

# ZERO



# BEAT

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

April 1997

## MEMBERSHIP BANS SMOKING DURING MEETINGS

During the March business meeting, a motion to *ban smoking during meetings* was placed on the floor for consideration. The discussion was intense.

Pro-ban speakers noted that several members suffer from emphysema, asthma, and other breathing disorders which second-hand smoke aggravates.

Pro-smoking members mentioned freedom of choice, and pointed out that no covered and protected area existed outside the club for smokers to use in lieu of smoking in the club.



In part, the fierce debate was the result of a misunderstanding. Many members, especially the smokers, thought the motion was to totally ban smoking in the club. Once it was established that the ban only applied to meetings, a vote was taken and the motion passed. Common sense prevailed.

## TECH-TALK ON OPERATIONAL AMPLIFIERS WELL RECEIVED

Ken Raposa, K1NSX, (guest lecturer) presented a great Tech-Talk on *Operational Amplifiers* on March 19th at the SEMARA clubhouse.

Attendees were given a booklet and a 3.5" disc with information on operational amplifiers. The booklet contained the exact material that Ken presented during the lecture using an overhead projector. This made note taking a breeze!

Ken explained basic operational amplifier operation and outlined typical circuits they are used in. The presentation was well received.

## MEETING HIGHLITES



The March business meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by President Marty Jordan. Twenty-nine members and one guest were present. Following the salute to the flag and roll call, the Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Committee reports followed: *Technical* - No report. *Buildings and Grounds* - Major work on Quonset hut completed. Dormer in radio room to be repaired this spring. *Scholarship Fund* - no report. *Tower committee* - Negotiations with NYNEX proceeding well. (See related article on page three.)

Peter LaGasse, N1XKD, was voted a full member of the association.

The following motions were passed:  
1.) Motion to ban smoking during business meetings only. (See related article on this page.)  
2.) Motion to auction off two old coaxial switches, proceeds to benefit the general fund.

It was reported that the electric heater in the cellar was stuck "ON" and caused our electric bill for the last two months to be rather high. This heater normally comes on only to protect our plumbing when the heating system fails. Art Valois, W1UID, offered to donate a heater to replace the defective one. The club accepted his offer. *Thanks Art!*



Following the business meeting adjournment at 7:48 PM, an auction to benefit the Quonset hut restoration and general fund was held. See "Club Notes" (Page 5) for further details.

## NYNEX TOWER REPORT

FULL DETAILS ON PAGE 3

## EDITORIAL

The club has made tremendous progress in the last few years. The membership pulled together in a manner not seen since the new building was built twenty years ago. The members should be proud of the work they accomplished - the new kitchen, classroom, and radio room to name a few. And let's not forget the great outpouring of members to help paint the clubhouse last year. True progress was made.

We are now poised on the cusp of an important new era in the history of the association. The leasing of a portion of our property to Bell Atlantic NYNEX Mobile for a cellular tower site will bring financial security to the club, in addition to providing us with a new tower, antenna system, and building to house the repeaters.

In my opinion, we should allocate our new found resources on the following priority basis: 1) maintenance/upgrade of the building and property, 2) maintenance/upgrade of the repeaters, 3) funding of member activities.

I trust the members will work in the future as they have in the past to keep the association the premier amateur radio club in Southeastern Massachusetts. The future of the association depends on it.

Bill Miller - Editor



# BITS - N - PIECES



Compiled from *The ARRL Letter*, a publication of the American Radio Relay League, and *Ham Radio Online* magazine, available free on the Internet at <http://www.hamradio-online.com>

## LITTLE LEO UPDATE

The Little Leo satellite industry now wants the 220 MHz band in addition to the 2 meter and 440 bands! This latest assault on amateur radio came to light on February 13th at a meeting of FCC Informal Working Group 2A. The ARRL and AMSAT filed immediate objections to this new threat to our ham bands.



The actual fate of our amateur radio bands will be determined during the 1997 World Radiocommunication Conference. Hopefully, the objections voiced by the ARRL, AMSAT, and the general public will derail the FCC from presenting the Little Leo proposal at the conference.

The complete text of the ARRL and AMSAT opposition statement is posted on the internet under "Band Threat News" at:

<http://www.arrl.org>

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## FCC DECLARES ALL CELLULAR MODIFICATIONS ILLEGAL

In mid February, the FCC issued a public notice declaring illegal any modification made to any receiver that permits reception of cellular calls. The FCC made it crystal clear that it is also illegal for manufacturers and dealers to modify radios for cellular reception.

This decision came as members of congress raised concerns over the illegal taping and subsequent publication in the New York Times of a cellular call during which House Speaker Newt Gingrich spoke.



## FCC LEVIES \$20,000 FINE IN CELLULAR SCANNER CASE

The FCC fined Ace Communications of Fishers, Indiana, \$20,000 for illegally selling scanners that could receive cellular phone calls. The FCC cited willful and repeated violations of various sections of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, as justification for the fine. Ace Communications is expected to appeal the decision.

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## A FISH STORY

Several fishermen in Southern California took the bait when someone sold them amateur radios programmed on the input frequency of the 146.82 repeater in the Los Angeles area. The repeater monitors realized that the fishermen didn't want others listening to their conversations since they were discussing where the fishing was good.



That was the key to stopping the transmissions. The monitors alerted the fishermen that their broadcasts were being relayed over a repeater and that everyone was listening to their private conversations. The fishermen ceased transmitting immediately!

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## NEW FCC PHONE NUMBER FOR LICENSE INFORMATION

The FCC has announced that a new toll-free number is now available for inquiries concerning new licenses and vanity call changes. The new number is 888-225-5322. This number will connect callers directly with the FCC National Call Center, which is part of the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau. Callers to the old Consumer Information number will get a recording referring them to the new number.

## BIG HAM FAMILY

Len Umina, N1LU, feels he may head the largest amateur family under one roof in the world! Len has been a ham for 30 years and resides in Marlboro, MA. Len managed to get his whole family interested in amateur radio, and get them licensed within a ten week period. Besides Len and his wife Vicki, N1XYA, there are Suzanne, N1YFT; Laura, N1YGB; Kristina, N1YCG; Anthony, N1YHL; and David, N1YHO.

His children range in age from 7 to 16. Len used that fact to his advantage. He made the challenge to his family that if they all got an amateur radio license, he would take them to Disney World (some would call it bribery). Talk about motivation! Fact is, not only does Len possibly have the largest amateur radio family under one roof, but they may hold the record for how fast they did it.



Look out Disney World - here comes the Umina family!

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## CHRISTIE'S TO AUCTION GUGLIELMO MARCONI MEMORABILIA

Christie's of London expects to realize \$1.6 million from the sale of rare memorabilia from the collection of Guglielmo Marconi. The two-day sale will be held April 24 and 25 at their South Kensington auction house.

Among the items offered is Marconi's 1896 first patent for "Improvements in Wireless Telegraphy".

Proceeds of the sale will sponsor "Marconi Days", an educational incentive to train 1,000 electronics teachers a year. The sale is sponsored by GEC-Marconi as part of its Marconi centenary celebration.

# BELL ATLANTIC NYNEX MOBILE CELLULAR TOWER UPDATE



ormal negotiations with Bell Atlantic NYNEX Mobile commenced at 9 AM on February 27, 1997 in the SEMARA clubhouse at 54 Donald Street in South Dartmouth, MA. The association's representatives were William Miller (Chairman), Lawrence Houbre, and Scott Szala. Bell Atlantic NYNEX Mobile was represented by Scott Cohen, Manager of Real Estate (Woburn, MA), and Steven Bozkurtian, Principle of Structure Appraisal Group (Belmont, MA).

Following introductions, Chairman Miller handed the NYNEX representatives copies of a newspaper article outlining the recent denial of a variance by the Dartmouth Zoning Board for a cellular tower site behind Gifford Marine on Dartmouth Street. Scott Cohen of NYNEX then outlined the process of installing a cellular tower site from beginning to end.

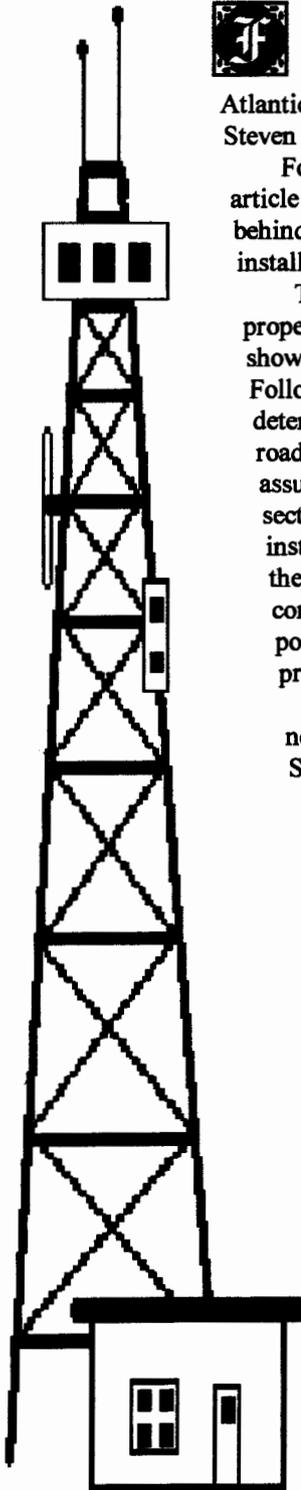
The first step towards installing a cellular tower site is to have the property surveyed. This survey also includes the preparation of a plot plan showing all buildings, roads, open space, trees, etc. on the property. Following the survey, a civil engineer meets with the property owner to determine where on the property the tower is best located. Next, a gravel road is installed to permit access to the cellular site by heavy trucks. This assures that there will be no problems with the delivery of the steel tower sections and the prefabricated reinforced concrete buildings that will be installed on the site. Then, test borings are taken to determine the size of the concrete base required to support the self-standing tower. Main construction then commences with the installation of the tower, buildings, power and telephone feeds, fencing, etc.. Barring any unforeseen problems, the whole job is completed in about three to four months.

Next, Chairman Miller went down a list of 16 items of concern prepared by the club's negotiating committee. (A review meeting was held just prior to the main meeting with NYNEX.) Some of the items discussed included:

- **Real estate tax obligations.** NYNEX will pay taxes on their leased land, and possibly our taxes if they are impacted by NYNEX leasing from us - slated for more discussion.
- **Power and phone lines to be underground (safety and freedom from RFI).** NYNEX agreed.
- **One million dollars in general liability insurance to be kept in force for the life of the lease.** NYNEX agreed.
- **NYNEX to plow access road.** NYNEX agreed.
- **All future tenants on the tower must cease operations and take corrective action at their expense if RFI problems arise.** NYNEX agreed.
- **At the end of the lease and any extensions, SEMARA shall have the option of assuming ownership of the tower and buildings or having them removed at NYNEX's expense.** NYNEX agreed.

Several items remain to be negotiated. At this point in time, NYNEX is preparing the first draft of a lease for our review and comment. Also forthcoming from NYNEX is a monthly payment offer, and the results of their RF survey recently performed from our site.

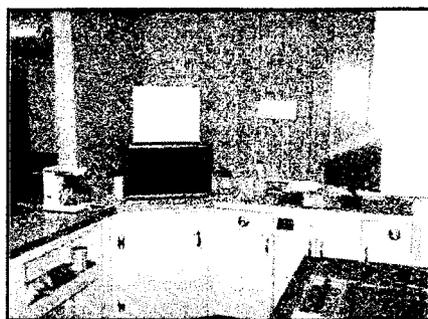
Please attend the April business meeting for the next update on the committee's progress. It is anticipated that the committee will meet again before the next business meeting and have more information to share with the membership.



# SEMARA PHOTO GALLERY



**SEMARA CLUBHOUSE**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
SITUATED ON THREE  
ACRES OF LAND IN  
SOUTH DARTMOUTH, MA



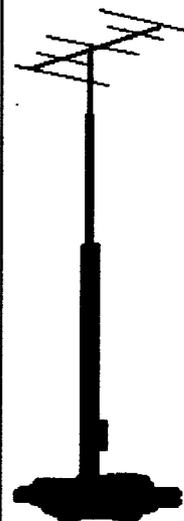
**SEMARA KITCHEN**  
EXPANDED AND UPDATED  
IN 1996 WITH  
REFRIGERATOR AND  
MICROWAVE



**SEMARA RADIO ROOM**  
MOST POPULAR  
GATHERING SPOT IN  
THE CLUBHOUSE FOR  
RAGCHEWING



**SEMARA CLASSROOM**  
USED FOR TECH-TALKS,  
AND VE SESSIONS, AS  
WELL AS TRAINING AND  
LICENSING CLASSES



## FOR SALE

Wilson 40 foot tubular crank up tilt base tower complete with tri-band beam for 10-15-20 (beam needs work). Tower lowers to 20 feet. \$300 or best offer.

Contact:  
**Bill - NILTY**  
(508) 992-1026

## WANTED!

ANYONE THAT WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT A TECH-TALK OR GIVE A PRESENTATION ON ANY AMATEUR RADIO SUBJECT PLEASE CONTACT BILL MILLER AT (508) 996-2900



*Cappuccino  
Sourmet  
Espresso*

*Bagels  
Muffins  
Cream Cheeses*



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## *The Cake Lady*

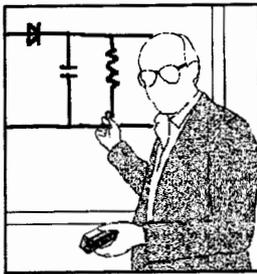
**Lisa Houbre**  
Cake Consultant  
991-6057



*Custom and novelty cakes for all occasions.*

# CLUB NOTES

April showers bring May flowers - or so the saying goes. If it rains all month you will miss comet Hale-Bopp which is at its peak the first week of April. And don't forget to move the clock ahead an hour on Sunday morning, April 6th, for daylight savings time is here, rain or shine!



The Tech-Talk on "Power Supplies" was held in the new classroom on February 20th. About 15 members attended. The new Whiteboard was christened when a block diagram of a power supply was drawn on it. There also is a new Whiteboard in the meeting hall up front by the main desk. It will prove handy for tallying votes and listing important messages.

Bill Field, WA1FYF, scared everyone when he had a mild heart attack and ended up in Boston at Mass. General. But, being the crusty old salt that he is, they could only hold him down for 5 days. And judging by his recent proselytizing, he has made a complete recovery!



Frank Gadomski, KA1ZDT, recently spent seven days in the hospital. His son Len, WA1CNO, mentioned that Frank enjoyed the card the club sent to cheer him up. Frank is now on the road to recovery from his illness and plans to attend the next business meeting at the club.

Following the March business meeting, several items were auctioned off to benefit the club. A Heathkit VTVM donated anonymously to help retire the Quonset hut renovation fund went for the exact amount the fund was in the red - \$26! Other items sold benefited the general fund. Additionally, an anonymous member donated \$20 to help renovate the radio room dormer this spring. Talk about club spirit!



All members are urged to check their listing on the club membership list. Please report any discrepancies to the club treasurer Larry Houbre, AA1FS, at the next meeting - or by snail mail (63 Sycamore St. New Bedford, MA 02740), or E-mail (AA1FS@lrh.net).



# FLEAMARKET CALENDAR

- April 5 - Waterford, CT
- April 6 - Framingham, MA
- April 12 - Portland, ME
- April 13 - Southington, CT
- April 20 - MIT - Cambridge, MA
- April 26 - West Greenwich, RI
- May 9-10 - Rochester, NH
- May 18 - MIT - Cambridge, MA

# SEMARA VE SESSIONS

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

- April 26
- May 3
- July 5
- September 14
- September 27
- November 1

# NET DIRECTORY

Sunday	8am	28,375	General
Sunday	9:30am	50,225	Yankee SSB
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	7:30pm	3,978	UFO
Saturday	1800G	14,300	Coast Guard
Sat-Sun	8am	7,237	UFO
M-F	8am	14,262	General
M-F	8pm	145,490-	Weather
Daily	5:30pm	3,915	EM/RI NTSsb
Daily	7&10pm	3,658	EM/RI NTScw
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 or k1ibr@lrh.net

# REPEATER DIRECTORY

145.150 -	WA1DGW	Fall River	441.400 +(192.8)	WG1U	Assonet
145.490 -	KA1WBF	Fairhaven	442.200 +	N1NRL	Fall River
146.700 -	K1CR	Cranston	442.350 +(141.3)	N1QWW	New Bedford
146.655 -(88.5)	WA1GPO	Falmouth	442.600+(100.0)	K1LIQ	Tiverton
146.685 -	N1OEG	Plymouth	443.450 +(88.5)	K1MYL	Westport
147.000 +	W1AEC	Dartmouth	443.600 +	NS1N	Norwell
147.045 +	WA1AIC	Yarmouth	443.800 +(88.5)	N1RFH	Dartmouth
147.135 +(67.0)	ND1N	Taunton	443.850+(131.8)	W1ARM	Chatham
147.180 +(67.0)	N1FDX	Bridgewater	444.250 +(141.3)	WA1GPO	Falmouth
147.315 +(156.7)	N1BBT	Wareham	444.550 +	N1FDX	Bridgewater
146.445+1Mhz(91.5)	KB1BWN	Dartmouth	447.075 -	N1DZD	Kingston
224.340 -	N1SGK	Dennis			

## CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

All events held at 7:00 PM unless otherwise indicated

### APRIL

- 3 Business meeting
- 17 ARRL Video Night
- 26 VE Session @ 10:30 AM  
National Exam Day
- 28 DIRECTOR'S MEETING

### JUNE

- 5 Business Meeting
- 22-29 Amateur Radio Week
- 28-29 Field Day
- 19 Tech-Talk

### MAY

- 1 Business meeting
- 3 VE Session
- 8 ARES Meeting

### JULY

- 3 Business meeting
- 17 To be announced
- ? Phase 3D Launch (SAREX)

## SEMARA OFFICERS 1997

*President* Marty Jordan, KA1YFV  
*Vice-President* William M. Miller Jr., K1IBR  
*Secretary* Richard J. Cabral, N1RFH  
*Treasurer* Lawrence Houbre, AA1FS

### Board of Directors:

John Carreiro, W1ZYV  
 Robert Peckham, KA1YDG  
 William Vincent, N1LTY

### Trustees:

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 Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM  
 William M. Miller Jr., K1IBR  
 Norman Riley, W1ATI  
 Frank Fonseca, WB1ASD

# SEMARA

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

## FIRST CLASS

Scanned by N1TI  
 January 2011