



# ZERO BEAT

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



OUR 66th YEAR

Volume 34, Issue 1



SEMARA



January 1998

Editor's Corner

## ZERO BEAT BEGINS 34TH YEAR!

As *Zero Beat* begins its 34th year, it's a good time to stop and reflect on the history of our club's newsletter. In fact, while researching the history of *Zero Beat* over the last third of a century, it was discovered that the wrong volume number has appeared on our masthead for several years. (The correct volume for 1998 is shown.)

*Zero Beat* was first published in August of 1965. The first issue was produced using the "hectograph" process. This is a manual reproduction method using glycerin coated gelatin. Other reproduction methods used through the years include mimeographing, offset printing, and most recently photocopying.

*Zero Beat* went by another name twice. During 1975 and 1976 it was called *The WIAEC Bulletin*, and in 1978 *The SEMARA Bulletin*. During 1977 and all other years it was called *Zero Beat*.

A total of twelve editors are listed on the newsletters masthead through the years. The most



## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The December business meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by President Marty Jordan. Twenty-two members were present. Following the salute to the flag and roll call, the Secretary's report was read and accepted. There was no Treasurer's report as the Treasurer was absent.

Committee reports followed:  
*Technical* - No Report. *Buildings and Grounds* - Piles of tree branches need to be removed. *Scholarship* - No Report. *Tower Committee* - No Report.

*Ratifications* - Norman Benoit, WA1KDT, and John C. Amaral, W1VRP, were elected associate members.

### Old business

It was decided to hold the Christmas Party at the clubhouse this year on the 18th. It will be an informal get-together with coffee, donuts, soda, and pizza. Drop by and join in the fun!

### New business

All club members nominated for office were elected. All candidates ran unopposed.

Rick Cabral reported that the room dividers he borrowed would be returned to the club the coming weekend.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

## CLUB OFFICERS FOR 1998 ELECTED

At the December business meeting, the club officers for the year 1998 were elected. The new officers are:

### President

Richard Cabral, N1RFH

### Vice President

Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM

### Secretary

Richard Cabral (Acting)

### Treasurer

John Carreiro, W1ZYV

### Trustee

Marty Jordan, WA1YFV

### Board of Directors (3)

Brad Anselmo, N1VUF

Lawrence Houbre, AA1FS

William Miller, K1IBR

## OOPS!

Last month's "Name That Circuit" had the wrong answer on page 6 (It was actually the November answer!). The correct answer was 4. - Wavemeter.

\*\*\*\*\*

The December Club Event Calendar listed the wrong dates.

The dates shown were Tuesdays when the actual dates were Thursdays.

\*\*\*\*\*

Finally, the RJCabral SEMARA site address was wrong too. The correct address is listed this month.

# ZERO BEAT

Published monthly by the  
**Southeastern Massachusetts  
 Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**  
 54 Donald Street, PO Box 80007  
 South Dartmouth, MA 02748

**EDITOR**

William M. Miller Jr. K1IBR  
 Phone: (508) 996-2969  
 E-Mail: k1ibr@lrh.net

\*\*\*\*\*

**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.

**ZERO BEAT** - continued from page 1

impressive masthead listing was made during 1966 when everyone involved in the production of *Zero Beat* was listed:

**1966 Zero Beat Staff**

- Editor - W1FJI, Art Marshall
- Typist - WN1FED, Barry Mendoza
- Artwork - K1IBR, Bill Miller  
 WA1CCM, Wayne Kingsley
- Printing - K1GLX, Jesse Fernandez  
 WA1BZJ, Mike Ponte



The 1966 masthead is an exception to the rule as usually only the editor (or co-editors) is listed. It should be noted that several editors held the position more than one time through the years. For example, this is my fifth time as editor! Not only was I the originator and first editor of *Zero Beat* in 1965, but I've also been editor since September 1996. I also assumed editorships in 1971, 1981 (with co-editor WA1CCM, Wayne Kingsley), and 1984. Another member that was editor more than once was WA1NAN, Lester Shuman (1975 and 1978).

Listed in the order their name first appears on the masthead are the twelve members named as editor or co-editor during the last thirty-three years:

**Zero Beat Editors  
 Past and Present**

- K1IBR, Bill Miller
- W1FJI, Art Marshall
- WA1NAN, Lester Shuman
- WA1WFX, Milt Peters
- WA1BZJ, Mike Ponte
- WA1CCM, Wayne Kingsley
- KD1H, Barry Miller
- N1EBW, Ray Guillotte
- N1EXA, Pete Kodis
- N1HCV, Dan Souza
- N1ITQ, Mike Miller
- AA1FS, Larry Houbre

Although *Zero Beat* is now sent to all club members as a benefit of membership, at one time members had to subscribe to *Zero Beat* if they wanted a copy sent to their home. The subscription price was modest and only covered the cost of reproduction and mailing.

The club now pays the total cost of publishing *Zero Beat*, and during 1997 that cost was \$695.95. Publishing a club newsletter is an expensive proposition, but one the members consider important to the well being of the club.

*Zero Beat* has come a long way in the last thirty-three years. What began as a single sheet of club news has evolved over the years into a six page newsletter.

On page 3 (Club Notes) there is a copy of an old issue of *Zero Beat* (March 1966, Vol. 2, Number 3). That particular issue was produced on an offset press by Marote Printing Company. The owner's son Alan (a club member) made the publishing arrangements. It will bring back memories of times past.

## NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

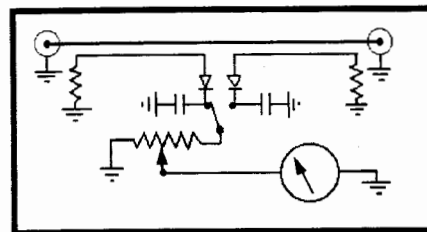
January 3, 1998  
 Saturday, 10:30 AM

**SEMARA Clubhouse**

## LOCAL VE SESSIONS IN JANUARY

- 08 Providence, RI  
 Judy Nelson  
 401-231-9156
- 10 Falmouth, MA  
 Joanne Reid  
 508-548-1121
- 17 Melrose, MA  
 Scott Kingsley  
 617-665-7654
- 21 Cambridge, MA  
 Nick Alterndburned  
 617-253-3776

## NAME THAT CIRCUIT



1. Directional Coupler
2. SWR Bridge
3. Relaxation Oscillator
4. Grid Dip Meter

ANSWER - See Page 6

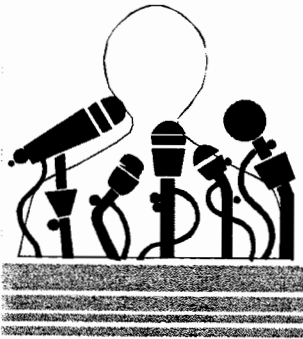


# CLUB NOTES

The New Year is upon us. We are fast approaching the millennium. Do you have your New Year's resolution ready? Aside from New Year's day on the first, the only other holiday this month is Martin Luther King's birthday which is celebrated on the 19th.



Rick Cabral, N1RFH, gave a Tech-Talk about low powered FM transmitters on November 20th. Rick has a low power FM radio station which he brought to the Tech-Talk for all to see. He also played tapes of actual station operation. Thanks Rick for a most interesting demonstration!



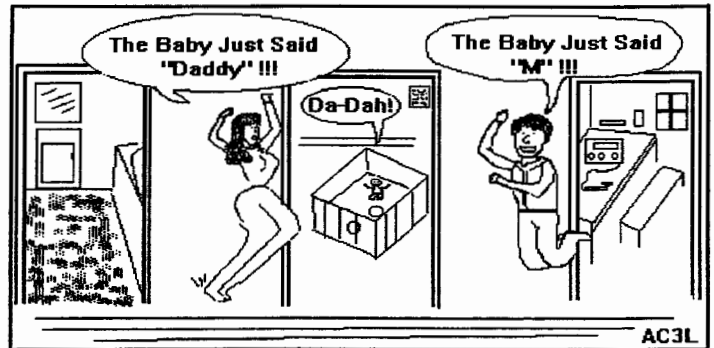
Several piles of branches were left around the clubhouse after the fallen trees were cut up. The club would be eternally grateful if any member(s) would cart the branches away. Even removing one pile would be a great help. Thanks!



Former member Joseph A. Gaspar, W6UGK, ex-W1IWJ, send a large package of mementos for safekeeping by the club. Joe was one of the original members of the association when it began in 1932 and was treasurer in 1937. Old timers wishing to write Joe can reach him at 12802 Cochera Road, Lakeside, CA 92040. Thanks Joe, for the valuable donation capturing part of our history.



It is with deep regret we announce the passing of life member Joseph "Lefty" Cabral, WA1CLU, at the age of 87. "Lefty" died on December 11, 1997 at the Blair House in New Bedford after a long illness. He will be long remembered for the joy he brought to those that knew him. "Lefty" was "one of a kind". He will be missed.



## Zero Beat Nostalgia



A PUBLICATION OF  
SOUTH EASTERN MASS. AMATEUR RADIO ASSN.  
52 Donald Street  
So. Dartmouth, Massachusetts

March 1966

Printed by Maxote Printing Co.

CLUB MEETINGS ARE HELD EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT STARTING AT 7:30 PM  
ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME!

Here is a copy of a radiogram that Mike got from W1QV ARRL N.E. Dir.

Dear Mike

Just got home from a trip to Key West and found ur letter and copy of ur paper. I sure would be very pleased and honored to receive a copy of every issue. The more I know about the activities and feelings of the Members and Clubs the better I can do my job as ARRL Director... Thank You  
73 Bob "QV"

The SEMARA Sunday morning Round Tables are now set up so that now everyone can get a chance to check in... For the early birds the round tables first half starts at 8 A.M. The second half is for those people who stay out late Saturday night and can't lift there heads off the pillow until 10 A.M. Sunday morning.

OH YES! The frequency is 29 mc. So, come on in, the waters fine. W1UID will be in charge of the kitty for the clubs hamfest tickets. So don't forget to put some change in the kitty.  
HERE --- KITTY --- KITTY --- KITTY

WN1FD is now on the air with a DX-100 but when they delivered it, there were a few tubes broken. Next time BARRY, have it shipped by carrier pigeon.

HERE IS THE QTH OF THE NEW QSL BUREAU:

QSL Bureau: W1OP  
The Providence Radio Assn. Inc.  
Box 2903  
Providence, R. I. 02908

If there aren't enough radio books on the market I hear that there's another book that's called.

"WHEN THE BAND GOES DEAD"

If your wondering where Lefty is, WA1CLU, has been having some trouble with his washing machine. Watch out Lefty you may get caught in the WRINGER.

Here is another good way to work W.A.S. and get those hard to find countries you have been looking for. On 3.985 at 0100 GMT look for the CHC-FHC service net. They are on everynite of the week. Wayne, what about that Conn. CB mobile that wanted to QSO with you in your Mass. mobile. Ask him about it, I'm sure Wayne, will tell you all about it.

I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't of seen it with my own eyes. George (W1GHV) came down to see the club Saturday night to see the new station. This is what is hard to believe, he sat down and put out a call on the SWAN #3507???



## BITS - N - PIECES



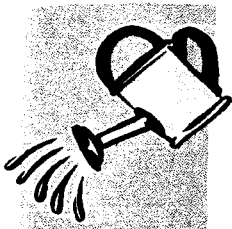
Compiled from The ARRL Letter, a publication of the American Radio League, and Ham Radio Online magazine, available free on the Internet at <http://www.hamradio-online.com>

### STRANGE RFI

We often hear about strange RFI problems, but few come close to the one Steve Altig, N7IF, experienced.

One day Steve began transmitting CW from his new amateur radio shack in the backyard. Immediately, his wife came flying out of their house yelling that something was wrong with the plumbing! The pipes were banging and pounding. It was the end of the world!

After a little investigation, Steve discovered that RF was getting into the solenoids that controlled his in-ground sprinkler system. When ever he keyed up his amateur transmitter, the sprinklers came on!



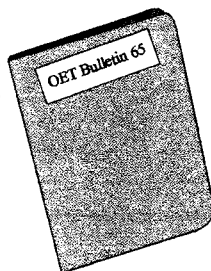
It must have been an impressive sight for his neighbors as the sprinklers sent CQ in bursts of water!

Evidentially, mounting his antenna under the eaves of the house coupled RF into the plumbing system. Steve has fixed the problem and now enjoys sending CW daily.

### FCC ISSUES

#### RF SAFETY SUPPLEMENT

On November 18th the FCC released the long-anticipated Supplement B to OET Bulletin 65. This supplement contains detailed information specific to amateur radio stations.



All new amateur radio stations put into service after January 1, 1998 must meet the RF safety guidelines as specified in OET 65. Any existing stations that are modified in any way that can affect their RF exposure (such as increasing power or relocating antennas) must also comply with the rules. Finally, all amateur radio stations must meet the guidelines by September 1, 2000.

OET Bulletin 65 and Supplement B are available at:

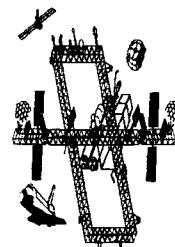
[www.fcc.gov/oet/info/documents/bulletins/#65](http://www.fcc.gov/oet/info/documents/bulletins/#65)

Copies are also available from: International Transcription Service Inc, 1231 20th St NW, Washington, DC 20036; tel 202-857-3805

### INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION & AMATEURS

The first crew to live and work aboard the International Space Station is slated to begin their five-month mission in early 1999. One of the three-man crew is presently a ham - Russian cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR. The expedition commander, US astronaut William M. Shepard, is studying for his amateur license.

Of the first four crews slated to man the Space Station, only the third crew presently has no amateurs onboard. However, the third crew expedition commander, US astronaut Kenneth Bowersox, said he'd like to get his amateur license.



Although the first crew will inhabit the International Space Station in early 1999, the station won't be fully assembled until the end of 2003. In early 2002 Microsat/repeater payloads scheduled to be installed will greatly enhance amateur radio capabilities aboard the station.

### HIGH ALTITUDE BALLOON WITH 2 METER BEACON LAUNCHED FROM PLYMOUTH

On Tuesday, December 9th, a high altitude balloon with a 2 meter beacon onboard was successfully launched from Plymouth, Massachusetts. Although originally scheduled for launch on December 2nd, high winds on that day forced a one week postponement.

The balloon was launched at 3:24 p.m. from the Plymouth Middle School as part of an earth science project. The balloon was outfitted with a 2 meter beacon designed and fabricated by Hank Riley, N1LTV, of New Bedford. The 145.625 MHz 50 milliwatt transmitter directly fed a half-wave dipole. Fifteen minutes after launch the signal was received full quieting in the New Bedford area on hand-held units!

Stations that copied the beacon are urged to report the time of signal acquisition, duration of signal, CW message content, and any additional information available such as tracking azimuth, elevation, and time readings. The report can be E-Mailed or snail mailed to Hank Riley at [hriley@umassd.edu](mailto:hriley@umassd.edu) or 408 County Street, New Bedford, MA 02740. Please include a SASE if you wish to receive a balloon QSL card.

Hank Riley, Plymouth Balloon Launch Technical Director, will be presenting a Tech-Talk on the balloon launch at the SEMARA clubhouse on January 15th, at 7:00 p.m. Mark that date on your calendar, as this will be a most interesting presentation!

### TECHNICAL TIPS

A well organized workbench is an invaluable aid to troubleshooting and repairing radio equipment. Here are a few ideas:

1. Have one or two small bowls handy to hold the screws and fittings when you take equipment apart for repair (custard cups are ideal) .
2. A rotating tool caddy is a must for screwdrivers, pliers, knife, and similar items.
3. Use a desk organizer to hold oft needed items such as: pencils, a small pad of paper, and a calculator.

### 1998 FLEAMARKET CALENDAR

- February 14 - Marlborough, MA
- March 29 - Southington, CT
- April 5 - Framingham, MA
- April 19 - MIT
- April 25 - W. Greenwich, RI
- May 8,9 - Rochester, NH
- May 16 - Forestdale, RI
- May 17 - MIT
- June 7 - Newington, CT
- June 21 - MIT
- July 19 - MIT
- August 16 - MIT
- August 28,29,30 - Boxboro, MA
- September 13 - SEMARA!**
- September 19 - Forestdale, RI
- September 20 - MIT
- October 2,3 - Rochester, NH

### NET DIRECTORY

—Sunday—		
8am	28.375	SEMARA NET
9:30am	50.225	Yankee SSB
3pm	28.470	UFO
7pm	147.000+	Swap Net
— 4th Sunday —		
9pm	449.575	EM-ARRL
— Daily —		
5:30pm	3.915	EM/RI NTS ssb
7&10pm	3.658	EM/RI NTS cw
6:45pm	147.315+	NTS/Trivia
7pm	146.550	SEMARA NET
8pm	145.230-	EM-NTS
— Monday to Friday —		
8am	14.262	UFO
8pm	145.490-	Weather
— Saturday & Sunday —		
8am	7.237	UFO
— Thursday —		
7pm	14.264	UFO
8pm	147.180+	Trivia
— Saturday —		
7:30pm	3.978	UFO
1800G	14.300	Coast Guard

### VISIT THE SEMARA WEBSITES



[WWW.LRH.NET/PUBLIC/SEMARA.HTM](http://WWW.LRH.NET/PUBLIC/SEMARA.HTM)

[MEMBERS.AOL.COM/RJCABRAL/HAM/SEMARA](http://MEMBERS.AOL.COM/RJCABRAL/HAM/SEMARA)

### —ARES NET—

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

### SEMARA OFFICERS 1998



- President** Richard J. Cabral, N1RFH
- Vice-President** Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM
- Secretary** Richard J. Cabral (Acting)
- Treasurer** John Carreiro, W1ZYV

**Board of Directors:**

- Bradford Anselmo, N1VUF
- Lawrence R. Houbre, Jr. AA1FS
- William M. Miller Jr., K1IBR

**Trustees:**

- Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM- Chairman
- William M. Miller Jr., K1IBR
- Norman Riley, W1ATI
- Frank Fonseca, WB1ASD
- Martin F. Jordan, KA1YFV

### SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

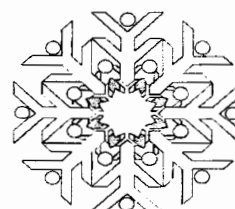
#### JANUARY 1998

- 1 - Business Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 3 - ARES "Get Together" dinner at 99 Restuarant, North Dartmouth, @ 7 PM.
- 15 - Tech-Talk, 7:00 PM "Plymouth Balloon Launch" by Hank Riley, N1LYV
- 26 - ARES Meeting, 7:45 PM



#### FEBRUARY 1998

- 5 - Business Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 19 - Tech-Talk, 7:00 PM "Antenna Hints & Kinks" by Bill Miller, K1IBR






## LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
<b>144</b>			
145.150 -		WAIDGW	Fall River
145.490 -		KAIWBF	Fairhaven
146.445 +1Mhz	91.5	KBIBWN	Dartmouth
146.655 -	88.5	WAIGPO	Falmouth
146.685 -		NIOEG	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
<b>220</b>			
224.340 -		N1SGK	Dennis

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
<b>440</b>			
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	WAIGPO	Falmouth
444.550 +		N1FDX	Bridgewater
447.075 -		N1DZD	Kingston
NAME THAT CIRCUIT ANSWER: 2 SWR Bridge			


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Bridal and Baby Showers  
Weddings  
Anniversary  
Birthdays



### The Cake Lady

**Lisa Houbre**  
Cake Consultant  
991-6057



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*Cappuccino  
Gourmet  
Espresso*



*Bagels  
Muffins  
Cream Cheeses*

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SEMARA

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FIRST CLASS

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January 2011