

ZERO



BEAT

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

January 1997

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED

A proposal to amend the club's constitution was presented at the December 5th meeting. A copy of the proposal follows:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

We, the undersigned members of the Southeastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association, Inc. do hereby propose that the Constitution of the association be changed as follows:

Article IX - Meetings,
Section 2 - Monthly meetings:
DELETE: "7:30 P.M."
SUBSTITUTE: "a time approved by vote of the members"

Submitted the 5th day of
December 1996.

William M. Miller Jr. K1IBR
William Vincent N1LTY
Edmund J. Rouvo WA1VXY
Milton Francis K1BOC
Scott Pyala W1EV

In accordance with Article XII - Amendments of the Constitution, this proposal will be voted upon at the January 2, 1997 business meeting.

The intent of this amendment is to allow the meeting time to be changed by vote of the members. Several members have indicated a desire to have the meetings start at 7:00 PM. Upon passage of this amendment, the time can be changed anytime the membership sanctions it by vote. This amendment will give members the flexibility to change the meeting time by a vote. At the present time we are constitutionally restricted to 7:30 PM.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The December business meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM. There were 27 members and two guests present. Following the salute to the flag and roll call, the Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Committee reports followed: Technical - problem with autopatch falsely indicating "busy" resolved. Buildings and Grounds - wall removed in Quonset hut, floor repaired and painting underway. Code and Theory Class - proceeding normally. It was noted that the classes may be extended for two extra weeks to complete the training.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT: A letter from Dick Hay, W1LE, is posted on the bulletin board. Discussions with NYNEX regarding their placement of a cellular tower on our property are ongoing.

David Aguiar, N1YCR, was voted into the club as a conditional member.

The club officers for 1997 were elected. See article at top of next column for details.

Under old business, the question was raised if the change in the club's bereavement policy (voted upon at the last meeting) applied only to club members or included next of kin. After a brief discussion period, the matter was deferred to the January business meeting.

Under new business, a motion was made and passed that allows Richard Cabral Jr., N1RFH, to conduct a swap net on the club's repeater at 7:00 PM each Sunday.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Following the meeting an auction of old test equipment was held. Bob Metivier, N1XZJ, bought everything except the Tektronix scope which was

1997 OFFICERS ELECTED

During the December 5th business meeting, the election of club officers for 1997 was held. The 1997 officers are:

President (vacant)
V. President Marty Jordan, WA1YFV
Secretary Rick Cabral Jr., N1RFH
Treasurer Larry Houbre, AA1FS

Board of Directors:

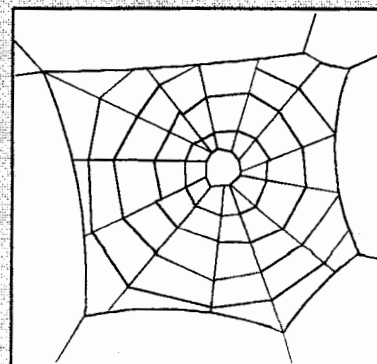
John Carreiro, W1ZYV
Bob Peckham, KA1YDG
Bill Vincent, N1LTY

Trustees:

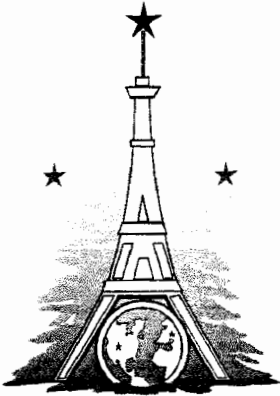
Eward Blouin, KA1AW
Andrew Rueter, WA1FNM
William M. Miller Jr., K1IBR
Norman Riley, W1ATI
Frank Fonseca, WB1ASD

SEMARA NOW ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB!

See Page 3

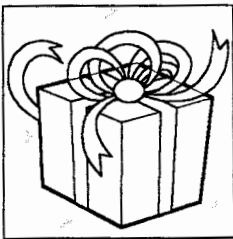


CHRISTMAS PARTY WAS FUN FOR EVERYONE!

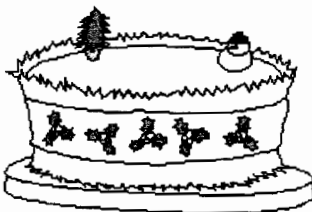


The SEMARA Christmas party held on December 19th at Thad's Steakhouse was fun for all attendees.

Following the meal, association president Bill Miller surprised Bill Field by presenting him with a certificate for his outstanding dedication to, and unwavering support of, the association's objectives. In particular, Bill's efforts to preserve the club's history by typing copies of important hand-written documents was noted.



Next came the gift exchange. There is something about opening a gift that brings us back to our childhood. And by the way the wrappings flew that night, many were definitely in their second childhood! The good news is that no one got a lump of coal. Heck, now-a-days you are hard pressed to find a lump of coal.

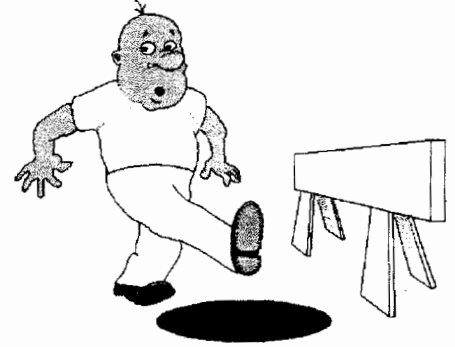


Finally, two Christmas cakes were raffled off to benefit the Scholarship fund. The cakes were donated by "The Cake Lady", Lisa Houbre (wife of Larry, AA1FS). The winners were Ted Przymierski, N1XXQ, and Paulette Remy (friend of Bill, K1IBR).

QUONSET HUT RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY

The renovation of the aging Quonset hut (our original clubhouse) is underway. After removing the old wall in the middle of the hut last November, the work crew tackled repairing the floor in December. Several sections required replacement because of rot brought about by former leaks in the roof.

Two crew members put their foot down - and went right through the floor! John, W1ZYV, and Bill, K1IBR, were helping to patch the floor when the incidents happened. Bill just broke through the floor slightly, but John went right on through until his gluteus maximus hit the deck. (He said it hurt but he wouldn't show anyone the "black-n-blue".) Other members helping to repair the floor were Andy, WA1FNM, Bill, N1LTY, and Bill, WA1FYF.



Mid-December found Andy "The Groundhog", WA1FNM, crawling around under the hut shoring up the floor with cement blocks. Bill "The Gopher", WA1FYF, helped Andy whenever Andy said "go fer" this or "go fer" that. Inside the hut, Bill, N1LTY, and Bill, K1IBR, began construction of the new wall.

DONATIONS SOLICITED

The work crew refurbishing the Quonset hut needs the following items: 1/2" plywood pieces and scraps (however, full sized sheets will not be refused), 3/8" plasterboard, two fluorescent light fixtures (4' long is fine), and money (any amount). Call Bill, K1IBR, at 508-996-2969 if you can help by donating any of the above items.

On Saturday, December 14th, the 12 volt power and repeater control cables were relocated from the hut to under the main clubhouse. From there they were routed through a plastic duct into the boiler room and reconnected to the repeaters. The crew for this exercise was Andy, WA1FNM; Bill, N1LTY; Bill, K1IBR; Rick, N1RFI,

and a prospective member - Ed, N1XXT. In the meantime, Bill, WA1FYF, shut down the boiler and took an oil sample to check for contaminants (none found).

In the latter half of December, Andy, WA1FNM, Bill, WA1FYF, Bill, N1LTY, John, W1ZYV, and Bill, K1IBR, installed a door and framed the new wall. Hopefully, by February the renovations will be complete. At any rate, the saga of the Quonset hut will continue in the next issue of ZERO BEAT...

HANDY WITH A HAMMER?



Anyone interested in helping to renovate the Quonset hut is welcome to come by and lend a hand. The crews will be working on the job every Saturday and Monday morning (from about 7AM to 11AM) until the work is complete. Monday is "old timers day" when all the retirees gather at the club to get some exercise by painting and swinging a hammer! Often the whole affair devolves into a "remember when?" session with each member trying to out-reminisce the others. (Watch out - your age is showing...)

ARES UPDATE

The December 12th ARES meeting was held at the SEMARA clubhouse. A total of nine members and guests were present. The meeting was chaired by Rob, KD1CY.

Items discussed at the meeting included:

1. Providing communications for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life to be held this summer on June 27th and 28th.
2. Developing an ARES Emergency Communications Plan.
3. Securing of pagers for ARES/RACES/SKYWARN members .
4. Determining if we can assist in missing persons/children searches.
5. Assigning net control operators for the next two months.

It was noted that the ARES net is running along fine and averaging about 10 check-ins per session. Please note that the net control operator list below is a change from the list published in the ARES Newsletter #7. Please use the list below!

The ARES newsletter can be downloaded from:

<http://www.ultranet.com/~rmacedo>

The next ARES meeting will be held at the SEMARA clubhouse in Dartmouth on Thursday, February 13, 1997 at 7:30 PM.

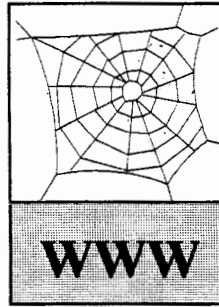
ARES

NET CONTROL OPERATOR SCHEDULE

- January 1 - Larry, AA1FS
- January 15 - Bob, N1XZJ
- February 1 - Rick, N1RFH
- February 15 - Rob, KD1CY

SEMARA NOW ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB!

SEMARA is now on the World Wide Web! Two club members have created web pages for the club. Larry, AA1FS had the first one up and running, followed by Rick, N1RFH. The site addresses are:



- <http://www.lrh.net/public/semara.htm>
- and
- <http://members.aol.com/rjcabral/hamradio/semara>

Drop by one of our home pages for the latest information on:

- upcoming meetings
- club history
- upcoming events
- VE sessions
- club officers
- repeater frequencies
- ARES net info
- ARES upcoming events
- directions to clubhouse
- links to other interesting amateur radio sites

Please bear in mind that the home pages are under development and will change from time to time as they are updated and refined. Any corrections or suggestions concerning the home pages should be addressed to the appropriate page custodian.

Other interesting amateur radio sites on the World Wide Web are:

- *****
- <http://members.aol.com/rjcabral/hamradio>
- *****
- <http://members.aol.com/hamradio/swapnet.html>
- *****
- <http://www.arrl.org>
- *****

WORLD WIDE WEB

OSCAR 13 DEAD

Oscar 13 is dead. All contact with the amateur radio satellite was lost on November 24th at 05:38 UTC. Orbit number 6,480 was just completed. Eleven days later, on December 5th, Oscar 13 entered the atmosphere over the United States and burned up at approximately 08:58 UTC.

Oscar 13 was launched on June 15, 1988 and provided flawless service to the amateur community. As time went on,



the satellite's orbit decayed and eventually it dipped more and more into the outer reaches of the earth's atmosphere. The atmosphere in turn heated up Oscar 13 and eventually destroyed the solar panels that powered the satellite. Eventually, the whole satellite burned up as it plunged into the atmosphere over the United States.

AMSAT, the international group of amateurs that launched Oscar 13 has a replacement satellite ready for launch in early 1997. The new Phase 3D satellite is scheduled for launch on Ariane 502 as early as mid February if all systems are ready.

FCC GATE 2 REOPENS - VANITY CALL SIGNS BEING ISSUED

The FCC has dismissed several petitions that had stalled Gate 2 of the vanity call sign program. The petitions delayed any action on applications for several weeks. At issue was a problem with one courier used to forward Gate 2 applications to the FCC. That courier failed to deliver the applications on the proper day. The FCC ruled that the problem is between the applicant and the courier, and is not an FCC matter.

If you applied for a vanity call sign, you can check if it has been issued on the ARRL web page:

<http://www.arrl.org/fccld.html>

Certificate of Appreciation

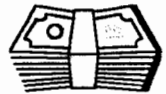
WILLIAM FIELD HONORED FOR CLUB SERVICE

William Field, WA1FYF, was honored for his years of service to the association at the Christmas Party held December 19th at Thad's Steakhouse. Association President William Miller presented Bill a certificate "for his outstanding dedication to and unwavering support of the association's objectives. In particular, his single-handed efforts to preserve the association's history by typing up copies of the original hand-written records is noteworthy".

President Miller commented on the many unsung "heroes" in the club but singled out Bill Field for his total dedication to the association's goals. It was noted that Bill has maintained the club's heating plant since it was installed about 25 years ago. He has cut down more trees and brush than any other member in an effort to expand the yard behind the club. He typed up old hand-written records of the association in an effort to preserve them for future generations.

The presentation was a complete surprise for Bill. Following the presentation he stated that the certificate was one of two special awards in his life, the other being the "Good Conduct" medal he received while in the service.

tions at a ham convention in Oregon! His indiscretions cost him a \$1,400 fine and 120 days in jail. After sentencing, Bobby left the court room in tears.



\$1,400

The Marconi Radio Club in Lakeville was granted the call WIAA via a Gate 2 vanity call sign application to the FCC. Whitey Doherty, K1VV, the club's president, stated, "You can't believe how happy we are that the Marconi Radio Club got the WIAA call - it is most appropriate for the Marconi RC". The club's previous call was KB1BOK, but members showed little interest in using the call according to Doherty.

Doug Dickinson, KL7IKX, was in his house with the lights off when he chanced to look out the window. He saw two young people get off their snow machine and approach his car with a gas can. Doug watched with great interest as they siphoned about



two gallons of fuel from his car. He was delighted when they added oil to the mixture and then poured it into the snow machine's gas tank. For Doug knew something they didn't - his car was a diesel!

Well, the young people pulled on the starter rope. And pulled and pulled and pulled on the starter rope. All to no avail, for the snow machine was not going to start anymore. Finally, the fuel thieves abandoned the machine and left on foot!

Doug's only regret is that he didn't videotape the whole affair to show his fellow hams at a later date.

Yes, there is justice!

(Bits "N" Pieces was compiled from the ARRL letter and Amateur Radio Newline.)

BITS "N" PIECES



ARRL station WIAW has announced two schedule changes effective January 1, 1997.

First, morning code practice and bulletins will be aired on Thursday and Friday only. Code practice will start at 1400 UTC, CW bulletins will start at 1500 UTC, and the RTTY/AMTOR/ASCII bulletins will start at 1600 UTC.

Next, the Tuesday and Wednesday morning code practice and bulletin transmissions will be moved to 21:00 UTC (4 PM Eastern time). In other words, they will now be a late afternoon session. (This time change is required to facilitate routine station maintenance.)

Please note that all times are approximate.

Amateurs in California recently demonstrated the ability to pass weather forecasts over a wide area. Using a 440 MHz repeater atop Crystal Peak, they sent a forecast over 200 miles! The message was sent from Monterey to Sonoma County. The

same forecast was also sent over a digipeater in Santa Cruz to demonstrate that mode of message handling. The demonstrations were made for the National Weather Service (NWS) forecast office in Monterey. The tests confirmed that amateurs can provide a secondary means of wide-area bulletin distribution.

At the 1996 AMSAT-NA Space Symposium Held last November in Tucson, Arizona, AMSAT-NA President Bill Tynan, W3XO, presented a plaque (commemorating the dedication of the Phase-3D spaceframe to the ARRL) to ARRL Vice President Joel Harrison, WB5IGF. This recognition was accorded the ARRL for their contribution of more than \$530,000 to AMSAT-NA. AMSAT is a world-wide organization that designs, fabricates and places in orbit amateur radio satellites.



Bobby Lee Aguero, KE6VNU, is in jail. Bobby, who called himself "The Phantom", enjoyed jamming police radio calls - until he was caught! Bobby not only interfered with police communications in his home state of California, but also interfered with police communica-

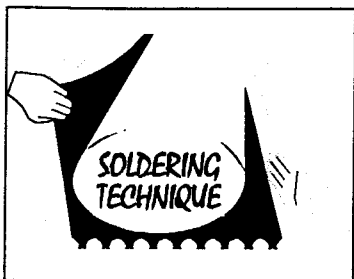


CLUB NOTES

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

Wow! Another year is upon us. All the New Year wishes have been made and hopefully will be granted. And everyone is enjoying their new transceiver that Santa brought. Well, most everyone....

The clubhouse was buzzing with excitement following the feature story the Standard-Times published about ham radio. Several members had to buy larger sized hats! For those that missed the article, a copy is posted on the clubhouse wall.



The Tech-Talk on soldering was attended by a horde of members! Evidently, soldering is a skill that many felt needed improving. No, there will not be another session for those that missed it. However, copies of the soldering information sheet handed out to the class are available at the clubhouse.

George Souza, N1MWB, knows the value of proper timing. He was spotted arriving late at the radio auction in Newtonville. Next thing you know, they hold a door-prize drawing and George wins an ARRL repeater directory! Evidently they didn't mix up the box of tickets so George's was on top. Yes, the name of the game is timing. Congratulations, George.



NYNEX BELL ATLANTIC MOBILE had a consultant check our property out for possible use as a cellular tower site. If our location is considered, the next step will be an RF survey to determine coverage from our site. Then, formal negotiations can begin between our association and NYNEX. Full details will be covered at the next business meeting.

The cake raffle held at our association's Christmas Party generated \$110.00 for the scholarship fund. Since the fund's inception, over \$300 has been collected. The association thanks "The Cake Lady" (Lisa Houbre, wife of Larry, AA1FS) for the generous donation of the two Christmas cakes. In appreciation thereof, throughout 1997 ZERO BEAT will publish the business card used by "The Cake Lady".

HELP! Donations or copies of any old club related material (photos, notes, clippings, etc.) is solicited by Bill, K1IBR. He is undertaking a project to write a comprehensive history of the club.

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

NET DIRECTORY

Sunday	8am	28.375	General
Sunday	8am	7.237	UFO
Sunday	3pm	28.470	UFO
Sunday	7pm	147.000+	Swap Net
4th Sun	9pm	449.575	EM-ARRL
Thursday	7pm	14.264	UFO
Thursday	8pm	147.180+	Trivia
Saturday	8am	7.237	UFO
Saturday	7:30pm	3.978	UFO
Saturday	1800G	14.300	Coast Guard
M-F	8am	14.262	General
M-F	8pm	145.490-	Weather
Daily	7pm	146.550	General
Daily	6:45pm	147.315+	NTS/Trivia
Daily	8pm	145.230-	EM-NTS

1st & 15th of month - ARES NET - 7:30 pm
147.000+ on the 1st. 145.490- on the 15th.

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 -	WA1DQW	Fall River	441.400 - (100.0)	W01U	Amherst
145.490 -	K1A1WSP	Fairhaven	442.200 -	N1DML	Fall River
146.700 -	K1CFE	Craiton	442.350 - (141.5)	N0Q2W	New Bedford
146.875 - (88.5)	WA1GPO	Falmouth	442.600 - (200.0)	K1LAQ	Trenton
146.143 -	N00BG	Plymouth	443.450 - (88.5)	K1METL	Weymouth
147.000 -	W1AEC	Dartmouth	443.600 -	N01N	Newell
147.045 -	W1A1AN	Yarmouth	443.800 - (88.5)	N1B7E	Dartmouth
147.135 - (87.5)	N00N	Tisbury	443.850 - (151.8)	AA1FT	Chatham
147.180 - (87.5)	N1PDL	Dedgewater	444.250 - (141.5)	WA1GPO	Falmouth
147.315 - (156.7)	N1BET	Wareham	444.550 -	N1PDL	Dedgewater
148.445 - (148.9)	K2A1DWN	Dartmouth	447.075 -	N1D7D	Kingston
224.340 -	N00BK	Duxey			

CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

All events held at 7:30 PM unless otherwise indicated

JANUARY

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

MARCH

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

FEBRUARY

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

APRIL

- 3 Business meeting
- 17 To be announced

Bridal and Baby Showers
Weddings
Anniversary
Birthdays



The Cake Lady

Lisa Houbre
Cake Consultant
991-6057



Custom and novelty cakes for all occasions.

1997 SEMARA OFFICERS

President (vacant)
Vice-President Marty Jordan, WA1YFV
Secretary Richard J. Cabral, N1RFH
Treasurer Lawrence Houbre, AA1FS
Board of Directors:
John Carreiro, W1ZYV
Robert Peckham, KA1YDG
William Vincent, N1LTY

SEMARA

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FIRST CLASS

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