



ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 65th YEAR

Volume 32, Issue 11



SEMARA



November 1997

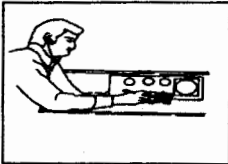
Editor's Corner

SHOULD AMATEURS KNOW MORSE CODE?

Recently the interesting questions of whether amateur radio operators should be required to know Morse code and how many classes of amateur radio licenses are ideal were raised.

After much thought and deliberation, I am of the opinion that

mastery of Morse code as a requirement to hold an amateur radio license is no longer necessary. Furthermore, we realistically need only two classes of amateur radio licenses. One for beginners, one for all others. (I can hear the old timers screaming and yelling already! Not to worry, after 40 years in amateur radio I'm an old timer myself.)



In the early days of amateur radio, all communication was via Morse code. Common sense dictated that proficiency in Morse code be a requirement for an amateur radio license.

With the advent of the amplitude modulated transmitter, code took a back seat as the preferred mode of communication since most amateurs preferred to talk than send Morse code.



☛ CODE Page 2



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The October business meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Marty Jordan. Twenty-four 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* - Chairman John Carreiro thanked all that helped cut grass this year. *Scholarship* - None. *Tower Committee* - NYNEX has decided not to lease club property for a cellular tower. We are now negotiating with Cellular One.

Ratifications - Joe Frois, N1YAL, was voted a conditional member of the association. Randall Faber, N3PGV, was reinstated and voted an associate member. Edward Gadue, N1XTT, and Mike Ledger, N1YLQ, were voted into full membership. Richard Simpkin, WA1CRA, and Henry Blanchette, W1GYL, were reinstated as full members.

Old business - None

New business - Motion to hold our annual fleamarket on the second Sunday of September every year was passed.

This year's nominating committee is chaired by Andy Reuter, WA1FNM. The committee members are Bill Miller, K1IBR, and

SCMARG

South Coastal Massachusetts
Amateur Radio Group

REPEATER GROUP CHANGES NAME

The Greater New Bedford UHF Repeater Group (GNBURG) announced that it has changed its name to the South Coastal Massachusetts Amateur Radio Group (SCMARG). The group feels the new name better identifies the amateur radio community they serve.

The group stresses that although the name is different, it is the same repeater group providing the same services to its members.

SCMARG also provides basic 440 MHz repeater service to members of SEMARA in exchange for use of the SEMARA tower. SCMARG's antenna is up about 130 feet on our tower.

SCMARG also announced that a new access code has been programmed into their repeater and all members of SCMARG will get new command books in the mail. Members of SEMARA can also get copies of the book from Rick Cabral, N1RFH, at the November meeting.

Brad Anselmo, N1VUF.

Club treasurer Larry Houbre, AA1FS, mentioned he has clubhouse keys for those that desire one.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

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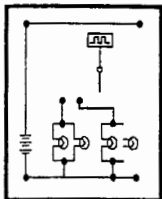
ADVERTISING

Commercial ads the size of a business card will be accepted. Rates are \$5.00 for one insertion, \$20.00 for six insertions, and \$35.00 for twelve insertions.

Non-commercial ads up to forty words in length will be accepted. Rate is \$3.00 for one or \$12.00 for six insertions. Club members have one free non-commercial ad per month.

CODE - continued from page 1

The last fifty years brought more dramatic change as RTTY, SSB, ATV, FM, Packet, AMTOR, SSTV, and other sophisticated modes of communication emerged. Very few amateurs know the codes used by RTTY, Packet, or AMTOR. But they know good old Morse code!



One can only speculate what new innovations technology will bring as we move forward into the next century. It is time to acknowledge that Morse code can safely be left behind. It no longer should be a requirement for an amateur radio license. Those that aspire to send and receive Morse Code can do so on their own initiative. It is no different than those that aspire to send and receive RTTY presently do so on their own initiative.

Why not also reduce the number of license classes to two. A Novice and a General Class license.



The Novice Class license would be for beginners who want to "test the waters", so to speak. It should be non-renewable and good for only

two years. A simple test on rules, regulations, basic theory, and general operating procedure would be required for a Novice Class amateur radio license. The lower third of all amateur bands would be open to novice operations using all modes. You read it right - one third and all modes. The object is to more than get their feet wet. We want to encourage novice operators to upgrade. By letting them try all modes of operation, they stand a better chance of finding their niche in the amateur radio fraternity.

The General Class amateur radio license would be a life-time license. Passing a comprehensive test on rules, regulations, theory, propagation, operating procedures, and related subjects would be required before a General Class license is issued. General Class licensees would have all amateur radio privileges.



Drastic ideas? You bet! But if we don't take action to encourage and promote the growth of amateur radio, then it will surely go the way Morse code is headed. And that isn't uphill!

The structure of the amateur radio licensing system has everything to do with the survival of our hobby. Some of us can recall the devastating effect incentive licensing had on our hobby in the sixties. Not only was the prior robust growth of the hobby arrested, but major amateur radio manufacturers ceased to exist. We have never fully recovered from the ills incentive licensing brought to the hobby. Our hobby has been hobbled by the curse of incentive licensing for over 30 years.

It is time for change. Nay, it is time for major change - the total revamping of the amateur radio licensing structure.

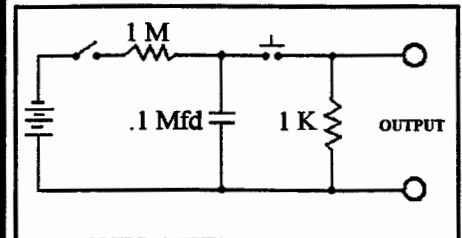
NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

November 1, Saturday
 10:30 AM

LOCAL VE SESSIONS IN NOVEMBER

- 02 East Providence, RI**
Mike Arminio
508-699-0547
- 08 Falmouth, MA**
Joanne Reid
508-548-1121
- 08 Braintree, MA**
Bill Needham
617-843-4400
- 13 Providence, RI**
Judy Nelson, KC1RI
401-231-9156
- 15 Plymouth, MA**
Dick Eaton
508-224-8573
- 19 Cambridge, MA**
Nick Altendbernd
617-253-3776

NAME THAT CIRCUIT



1. Manual Pulse Generator
2. Code Practice Oscillator
3. Zener Diode Tester
4. Transient Noise Amplifier

ANSWER - See Page 6

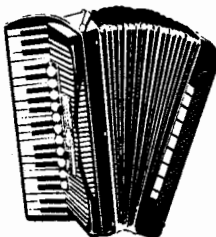


CLUB NOTES

Wow! Is it already November? Where did fall go? Veteran's Day is the 11th, and Thanksgiving falls on the 27th. The frost is on the pumpkin! Winter is just around the corner. This time of year brings out the kit building and shack cleaning in most of us. Some even fix up the "neat deal" they picked up at one of the fall fleamarkets. What a life!



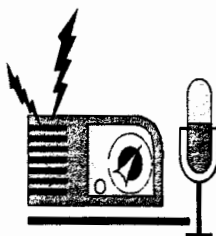
Did you enjoy the serenades provided by one of the vendors at the Rochester Hamfest this year? We suspect that the music was calculated to lull potential buyers into a melancholy mood and encourage them to part with their cash. Was it successful? Ask **Larry, AA1FS!**



A tip of the hat to **Andy, WA1FNM**, who cut more grass at the club than any other member! Thanks, Andy, for your dedication to the association.



The Southeastern Massachusetts Swap and Sell Net is back on the air! It will be held the first and third Sunday of each month at 7 PM on the 147.00 repeater. The net debuts on November 2nd with Rick, **N1RFH**, and Dan, **N1VZN**, as net control stations.



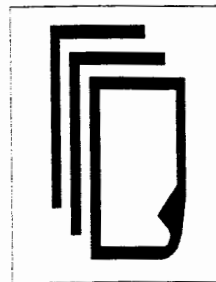
Rick, **N1RFH**, has put together a booklet of all codes used on the 2 meter and 440 repeaters located at the club. The command code booklet has full details on accessing the repeaters and includes all autopatch and utility codes used on the machines. Members of **SCMARG** will have the booklet mailed to them, while members of **SEMARA** can pick up a copy at the November business meeting.

**SCMARG
440 MHz**



**SEMARA
2 Meters**

Andy, **WA1FNM**, presented an interesting talk on September 18th. He discussed the National Traffic System and amateur radio message handling. Attendees were given several message handling handouts and aids. Andy walked everyone through the mechanics of sending and receiving amateur radio messages.



Thanks go out to **Bill, WA1FYF**, who donating a roll of fiberglass mesh used for roof repair work. The mesh was used to reinforce that part of the Quonset hut roof that leaked last month. Hopefully, the several layers of mesh and tar placed on the leaky section will put an end to future leaks.



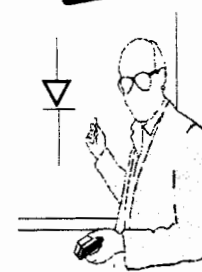
The porches on the clubhouse were sealed with a preservative/sealer on September 26th. As usual, the porches were thirsty and sucked up quite a bit of sealer! Members wielding the paint brushes were **Andy, WA1FNM**, **Bill, K1IBR**, and **Marty, WA1YFV**.



Don Mara, **WA1PLT**, spent a few days in the hospital during mid October. He had a kidney stone removed. That is the bad news. The good news is that he is on the way to a complete recovery and his smiling face will once again greet us all.



Bill Miller, **K1IBR** gave a Tech-Talk about Optoelectronics on October 16th. After discussing the various types of devices, Bill demonstrated several of them. Solar cells, LEDs, photoresistors, and even a TV controller were demonstrated. The TV controller output codes were displayed on a scope.



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

WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE TO OPEN IN GENEVA (WRC97)

Several proposals that could impact amateur radio operations are scheduled for discussion at WRC97 in Geneva, October 27th through November 21st.

One area of concern is the "Little Leo" issue. Although the "Little Leo" preliminary proposal to share amateur frequencies for their satellite work was not sanctioned by the U.S. delegates to WRC97, it still could become an issue during the meeting. Several amateurs are members of the U.S. delegation and are alert to such a possibility.



SWITZERLAND

Another area of concern is the possibility of interference to amateur operations on the UHF bands by Earth Exploration Satellites (EES). These satellites use synthetic aperture radar (SAR). It is proposed that they be allowed operation in the 430-440 MHz band and that current operation in the 1240-1300 MHz band be upgraded.

Also on the agenda are wind profiler radar systems that have the potential to cause interference to amateur operations. They operate near 50, 449, and 1000 MHz.

Finally, WRC-97 will set the agenda for WRC-99. It will be proposed that the WRC-99 agenda call for a world-wide 40 meter amateur radio allocation. This is a major change. Currently, in world Regions 1 and 3 broadcasters dominate the 7100-7300 MHz segment of 40 meters. Those broadcasters make that segment of the 40 meter band unusable for amateur radio operations in all the other Regions of the world. The U.S. is proposing an exclusive world-wide amateur 40 meter band from 6900-7200m MHz. Under such a proposal, hams would shift down 100 KC and broadcasters up 100 KC. The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) supports such a world-wide 300 KC amateur band.

AMSAT'S PHASE 3D SATELLITE STILL LOOKING FOR A LAUNCH VEHICLE

Originally scheduled for launch on the Ariane 502 rocket this year, AMSAT's Phase 3D satellite was bumped when new stringent mechanical specifications were implemented by the European Space Agency (ESA). AMSAT officials stated they are hopeful that the Phase 3D amateur radio satellite will be launched during 1988 aboard an Ariane rocket.

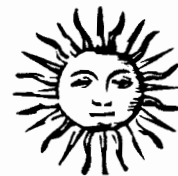
AZDEN OR ALINCO? WHICH ONE IS GONE?



There is a bit of confusion in amateur radio circles as to which company pulled out of the U.S. amateur radio market. Truth be told, it is Azden of New York, not Alinco which is based on the West Coast. Alinco is still alive and well.

CURRENT SOLAR CYCLE PREDICTED TO BE BIG!

The NOAA Space Environment Center reports that solar experts believe the present solar cycle will have a high peak. However, they caution that it will not be as high as Cycle 19 in the late 1950's.



The solar experts also fixed the most probable date for the recent solar minimum and end of Cycle 22 as October 1996. The current Cycle 23 should peak around March 2000, although it could come as early as June 1999, or as late as January 2001. Sunspot cycles are quite variable and generally go up much faster than they come down.

FCC REFUSES TO RENEW AMATEUR'S LICENSE

KV4FZ is in trouble. FCC Administrative Law Judge Edward Luton has reaffirmed his decision that the FCC should not renew Herbert Schoenbohm's amateur radio license KV4FZ.

Schoenbohm was found guilty in 1992 of using a "counterfeit access device" to make long-distance phone calls. As a result of that conviction the FCC scheduled a hearing when Schoenbohm tried to renew his license in 1994. The FCC cited the fact that KV4FZ is unlikely to follow FCC rules based on his past behavior. Schoenbohm is still on the air because he appeals every FCC decision. An administrative and a judicial appeal are left before he could finally lose his amateur radio license. KV4FZ is the former communications chief of the Virgin Islands Police Department!

LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY


Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
-144-			
145.150 -		WA1DGW	Fall River
145.490 -		KA1WBF	Fairhaven
146.445 +1Mhz	91.5	KB1BWN	Dartmouth
146.655 -	88.5	WA1GPO	Falmouth
146.685 -		N1OEG	Plymouth
146.700 -		K1CR	Cranston, RI
147.000 +		W1AEC	Dartmouth
147.045 +		WA1AIC	Yarmouth
147.135 +	67.0	ND1N	Taunton
147.180 +	77.0	N1FDX	Bridgewater
147.315 +	156.7	N1BBT	Wareham
-220-			
224.340 -		N1SGK	Dennis

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
-440-			
441.400 +	192.8	WG1U	Assonet
442.200 +		N1NRL	Fall River
442.350 +	141.3	N1QWW	New Bedford
442.600 +	100.0	K1LIQ	Tiverton, RI
443.450 +	88.5	K1MYL	Westport
443.600 +		NS1N	Norwell
443.800 +	88.5	N1RFH	Dartmouth
443.850 +	131.8	W1ARM	Chatham
444.250 +	141.3	WA1GPO	Falmouth
444.550 +		N1FDX	Bridgewater
447.075 -		N1DZD	Kingston

NAME THAT CIRCUIT ANSWER: 1. Manual Pulse Generator


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FIRST CLASS

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