openings to increase steadily until the year 2002. Some "old timers" will recall the exceptionally high sun spot year of 1958. Several hams worked Europe on 10 meters! Records were set on most VHF bands as hams literally talked around the world. Will 2002 be a repeat of '58? Only time will tell.

(Bits 'n Pieces is compiled from the ARRL letter)





# CLUB NOTES

The holiday season is upon us. Don't forget the club Christmas Party at Thad's Steakhouse on December 19th. It's also time for that annual (fun?) chore of filling out the Christmas cards. Mail early! Additionally, it's time to reflect on how lucky we are to have our own clubhouse and the great bunch of "hams" that make it a fun place to meet.

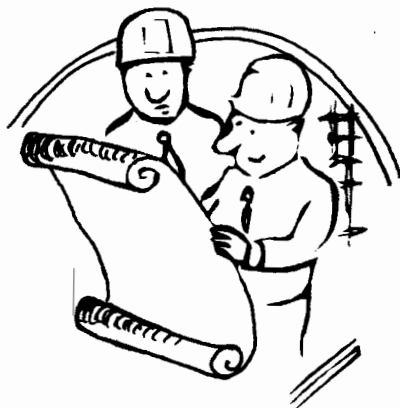
Speaking of places to meet, several of the retirees in our club meet daily (Monday through Friday) at the Sunshine Donut shop on Dartmouth Street near Bliss Corner. They usually cruise in about 2 PM and commandeer a booth or two. Yes, non-retirees are also welcome, so drop by if you are in the area. **WARNING** - Be prepared to ragchew. No subject is sacred. You might want to bring an ice pack as some of the discussions really heat up!

**ODDS & ENDS DEPARTMENT:** Did you know that over twenty members of our club are shooting sports enthusiasts? And about ten of those members are also members of the New Bedford Rifle and Revolver Club? Heck, we could field our own shooting team! Makes one wonder what makes a person tick. Whatever attracts some of us into amateur radio must also make the shooting sports attractive too. Let's see, is it our independent spirit? Or our obsession with mechanical/electrical things? Maybe it's our superior intelligence? (knew you'd like that one!) Where is Sigmund Freud when we need him?



Have you noticed that more and more members are sporting dual band walkies? Seems that since the 440 repeater was installed at the club, about one member per week goes out and buys a dual bander. Are you ready to take the plunge? (Hint - "Jingle bells, jingle bells....")

Have you picked up your copy of the USAF Electronic Systems Center booklet at the clubhouse? It's one interesting booklet. It outlines all the electronic systems the USAF uses on a day to day basis to protect our country. The photos will knock your eyes out! Well, maybe not quite that, but you might need some eye drops...



And the walls came tumbling down..... Yes, work has begun on the new radio room in the Quonset hut. The existing wall in the middle of the hut was taken down, and a new wall is being built on the end near the boiler room. The new radio room will be located next to the boiler room and it will be heated. Now, that's something to write home about!

## FLEAMARKET CALENDAR

1997

February 15 - Marlboro, MA  
 April 6 - Framingham, MA  
 April 20 - MIT - Cambridge, MA

## SEMARA 1997 VE SESSIONS

All sessions held on Saturday at 10:30 AM except for Fleamarket Sunday, September 14, when the session begins at 10 AM.

January 4  
 March 1  
 April 26  
 May 3  
 July 5  
 September 14  
 September 27  
 November 1

# FOR SALE

**KENWOOD TS530S - \$500**

**HEATHKIT 2060A  
 2KW ANTENNA TUNER - \$225**

**WANTED: SP940 SPEAKER  
 FOR KENWOOD TS940**

Contact Dan Alves, N1VZN, @ (508) 993-3858

ZERO BEAT is published monthly by SEMARA, Inc. 54 Donald Street, PO Box 80007, South Dartmouth, MA 02748

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

|                  |             |                                  |             |        |
|------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| 145.150 - WAIDGW | Fall River  | 441.400 + WGIU                   | Assonet     | 100.0  |
| 145.490 - KAIWBF | Fairhaven   | 442.200 + <del>WPHD</del> MNRD   | Fall River  | -      |
| 146.700 - WAIRBT | Cranston    | 442.350 + NIQWW                  | New Bedford | 144.3  |
| 146.655 - WAIGPO | Falmouth    | 443.450 + KIMYL                  | Westport    | 88.5   |
| 146.685 - NIOEG  | Plymouth    | 443.600 + NSIN                   | Norwell     | FALLER |
| 147.000 + WIAEC  | Dartmouth   | 443.800 + NIRFH                  | Dartmouth   | 28.5   |
| 147.045 + WAIAIC | Yarmouth    | 444.250 + <del>WALG</del> WAIGPO | Falmouth    | 141.3  |
| 147.135 + NDIN   | Taunton     | 444.350 + WIACT                  | Fall River  | 88.5   |
| 147.180 + NIFDX  | Bridgewater | 444.550 + <del>WAZUP</del> NIFLD | Bridgewater | FILLE  |
| 147.315 + NIBBT  | Wachusett   | <del>446.325 - KAIYLX</del>      | Plymouth    | -      |
| 224.340 - NISGK  | Dennis      | <del>446.625 - NCHK</del>        | Plymouth    | -      |
|                  |             | 447.075 - NIDZD                  | Kingston    | -      |

ON ONLY  
FOR

PL 91.5-146.445 +1MHz KB1BWN Dartmouth

443.850 + AA1JY Chatham 131.80  
442.600 + Tiverton 100.0

## CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

All events held at 7:30 PM unless otherwise indicated

### DECEMBER

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

### JANUARY

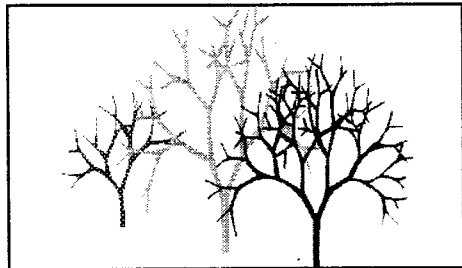
- 2 Business Meeting
- 4 VE Session @ 10:30 AM
- 16 ARRL Video Night

### FEBRUARY

- 6 Business Meeting
- 20 Tech - Talk on power supplies

### MARCH

- 1 VE Session @ 10:30 AM
- 6 Business meeting
- 20 To be announced



### 1996 SEMARA OFFICERS

- President William M. Miller Jr., K1IBR  
 Vice-President Marty Jordan, WA1YFV  
 Secretary William Field, WA1FYF  
 Treasurer Lawrence Houbre, AA1FS  
 Board of Directors:  
 Robert Peckham, KA1YDG  
 William Vincent, N1LTY  
 Scott Szala, AA1EV

**SEMARA**

Southeastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association, Inc.  
54 Donald Street PO Box 80007  
South Dartmouth, MA 02748

**FIRST CLASS**

Scanned by N1TI  
January 2011